

# WEC CO-OP CURRENTS

## Ways We Can Conserve Without Spending an Arm and a Leg

By Zeke Yewdall

**Editor's note:** The following article appeared in the July 2004 issue of Home Power Magazine ([www.home-power.com](http://www.home-power.com)), and is reprinted with permission. The article has been edited by Co-op Currents. In italics WEC Products and Services Director Bill Powell (BP) adds comments relevant to Co-op members and Vermont.

So... You want to do your part to help the environment. Photovoltaics (PV or solar electric) sounds great, but realistically, it is beyond the financial reach of many of us. You can argue, correctly, that the real cost of other energy sources isn't accounted for in their price; but does that mean your check for a PV system won't bounce?

There are other ways you can walk your talk, which are more achievable for the average person and can actually have as great an impact on cleaning up the environment. Let's explore some of the options in the realms of electricity and transportation.

### EFFICIENCY

Conserving energy is almost always the most cost-effective thing you can do. A home energy audit will identify many ways, but there are a few things most homes need:

A new refrigerator. Many manufacturers offer efficient, low-end models that are not costly and perform extremely well compared to refrigerators made a few years ago. If you replace a 10-year-old fridge, you could save up to 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) can tell you which appliances are the most efficient.

Compact fluorescent lights in the most-used fixtures in your house. CFLs have improved immensely in recent years. Most home centers and hardware stores sell a three-pack of 60 watt-equivalent compact fluorescent light bulbs for less than \$9. They are small enough to fit almost anywhere an incandescent does, and the problems of cold-weather starting and flickering have largely been solved.

BP: Contact the Co-op to (1) borrow a kilowatt-hour test meter to measure your



refrigerator's usage (or any 120-volt appliance), before you replace it; (2) get recommendations for appliance selection and lighting choices, and (3) schedule any of the Co-op's Home Comfort services, including electrical energy audits.

Eliminate phantom loads. Your computer system should be on a power strip or switched outlet, which you can turn off when not in use. Newer electronics with switching power supplies are getting better. For example, DVD players usually have a phantom load under 1 watt, instead of the 5- to 15-watt phantom load for older VCRs. Especially beware of wall-warts (those wall-cube power supplies); they usually consume

about 50 percent of their rating while not powering anything. Unplug them when they're not in use, or put them on switched outlets or plug strips. The U.S. Department of Energy's Consumer Energy Information Website ([www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo)) is a good source of information on efficiency.

(BP) The Co-op recommends that computers, fax machines, scanners, TVs, VCRs and most household appliances also be connected to an appropriate SURGE PROTECTION device. Using power strips alone is not recommended; "strips" connected to surge devices, or — in the case of computers — uninterruptible power

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### Inside

**2004 Capital Credits program.** It's time for WEC to distribute equity payments to Co-op members. Details of this year's program, and a request to help us reach former members, on page 4

**There's a political campaign going on,** but we don't hear enough about energy. Why this is a big deal for Vermont: See WEC President's Message, page 2.

**Co-op gets its ducks lined up for landfill gas project** in Coventry. Waiting for final issue to be resolved. Page 8.



Linda Gahneh Fox

New WEC substation takes over in South Walden. Above, Co-op lineman "tops" one of the old utility poles, which will be removed after phone lines have been transferred. Story on page 3.

### Washington Electric Cooperative

East Montpelier, VT 05651

## President's Report

# Energy Issues *Should* Loom Large This Election Season

## Vermont's Future is at Stake

By Barry Bernstein

Full is upon us, as is another national and state election cycle. No matter which side of the fence they are on, most people I have talked to feel that these elections are critical, and I hope all WEC members will get involved in hearing the candidates and voting in November.

At the state level, the issues that I stay most involved in, in my role as president of the WEC Board, are, of course, ones that affect the cost and supply of energy today and in the future.

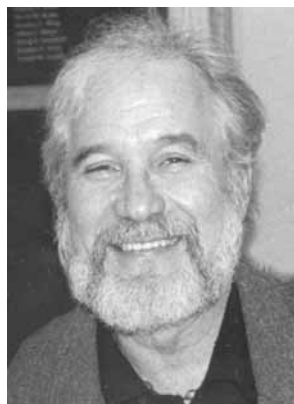
Both I and WEC General Manager Avram Patt have expressed our concern in these pages about Vermont's future power supply and the Douglas Administration's 20-year Energy Plan.

We have also spoken on the subject of state ownership of the dams on the Connecticut and Deerfield rivers, and the lost opportunity of the state not bidding

on the purchase of all the dams on the Connecticut as we advocated. (A commission established by the Legislature determined that the state would pursue a 25-percent ownership, if possible, in combination with another owner or owners.)

Similarly, we have expressed our view that wind-power projects must be developed in Vermont, as part of the mix to meet the future demand for electricity – along with a

strong commitment to energy efficiency. Our concern in these matters comes out of the stark reality that in eight to 10 years, contracts for 600–700 megawatts (MW) – which is nearly 70 percent of the



Barry Bernstein

1,000 MW procured under present power contracts – will expire. (I am talking here about the state's energy supply, not WEC's specifically.)

The first of the major contracts to go will be Vermont Yankee – in 2012 or before, depending on the resolution of issues related to the storage of spent nuclear fuel on-site, and conditions at the aging plant. The second major contract set to expire is with Hydro Quebec (HQ), in 2015. Hydro Quebec is on record publicly as saying it will not renew its contract with Vermont's utilities, and in fact will not be doing any long-term power contracts in the future.

I am sure there will be power available. But the question is, at what price? An eight-to-10 year time frame is not very long in the power-planning realm, and the state needs to be active and conscientious in ensuring that Vermont's 20-year Energy Plan lays out a strategy for addressing this critical issue.

WEC members and all Vermonters need to be asking the candidates – at all levels, but especially those running for statewide office – what they will do in the next 18 months to ensure that replacement of the Vermont Yankee and HQ contracts will be addressed to Vermonters' satisfaction. A long delay in the decision-making process is just not acceptable. On many levels, Vermont's future depends on our electric power-supply choices.

We need aggressive leadership from our elected officials. But the public, too, must be more actively engaged in discussions about public policy on energy issues.

### What WEC is doing

WEC has taken steps over the past decade to work with Co-op members to pursue energy efficiency and reduce their monthly electrical usage. We ended our contract with Vermont Yankee in 2002 (the expiration of the Vermont Yankee contract in 2012 will therefore not affect us). And we will be bringing our Coventry landfill methane-to-electric generating plant on line in early 2005.

The Coventry Project is a model of a

co-op working and partnering with a private company (Casella Waste Management), and the support and cooperation of state regulatory agencies, including the Department of Public Service, the Agency of Natural Resources, the District 7 Environmental Commission (Act 250) and the Public Service Board, along with the federal government through the Rural Utilities Service. With these partners and agencies, we are creating a solution to a very small part of a large, looming problem – a sufficient, affordable, renewable, in-state energy supply for Vermont.

However, our project will not make a

**Our Coventry project will not make a dent in the statewide energy situation. The facility will eventually provide 50 percent of our members' needs, but at a capacity of 5–6 MW it can only serve as an example of the options that are available.**

dent in the energy situation Vermont will soon be facing. The new facility will eventually provide 50 percent of our members' energy needs, but at a capacity of 5–6 MW, it can only serve as an example of the options that are available. WEC is also exploring an investment in a wind project in Vermont, but we need partners for such a

venture and we are stymied by the lack of support for wind-energy development by the state's elected officials.

Energy – its cost and stability – is a key component to jobs and Vermont's economy. The threat of volatile, even higher energy prices in the near future needs to be addressed.

For that, there is no time like the present. The election season is an opportune time to get the people who want our votes to step up to the plate and tell us what they plan to do about Vermont's energy future.



## Co-op Currents

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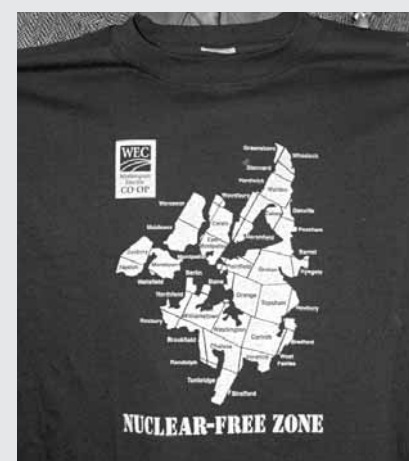
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The Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the president through WEC's office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive a copy of the minutes of past meetings, contact Administrative Assistant Deborah Brown, 802-223-5245.



Future Collectors' Item?  
We've still got a few "WEC Nuclear-Free Zone" 100% cotton T-shirts left. Yellow design with map showing towns in WEC's service territory, on black shirts in sizes M, L, XL & XXL; on green shirts in size L. \$10 ea. includes shipping. Contact Roger Fox at (802) 563-2321 or rfox@vtlink.net



# Closure: Co-op Brings New Substation On-Board

1,500 members to directly benefit

It was a perfect day for the task at hand – although, said the Co-op's Dan Weston with relief, it seemed like a long time coming. On Tuesday, September 14, all hands were on deck as Washington Electric's operations team traveled out to South Walden, where, beneath a cloudless sky, they performed the final, complex tasks making WEC's new, \$400,000 substation fully operational.

By the end of the day, Co-op members in Cabot, South Walden, Wheelock, Stannard, Woodbury, East Calais and Greensboro – in all, about 1,075 members – were connected to the modern, state-of-the-art facility. The old wood-frame substation, having served for some 40 years, was finally idled.

Another 420 Co-op members in West Danville also will benefit from the construction, once improvements are completed to the three-phase power line that connects the South Walden and West Danville substations. The Co-op then will have improved "redundancy" – meaning the two substations will back each other up, so that if a problem develops at one substation people will be less likely to lose their power, or at least outages might be shorter.

One of the last jobs on September 14 seemed particularly symbolic. Co-op linemen with chainsaws "topped" several of the older utility poles, cutting them off just above where the telephone cable was still connected. (Telephone lines double-up on utility poles, usually running about three feet lower than the electric lines.) WEC had removed its wires from those poles in favor of a series of new, somewhat larger poles and wires. Eventually, telephone linemen will transfer the cable to WEC's new poles, and take out the old poles entirely – just as Washington Electric will dismantle its old substation and restore the site to a natural condition.

Weston – WEC's director of engineering and operations – and his crew had been waiting all summer to finish the job in South Walden. In May 2002, the Co-op's membership voted to replace the aging substation. After site-preparation that fall, WEC's operations crew began actual construction of the new facility in June 2003. Aiming to complete construction this year, workers went out with snow shovels last March to clear the area and get a jump on the project.

"We met the schedule as much as circumstances would allow," said Weston. "We had the substation constructed and energized by the end of

June, and we've been serving the West Hill Pond area of Cabot out of the new substation since July."

Of the three "feeders" that carry power out of the substation to members' homes, farms and businesses, the West Hill Pond circuit was the most easily accessible. As for connecting the Greensboro and Joe's Pond feeders, the old substation was in the way; WEC had to build around it with new poles in order to reach the new sub. Unfortunately, once the summer construction season began it was difficult for the line crews to find time for such activities. Their first obligation was to respond to people building new homes or businesses in Co-op territory, who needed the power lines extended to their sites.

"Line extensions are up 20-some percent over last year, and last year was a busy year!" said Weston. "That kept us from concentrating on our project in South Walden.

A little at a time, the linemen gained on it, and eventually the new poles were in place. WEC chose September 14 for the big changeover, scheduled not one, but two, intentional outages (to switch over the Greensboro and Joe's Pond feeders separately), and hoped for good weather.

The scene that sunny day was a busy one, with workers perched high among a web of power lines, attaching, detaching, mounting fuses, insulators and other equipment, and making final connections to the substation. On the ground, others directed traffic and cleared the area of debris from the operations above them.

To the crew's satisfaction, the job not only got done, but got done within the

allotted time period.

"When you send out 1,000 postcards and make 1,000 telephone calls to let members know that the power is going to be off at a certain time, they expect you to have the power back on when you said you would," said Weston. "We had almost 20 people working out there, and we came out almost perfectly on time. Our guys did an outstanding job!"

## Environmental protections, system improvements


The new South Walden substation represents an improvement in many ways, including the Co-op's obligation to protect the environment. The old substation was located near a small brook; a lot of the electrical equipment at substations uses oil as a cooling and insulating medium, and the substation, built in the 1960s, had no containment facilities.

"The new substation is farther from the brook, and it contains equipment that uses mineral oils, with no PCB's," explained Weston referring to PolyChlorinated Biphenyls, a carcinogen. "It is designed with spill containment, so in case of a mishap oil would drain into an underground containment tank."

Other modern features include transformers that will accommodate growth and increased electric demand in the area; individual circuit regulation to improve power quality for all members served

by the substation, and the addition of fused disconnects to limit the effect of outages. Solid-state "reclosers" (devices that respond to outages by trying to restore power automatically) will also record information that can help direct line workers to the source of a power outage needing manual repairs.

"Any of these features, taken alone, might not be something to throw a wild party over," said Weston. "But combined, they represent a distinct improvement to all the members in those areas – and actually to all Co-op members, because we'll see improved efficiencies and better-controlled maintenance costs in that part of our system."

And that's worth celebrating. 



A busy day in South Walden. Top, lineman Dennis Bador (left) and WEC Director Roger Fox. Above, the weather smiled on Co-op workers as they made the complicated switchover of two major electric lines under clear blue skies. Left, WEC's new \$400,000 substation – an improvement for WEC members and the environment.

Photos by Linda Gahneh Fox



# WEC 2004 Equity Distribution Plan Co-op Seeks Former Members For Capital Credit Refunds


Washington Electric Cooperative is preparing to issue capital credit refund checks to current and former members, as authorized by WEC's Board of Directors. Under the 2004 Equity Distribution Plan, capital credits will be returned to eligible people who bought power from the consumer-owned electric utility during the two years 1984 and 2003. Safeguarding the Co-op's financial stability, the Board of Directors, as in recent years, has capped the 2004 refund program at \$200,000.

Capital credits are returned to Co-op members (customers) for those years in which WEC's revenues exceed its operating expenses. Capital credits are a way of dividing those surplus revenues – called margins – among the member-owners. The amount of a member's refund is based on the size of the Co-op's margins in the years in question, and how much electricity the member purchased. Each co-op member has a capital credit account – which is a bookkeeping entry managed on an annual basis by the Cooperative – in his/her name.

Half (\$100,000) of the money earmarked for the 2004 Equity Distribution Plan will go to members from the year 1984, when WEC's margins totaled \$177,177. The remaining \$100,000 in the 2004 plan will address capital credits for 2003. WEC's margins last year totaled \$222,083; the money allocated for capital credit refunds amounts to 45 percent of that total.

For former members, no longer with the Co-op, refunds of \$20 or more will be paid by check. Current members who are eligible for refunds based on their 1984 and/or 2003 payments were mailed a notice explaining that they could receive a credit on their November electric bill in the amount of their anticipated refund, or they could authorize the Co-op to contribute the money instead to the Washington Electric Cooperative Community Fund, in which case they will not receive a credit on their November bill. Members were asked to return the forms if they wished to contribute. (For more information on the Community Fund contact WEC's office, or visit the Co-op online at [www.washingtonelectric.coop](http://www.washingtonelectric.coop); select the Member Info tab, then Community Fund Program.)

Earlier this summer WEC sent out Capital Credit Patronage Refund Authorizations to eligible former members, using the person's last-known address. Listed below are the names of people whose authorizations were returned as undeliverable. WEC is asking friends, acquaintances and relatives of the people listed here to contact those potential recipients or their rightful heirs, and have the former member or beneficiary contact Washington Electric Cooperative directly at 802-223-5245, or toll-free at 1-800-932-5245.

WEC will issue this year's capital credit refunds in November 2004. 

Abakan, Frank	Baxter, John T. & Elizabeth C.	Brown, Donna	Comolli, Elio	Cate	Flanders, William
Abbiati, Stuart M.	Bayne, David	Brown, Katherine L.	Condit, Gloria A.	Doherty, Eugene	Flannigan Steven M. & Lisette L.
Adams, Kenneth	Bean, Merlin L. Jr. & Cheryl	Brown, Kenneth	Congdon, John H.	Domenchich, Thomas A.	Flood, Shirley
Adcock, Larry D. & Melinda A. Boone	Beane, Marion	Brown, Margaret	Conklin, Miles A.	Doodeman, Gary	Fluet, Henry J.
Adsit, Suzanne	Beaver Meadow Hill Farm	Brownell, Madeleine	Converse, Joseph	Douglass, Samuel K. III	Foley, Kathleen
Aja, Ramon & Marion	Beck, Theodor C.	Bryan, Wayne C.	Cooney-Moore, Maureen	Downing, Maurice	Fontaine, Fernand
Alban, Billie T.	Beck, Theodore	Buck, Arthur	Copeland, Lynn	Downing, Meredith O.	Fontaine, Marc
Alden, George P.	Beckler, Minnie w.	Buck, Barbara J.	Cordaro, Nell	Driscoll, Peter	Forest, William & Sharon
Aldrich, Byron & Roberta	Beckly, Eva M.	Burke, Patrick J.	Corriveau, Bruce	Driscoll, Peter M.	Forrend, Jon
Aldrighetti, Donna & Kelly Driscoll	Beebe, Charles C. Jr.	Burke, Thomas R.	Corriveau, Juliett	Drown, James	Foster, James & Gertrude
Alexander, Donald	Beiley, Janice	Burke, Wayne	Cote, Marc A.	Ducharme, Felix	Fowler, Bruce N.
Alexander, Rhoda Triplett	Belcher, Jonathan & Kate	Burlew, Janice	Counter, Dorothy B.	Duggan, Rita C.	Franks, William F. Sr.
Alger, Patricia	Bell, John N.	Burns, Arlene August	Couture, Mark & Barbara L.	Dukette, Paul	Franzone, Vincent & Rudolph
Allee, Robert E.	Bello, Donna & Gary	Bursaw, Wm. J. Jr.	Covey, John	Dukette, Rudolph N. & Pauline	Freeman, Ronnie
Allen, David R.	Bennett, Donald S. Jr. & David K. Sturges	Bushey, Ralph L.	Cressey, Earl R.	Dunbar, Bessie	French, Bert S. Jr.
Allen, Reginald H & Patricia L.	Benoit, John & Pam	Bushey, Reed A.	Cross, Maurice W.	Dunbar, Duane H. & Jane C.	Frost, James & Susan Dubrul
Anders, Irving	Bent, Gordon A. & Cheryl A.	Byrd, Donald	Cross, Robert	Dunham, Lloyd	Fullerton, Michael F.
Anderson, Julia	Berard, Eugene	Byrd, Edgar C. Sr.	Cullen, Joan	Dunham, Violet	Gadaree, Harold
Anderson, Karl D. & Wendi	Berno Sawmill	Calderwood, Wesley	Dailey & Bryant	Dunn, Richard F. Jr.	Gahagen, Jacqueline
Andrews, Kathleen	Berno, Howard	Campbell, Vickie & Laura Arata	Dailey, Elwin (Mrs.)	Dux, Thomas J.	Gaines, Jeffrey
Anspach, Denny S. & Polly D.	Berno, Howard M.	Cano, Victor	Dailey, Nanna	Dwinell, Berton W.	Gajewski, Erban J. & Viola A.
Appleton, Alan	Berry, Arnold	Carbone, Arnold & Kathy	Dailey, Norman	Dwyer, Helen D.	Gajewski, Joseph & Helen
Armen, Ted	Bessette, Michael	Carlson, Cindy S.	Daily, Rory M. & Sunny B.	Eckstein, Edward	Galbreath, Maurice S. & Beverly L.
Armenthia, Paul	Bessette, Penny	Carlson, Katherine M.	Danford, Robert & Jacquelyn M.	Edmonds, Maria Lafountain	Garrison, Jim Sr.
Ashford, Arnold R.	Binder, Frank K.	Caron, Charles	Danforth, Robert	Edson, Nancy	Gandin, Dan L. & Lerinda P.
Atkinson, Elliott R.	Bishop, Dolloff & Barbara Euson	Carpenter, Thomas M.	Darling, Charlene	Eklund, John & Judith	Garcia, Alphonse G.
Atkinson, Polly	Bishop, Leroy J. Jr.	Carr, Geraldine	Davidson, Albert W. & Lois	Eldred, Allan	Gardner, Seth & Carol
Atwater, Bonnie F	Blackmore, William A. & Dorothy J.	Carr, James & Nancy C.	Davidson, Ralph P.	Ellis, Virginia	Garrity, Charles M.
Auld, John H.	Blair, Robert J.	Carruth, Philip W.	Davis, Ben & Allegra Shumway	Emerson, Lawrence	Gates, Clay
Austin, Anthony P.	Blaise, Raymond A.	Cathrew, Ralph S. & Priscilla C.	Davis, Diane	Emery, Debra	Gehr, William G.
Averill, Theresa D.	Blanchard, Robert	Catlin, G. Peter	Davis, Loretta	Eniti, Anita T.	Gendreau, Robert
Bailey, Eva	Blanchette, John E.	Cavalier, Marie	Davis, Norman	Ennis, James (Executor re: Everett Ennis)	George, Christie
Baird, Donald P.	Blanchette, Norman W.	Celley, Celia M. Estate of	Deangelis, Joseph & Deborah	Ennis, John Estate of	Gerow, Stanley & Jeannine
Baird, Kenneth R.	Blow, Paul J.	Chaloux, Lee A.	Decola, Barry & M. Kelley	Ennis, Leland	Getty, Alice
Baldwin, Ian	Blum, M. E. & Norman	Champany, Irene	Deforge, Robert	Ennis, Sailey A.	Gibney, Howard & Helen
Ballschneider, George & Gregg	Bond, Lawrence Estate of	Chapin, Winston L. & Janice S.	Deluca, Kenneth & Ginny	Ennis, Steve	Giguere, Jeanne
Ballschneider, George & Irene	Boulanger, Claude & madeline	Chaplin, Carl & Marion	Demingware, Cora	Ermer, Joseph N.	Gile, Ramona
Ballschneider, Irene	Bower, Ronald F.	Cheney, Linda L.	Denault, Raymond	Fair, Forrest G.	Gioia, Robert J.
Balzanelli, Richard & Jeanne	Bradshaw, Barry F.	Chipman, Stanely J. & Beverly A.	Deneergaard, Chris	Farland, Eugene W. & Katherine	Girardin, Eugene
Barbieri, Nichola J.	Brancato, Vito W. & Irene M.	Christie, Terri	Dennison, Elizabeth J.	Farnham, Al	Giro, Gregory
Barden, Norman L.	Brassard, A. J.	Christenson, Norman	Desantis, Sarah	Featherstone, Paul	Gittelsohn, Paul & Carolyn Goodwin
Barden, James	Bresett, Claire L.	Cianciola, David P. & Kerry	Dessureau, Joan C.	Ferguson, Floyd	Gland, Alan D.
Barker, James	Briggs, Stephen L.	Clark, Elizabeth	Deutsch, Irving & Wendy	Fermo, Herbert W.	Glidden, Patricia K.
Barker, Walter	Brittin, Peter B.	Clark, Lorraine N.	Dexter, Bernita M. Estate of	Ferris, Carol (Executor for Ferdinand Welch)	Goddard, Elizabeth
Barnaby, James & Kimberly	Broe, Joan M.	Clogston, Vernon	Dexter, Robert	Filiault, Richard	Gokey, Catherine & Robert
Barnett, Dorothy K.	Brooke, Harold & Cecelia	Cloud, Rhoda I.	Dexter, Robert R.	Fink, William Jr. & Priscella G.	Gokey, Marian M.
Barnhart, Katherine L.	Brooks, Karen	Coburn, Donald A. Jr.	Dickinson, C. F.	Finkle, Russel C. & Flora	Golbranson, John & Dorothy
Barnocky, Stephen W.	Brown, Dale & Judith	Cole, Arthur	Diefenbach, John	Finley, Marilyn B.	Gold, Steven
Barrows, Michael	Brown, Daniel G. & Joan S.	Coleman, Wilgar	Diemer, Roy	Fischer, Pamela	Goodine, Henry A.
Bassage, Anne	Brown, David	Colli, George A. Jr.	Dion, Raymond	Fisher, Carleton	Goodwin, Doris E.
		Colson, Frank	Disalvo, Bradley R.		
			Disenhaus, Nancy & Thomas		

Gordon, William C.	Joslyn, Sharon	Mackenzie, James D.	Newman, James L. & Caroline A.	Roddy, Roger W. Jr.	Szulc, Alfred V. & Lynda
Gray, Malcolm & Joseph Shapiro	Joyal, Pearl	Maclaurin, Richard N.	Newton, Grant	Rogers, David A. & Lynne Z.	Taber, Ronald
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Grenier, Norman	Kappler, Peter H. & Jane A.	Mangino, Domenic	O'Brien, William R.	Rooney, Robert L.	The Box Shop
Griffin, Dennis R.	Karon, Marshall & Rosemarie	Manseau, Paul	O'Hagan, Elizabeth	Rooney, Walter	Thivierge, Roger J.
Griffith, Darcy & Sherry L.	Kaufman, Nancy	Maple Corner Store, Inc.	Ohier, D. & Kathy	Roque, Winifred	Thomas, James H.
Griffith, Peter	Kaufman, Roy	Maple Corner Waters, E. Holliday Kane	Olmstead, Nelson	Rossignal, Boyd	Thompson, Jason
Griswold, Stillma	Kaula, Joan	Marcotte, John A.	Olsen, John T.	Rouhan, James	Thompson, Priscilla
Groen, Bessie Estate of	Keeffe, Carolyn	Mardin, Donna B.	O'Neill, Patrick	Rouhan, James & Pauline	Thresher, John S.
Grogan, Robert S. & barbara P.	Kelbaugh, Jayson	Marineau, Maurice H. Jr. & Sandra L.	Ordway, Kelvin E.	Rouleau, Raymond	Thurston, Roberto W. & Diane
Groat, Dorothy	Kelley, Kathleen	Marsh, Esther C.	Ortiz, Angel J.	Roux, Cynthia	Tillberg, Harlan
Grove, Richard & Susan	Kenefick, Irene	Marsh, Marylou	Ortiz, Richard & Melanie	Rowan, William J. Jr. & Lois Lopez	Tillotson, Evelyn
Guare, Helen	Kent, Mary Anne	Marshall, Gerald	Osgood, Bryce N.	Rowell, Francis Jr.	Tillotson, Shirley
Gurnett, L. A.	Kervick, Paul K.	Martell, Emiline	Ostrum, John P.	Rueda, Richard A. & Shelley Macaulay	Tirone, John
Haddad, Alfred J.	Kessler, Rodger	Martin, Curtis C.	Osajca, David P. & Beverly	Ruiz, Constance	Townsend, James & Zada
Haggett, Clifton E.	Ketcham, Philip W.	Martin, Jeanie B.	Otto, Conrad H.	Russell, Earl	Trask, Caroline
Haggett, Dana L. & Lisa A.	Kimball, Earl C.	Masi, Cynthia P.	Page, Elizabeth P.	Russell, John	Treadway, Wade & Susan
Hale, Robert & Marjorie	Kindestin, Joann F.	Matte, George F.	Paige, June S.	Ryan, Dona	Tripp, Peter & Roxanna
Hamelin, Charles E.	Kingsbury, L.	Mattern, Christine	Palumbo, Marsha	Rylander, Alf T. & Judith S.	Trombly, Lewis A.
Hamilton, George	Kittredge, Roy	Matthew, Thomas M. & Susan W.	Pape, Phil E.	Sahlman, Peggy Jo	Trombly, Robert Jr. & Carol True, Gerald
Hamilton, R. D.	Knowles, Richard	Mattote, Mark	Parauka, Marion	Salomaa, Grace	Tuller, Ellen B.
Hance, Borden L. Jr.	Knowles, Winston	Matz, Joseph D. & Carol A.	Parker, Bruce W.	Saltimbocca, N. V.	Turgeon, Lawrence J.
Hansen, Hans	Knox, Gordon Jr.	Mayhew, Wanda	Parker, James A.	Sanborn, Richard & Ruthe E.	Turner, Cecil E.
Hanson, Lloyd	Kornblith, Polly	Mazzuchelli Joseph A.	Parker, Lola H.	Santamore, Joseph Estate	Turner, Emma M.
Hardie, Philo J.	Kumpf, Milton F.	McCabe, Arthur J.	Paronto, Jeffrey	Santor, Marion	Turner, Virginia S.
Harrington, John	Labadie, Patricia	McCarty, Charles	Paskus, Charles & Kathleen	Sargent, Charles A.	Tuz, Charles L.
Hart, Lillian	Lacasse, Robert & Dianne	McCormish, John	Patterson, David H. & Beverly	Sassone, Rose T.	Ulrich, Charles
Harvie, Richard J. & Valerie D.	Ladd, Thurman	McCracken, Joann	Pecor, Robin A.	Saunders, Robert & Roberta	Utt, Timothy & Sally
Haskell, Catherine	Lakatos, Peter	McDanolds, Doris	Pelkey, Walter	Schaffer, Stephen & Naomi M.	Vail, Edith
Haskell, Ronald	Lamb, Jonathan A. Sr.	McDonald, Deborah	Pendleton, Ruth E.	Schile, G. J. & E. H.	Vance, Linda
Hastings, Joan	Lamberton, Catherine	McFarland, Stephen	Perkins, Howard	Schober, Thomas E. Jr.	VanGulden, Derek & Heidi M.
Hatch, Margaret	Lamson, Douglas L.	McGonagle, Lucy A.	Perreault, Lawrence	Schorger, Ann B.	Vanorman, Philip G. & Sandra F.
Hatch, Ralph J.	Landino, Henry A.	McGowan, Robert	Perrin, William	Schulenburg, Deborah L., Douglas & Jennifer Levin	Vantine, Linda
Hayden, Edward	Landry, Alex	McHone, Susan	Perrinez, Peter & Ruth	Schwarz, Richard R. & Sandra	Vatnick, Itzick & Susan
Hayes, Julia G.	Lane, Dennis A.	McIntyre, John	Perry, Courtland Jr.	Seaman, John F.	Vetter, William W.
Hayes, Walter	Langmaid, Stephan	McLaughlin, Harold & Dona T.	Perry, Ron & Evangeline H.	Seel, Bruce H.	Vivian, Margaret
Haynes, Robert E. Jr.	Laperle, Barbara & Dale D.	Mears, Edgar	Perry, Sherman	Seften, Nola	Wade, James M. & Leanna
Hazelton, Brian & Valerie A.	Laprade, Andre T. & Sherry	Meech, Geroge	Peters, Ralph C.	Senecal, Kenneth E.	Waits River Gen. Store--Claire & Allen Gurney
Heath, Robin	Larabee, Donald E. & Laura J. Sims	Menard, Katherine	Pettibone, Mary	Shatney, Harry	Waldo, Elaine B.
Heath, Roger W. & Lauria J.	Largey, Richard & Elizabeth	Menard, Robert W.	Philbrick, D. J.	Shaw, John P. & Christina	Ward, David & Barbara F.
Hebebrand, William, Edward, Marlene, & Yvonne	Larivee, Roland	Mercadante, John & Barbara	Phillips, Kenneth A.	Scheean, Michael & Debra Tulsy	Ward, Diane
Hedges, Gregory R.	Larow, Gary	Merrill, Howard & A. Evelyn	Piccicuto, Richard M.	Sherlock, Wallace J.	Wassell, Eleanor P.
Heise, Bernard	Larsson, Denis & Janisse	Merritt, Barry D.	Pieper, Thomas P. & Laurie A.	Sherman, Linda	Watkin, T. S. & William
Hendrickson, Claude J. & Joyce J.	Last, W. A.	Messer, Richard K.	Pierce, Beverlee	Sidusky, John	Watkins, Timothy P.
Henry, Tom	Lavalley, Francis L.	Messier, Mary E.	Pierce, Linda R.	Siegle, Andrew P.	Watson, Ethel L.
Herrick, James E. Jr. & Debra A.	Lavarnway, Gerard T.	Messier, Walter & Dorothy	Pierce, Nancy L. & Douglas W.	Silman, Jeffrey	Watson, Harold
Hersey, Lee C.	Lawless, Rowena J. & Lawrence Morehouse	Metcalf, Jean Estate of	Pierce, Walter C. & Louise D.	Simard, Michael & Jeanette	Weil, Florence
Hibbert, Robert & Sue	Lawliss, G. C.	Mikishka, Sophie	Pierce, Winston A. & Gwendolyn K.	Simmons Cable TV of Barre	Weintraub, Dorothy
Higgins, Andrew	Lawliss, Harold	Miles, Dale M. & Jeannette	Pilbin, James B.	Simone, John	Welch, Austin A. & Dorothy F.
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Hilliard, B. H.	Lawson, Allen J.	Miller, Douglas & Denise	Pitkin, Royce S.	Sink, Clifton W. & Elizabeth B.	Wells, Jan P.
Hiltz, Frank & Brenda	Lawton, Mary B.	Miller, Iva	Pitts, Michael	Sjoland, Kenneth E.	Wernicke, Joanne
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Hoffman, Mark R. & Janet Miller	Leland, Luise G.	Milne, George E.	Pollitt, Thomas F. & Lauren G.	Smith, David J. & Barbara J.	White, Bernice D.
Hoffmann, Alfred R. & Carol-Rae	Lemay, George E.	Milne, John A. & Catherine D.	Potter, Fletcher	Smith, Heinz C. & Patsy A. Bellantoni	White, Edward
Hoiska, Benti O	Lemnah, Leora	Milnes, Mark & Gingah	Prall, Bob & Nancy Lee	Smith, Peter	White, William J.
Holliday, James & Lynda	Leinach, Carol A.	Mochrie, Norman E. & Mildred	Pratt, Rebecca & Bruce R.	Smith, Philip Jr.	Whittemore, Charles L.
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Horst, John & Kathleen	Lewis, Johyce A.	Moore, Mavis	Prosperi, Robert	Sorrentino, Alfonso	Willett, Donald E.
Howland, Susan Estate of	Lewis, Wayne R. Estate of	Moore, Pearl F.	Proudfoot, Eric G.	Sparrow, Herman L.	Willey, Douglas & Diane Laferriere
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Hurne, Loeata G.	Lightfoot, William F.	Morris, Marjorie	Pryce, Steve	Spooner, Forrest & Karen	Willey, Nelson Jr.
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Hutchins, Clyde H. & Cecile C.	Lindner, Brian	Morse, Clyde H. & Barbara S.	Purvis, Stuart D.	Sporbert, Everett	Williams, Harold H.
Hutchins, Gerald H. & Betty	Line, Craig B.	Moshinskie, Alfred & Helen	Raguseo, Angelo	Squire, Elizabeth	Williams, Linda
Hyde, Jack	Lipski, Jed	Moulton, David & Carolyn E.	Ramsay, Scott J.	Squires, Jefrey	Williams, Willam J. Jr.
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Ingalls, Glendon W. Jr. & Judith	Litwin, George	Murphy, A & D; G. Foster; J. King; B. Lakin; D. Langmoore; J. Nickles; & A. Lenard	Rechsteiner, Catherine	Steridsberg, Lawrence	Wilson, Robert J.
Irving, Marion	Locke, Norma	Murray, Marna	Reed, William	Stohr, Rose	Wilson, Teresa
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Jackson, Muriel L.	Long, Richard K. & Roxie A.	Muzzy, Donald & Tena	Rice, Norvel A.	Stridsberg, Michael V.	Wishik, Ruthann
Jacques, Gerard M.	Longley, Brenda	Myers, Charles	Richardson, Elizabeth	Stuart, Richard	Witham, Robert E.
Jaroch, Eugene R.	Lord, Marian B.	Navolanic, Margaret	Richardson, Harris S. Jr.	Subasic, Joe	Witham, Wendell
Jedinak, Gary N.	Lorden, Michael	Neilsen, Anna M.	Riddell, Elsie	Sweet, George R. & Terrie L.	Woodcock, Dwight
Jerome, Edward A.	Lornitzo, Steven	Nelson, John A.	Rider, Helen E.	Sweetland, Daniel & Susanm Scully	Workspace, Inc.
Johns, Peter J.	Louis, Linda L.	Nergaard, Paul	Riendeau, Richard	Sylvain, Gregory	Wright, Jeffrey F. & Susan
Johnson, Charles B.	Love, Denis & Doris	Nevens, Virginia	Riley, Thomas		Wright, Virginia
Johnson, John E. Jr.	Lovell, Horace	New England Tele Co.	Rioux, Norman		Wu, Pauline
Johnson, Roy B. & Lynnetta M.	Lubold, P. R. & Camille		Ripley, Beverly A.		Young, Edward Jr.
Jones, Clifton H.	Lyons, Thomas E.		Rivard, Robert		Young, J. Peter
Jones, Donald	MacAuley, James		Robar, Frederick, C. Jr.		Zuckerman, Anne
Jones, Robert W.	MacDonald, Gregory C.		Roberts, Jay C. & Maureen M.		
Jones, William B.	Machell's Radio Supply		Robinson, Brooks		
Jordan PD Sportsmen	Mack, George L.				





## Ways We Can Conserve

continued from page 1

supplies (UPS), are acceptable. We first wrote on the topic of "phantom," or parasitic, power in the July 1999 issue of Co-op Currents.

## Buy Green Power

In many states you can choose to buy green power. In states that have opened electricity generation to competition, this may mean switching utility companies. Elsewhere, it may just mean signing up for a premium product from your utility. Some states require utilities to offer a green power product. You can find a list of utilities offering green power at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org), and by searching the web for green pricing programs.

(BP) Vermont has not moved to retail electric competition, so switching suppliers is not an option in Vermont. Rather than offering green power at a premium price to those members willing to pay, Washington Electric Co-op is finding renewable energy options that we make available to all our members without charging a premium.

## TRANSPORTATION

Electricity and transportation are both largely fossil fuel-fired, but at least electricity comes mostly from domestic fuel sources, whereas 60 percent of our oil (mostly going to transportation) is now imported — about 20 percent from the Middle East.

For a related article see "When Will the Joy Ride End?" at [www.oilcrisis.com/debate/udall/joyride.htm](http://www.oilcrisis.com/debate/udall/joyride.htm)

## You can reduce gasoline consumption.

Combine trips; carpool; drive your more efficient vehicle most of the time if you have two. Take the bus, walk, bike. I heard of someone in Norway who skied an hour to work each day, and remember thinking he was insane. But in America we accept an hour's drive to work as normal. The skiing Norwegian is getting exercise and a relaxing time outdoors every day, while we have to pay for our recreation and do it on the weekends. Who is really crazy?

Buy domestic fuel. You can buy gas from companies that do not import from the Middle East or support drilling in the Arctic. BP/Phillips, Citgo, Conoco, Sinclair, Sunoco and Hess do not import oil from the Middle East. Shell, Chevron,

Texaco, Exxon/Mobil, Marathon/ Speedway and Amoco do. Shell and Amoco (now combined with BP) do generally have a better record on environmental issues. Exxon/Mobil has particularly reprehensible policies regarding climate change, the Middle East and the environmental impact of petroleum use and extraction.

Use biodiesel. You could buy a diesel car and use biodiesel to fuel it. In addition to supporting American farmers instead of foreign oil interests, biodiesel reduces SOx, CO, HC and particulate pollution compared to petroleum-based diesel, even in small-percentage blends. However, NOx may increase slightly. Minnesota requires that all diesel fuel sold be 2 percent biodiesel, because it is an alternative lubricant to sulfur in the fuel. Homebrew biodiesel can be made from used restaurant oil. The National Biodiesel Board's website ([www.biodiesel.org](http://www.biodiesel.org)) provides more information on biodiesel and where you

can buy it. Biodiesel is only cheaper than regular diesel if you get free vegetable oil and make it yourself. Commercially sold biodiesel runs about \$2.80 per gallon.

Drive a hybrid. If you are planning to buy a new car, consider a hybrid. You can choose

between the Civic, Insight and Prius, with more in the works. Hybrids qualify for around a \$2,000 tax credit, about half the cost of the premium over the non-hybrid equivalent car.

Do you actually need an SUV? On an icy or snow-packed road a Civic will handle better, and all-wheel drive cars are better than SUVs until the snow gets deep. For households that own two SUVs, keep one and trade the other for a hybrid for the majority of trips. Even many non-hybrid compact cars get nearly 40 miles per gallon. For ratings see [www.greencars.com](http://www.greencars.com). For information on tax credits, see [www.cleancarcampaign.org](http://www.cleancarcampaign.org). EV World's [AFVmarket.com](http://AFVmarket.com) website also has information on where to buy used or recently off-lease EVs and hybrids.

Buy an electric car. Admittedly, this is getting hard. Major manufacturers have discontinued selling or leasing new electric cars in the U.S. Home conversions, or buying a used electric car, are among the few options left. And in states with really dirty coal power plants, this may not be much better environmentally than a good hybrid car. Still, it will eliminate your dependence on foreign oil.

Shell and Amoco generally have a better record on environmental issues. Exxon/Mobil has particularly reprehensible policies regarding climate change, the Middle East and the environmental impact of petroleum extraction.

## Renewable Energy Systems


You can install your own RE (renewable energy) system. This can be more rewarding than merely buying renewable energy credits, but it can also be expensive. Prices to offset all the

electricity used by the average conserving household range from \$10,000 to \$30,000 for a PV array or small wind system. With photovoltaics it's easy to start with a small system and expand as expenses allow.

(BP) Since 1999, Vermont has allowed members to own and self-generate renewable energy under a net metering law: <http://www.washingtonco-op.com/pages/netmeter.htm>

Contact the Co-op for technical information about RE and net metering requirements).

## You Can Do It

You can do many things to reduce the environmental impact of your energy use. They range from simple, inexpensive methods like replacing incandescent light bulbs or checking off a green-power box on your utility bill, to making different decisions when you buy your next car, to installing your own renewable energy system. All have different costs, pollution reductions and payback times. They are also different in how they fit in with your lifestyle. It's up to you to make the informed decision about what is best for you. 

Zeke Yewdall ([zyewdall@yahoo.com](mailto:zyewdall@yahoo.com)) recently graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and works at the Wind Technology Center of the National Renewable Energy Lab in Boulder. Home Power Magazine is available by mail subscription, and the current issue is available without cost by downloading from the website. Prior issues are also available on CD at [www.homepower.com](http://www.homepower.com).

## Right-Of-Way Reclearing Projects Scheduled

Affected Members with 'Special Trees' Should Call the Co-op

### For the Period through Fall of 2004

The Co-op will continue working to improve service reliability by reclearing power line rights-of-way in the areas described below. Right-of-way reclearing normally involves removing trees and pruning vegetation for 15 feet on either side of a single-phase distribution line. Except where noted, all of these projects involve single-phase lines, those carried by poles without crossbars. Reclearing projects often involve a tap. That's where a single-phase line takes power from another line.

Throughout the year, postcards are mailed to members notifying them that right-of-way maintenance is to take place. Also, WEC's automated message-delivery system will place a phone call (if a phone number is on file) to all households affected by such maintenance projects, up to two or three weeks before work on the property is to begin. Calls will be placed in the evening when most members are likely to be home. If no one answers, Co-op staff will attempt to reach that member during the day.

Because the evening calls are automated, they cannot hold the line if, for example, a child answers. If you believe you may have received a call from WEC, please call during office hours to check. If you have a tele-zapper you will not receive our automated calls successfully, so please notify us at WEC so we can delete you from our calling list. If you are notified that a portion of your property is to be recleared and you especially hope to save any particular trees that are within the right-of-way, call the Co-op. The Co-op's Forester and Right-of-Way Management Coordinator, Mike Myers, will be happy to talk with you about any problems.

WEC's Herbicide Policy: It has long been the Cooperative's policy not to use herbicides in power line rights-of-way. We do not use herbicides in our reclearing program or on members' property. The Co-op does occasionally make limited use of herbicides to control weed growth within our own substations.

TOWNS	DESCRIPTION
Brookfield	Lines along Ferris, Chelsea, North and East Hill Roads
Calais	Lines near the Dump Road and the north end of Lightning Ridge Road towards Walter Forest (CS 83)
Chelsea	Lines along East Randolph, Hook, and Brook Roads
Danville	line along Lemay Road
Groton	Lines along Fuller Hill Road
Orange/Topsham	Two phase line along route 302 between Rte 25 and Cross Road
Topsham	Three phase line from Mount Knox substation along route 302 to the Groton/Topsham town lines
Tunbridge	Lines along Dickerman Hill Road
Walden	West end of Noyestar Road from Bailey-Hazen Road towards Hardwick town line
Wheelock	Lines along Sparhawk Road
Williamstown	Lines off Tower Road towards WEC radio tower and Rinkers Communication towers

## Bonnie Shadroui Comes Inside to Work for WEC

WEC General Manager Avram Patt realized that the new employee was, perhaps, a little out of the ordinary one day last winter when the Co-op was hit by a snowstorm.

Outside, staff from the Engineering Department were clearing off a flat section of the roof with snow shovels, as they often do during storms. But who was that other person with them? Oh yes. It was the new bookkeeper. Well, Patt thought to himself. That's unusual.

Not from Bonnie Shadroui's perspective.

"I've always loved the outdoors," explains Bonnie, who has been with the Co-op on a part-time basis since July 2003, but became a fulltime employee this summer. "My parents like hunting and fishing, and I've been doing outdoors stuff since an early age."

A Barre native and graduate of Spaulding High School, who now lives in a four-season camp on Woodbury Lake, one of Bonnie's favorite indoor pastimes is to watch the hunting channel. One day the channel aired a show on alligator hunting in Florida.

"It looked like a gas, said Bonnie. I signed myself up."

In early September she traveled to Florida to make like Crocodile Dundee. (The story of Bonnie's alligator hunt will appear in October's Co-op Currents.)

Bonnie started out as a part-time bookkeeper, while also updating the Co-op's GIS mapping system. The

satellite technology pinpoints the precise location of every utility pole, every anchor, every fuse and all the other equipment on the Co-op's lines. It also sites the location of every home, business, farm and school, enabling workers to get to outages more quickly than with the traditional hand-drawn maps of the service territory. But WEC's distribution system changes constantly as the crews



Bonnie Shadroui

build line extensions for new members, and move and upgrade sections of power line. Keeping the GIS maps up-to-date is a continuous job. Bonnie still gets back to it when she can.

However, she now works mainly in the Finance Department, joining Finance Director Linda Nelson and Senior Accountant Teia Greenslit. Her business background – five years as manager of Kevin Kopil Furniture, a

custom manufacturing plant in Jonesville – provided sound experience.

"My job included everything from advertising, to sales, to ordering materials, to shipping and receiving, to payroll and bookkeeping," she says.

Anything else?

"I also did upholstery."

Bonnie's first business experience came at a young age – at Shadroui's General Store, a fixture in South Barre for some 50 years. The owners, John and Amira Shadroui, were her grandparents, and the store was a second home to her when she was growing up. Perhaps some Co-op members remember the little girl behind the register. She now handles WEC's payroll, the voluminous receipts that come in to the Co-op each day, and accounts payable. And, occasionally, a snow shovel.

Note: WEC also has another new employee, Denise (Denny) Davison, of Calais, in the Members Services Department. Co-op Currents will introduce her in an upcoming issue.)

# WEC CO-OP STORE

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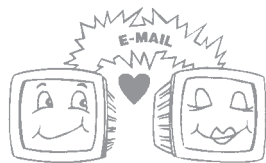


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# WEC Names Pizzagalli for Methane Project

## Waits for Permit To Be Issued

Washington Electric Co-op has selected two companies to carry out the construction of the Co-op's \$7.32-million project in Coventry, which will generate electricity for WEC members using methane gas collected at the state's largest landfill. However, groundbreaking has been delayed because the Co-op must wait until the owner of the landfill, New England Waste Services of Vermont, receives an Act 250 permit allowing it to expand the facility.

"Ideally, we'd like to have gotten started (on construction) by now," WEC General Manager Avram Patt said in mid-September. "But we still

believe it's realistic that we can complete our construction and have our new electric-generation system online in January."

WEC received a Certificate of Public Good for the project from the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) on June 4. The plan, as presented by WEC and approved by the PSB, is contingent on the landfill expanding into a new "Phase 4" section of its property, to ensure a long-term, abundant supply of methane and make the Co-op's investment

worthwhile.

Through its coordinator, the District 7 Environmental Commission (which has jurisdiction over Act 250 applications in Coventry) has stated publicly, and in a letter to WEC, that it intends to issue a permit to New England Waste Services (a wholly owned subsidiary of Vermont-based Casella Waste Management Inc.). The permit has been delayed, however, pending an agreement to satisfy concerns raised by townships on the Canadian side of Lake Memphramagog.

"The Black River runs close to the landfill and into the South Bay of the

**'We still believe we can complete construction and have our new electric-generation system online in January.'**

— Avram Patt, WEC

lake," Patt explained. "Some of the Canadian townships get their drinking water from the northern part of the lake."

Lined landfills use several technologies to protect ground and surface water from pollution. Also, by federal law, landfill companies monitor their facilities for pollution for 30 years after they have been capped and closed.

It is the "post-post" closing period that the townships are concerned about, Patt explained.

"Everyone agrees that Casella runs a



Actual construction cannot begin on WEC's landfill gas-to-electric project in Coventry until the landfill has its permits in hand. Above, Vermont Electric Co-op (VEC) scopes out the work it will perform. VEC, through subcontractors, will build WEC's new transmission line.

good landfill. But what if something happens after that 30-year period, say in 50 or 60 years from now? The townships want assurance – perhaps a fund for dealing with a problem that might arise over that longer time period. They are appropriately looking out for their own interests, and Casella and the commission have been working with them."

### VEC contracts for transmission lines

Once construction begins there will be two parts to the project, and contractors for both have been selected. Pizzagalli Construction, of Chittenden County, will erect a building at the landfill to house the generators. The Pizzagalli contract also includes the installation of the electric generators, and connecting them to the landfill's methane-collection system.

"Pizzagalli was selected through a bidding process established by our lender, the Rural Utilities Service," said Patt. "They have been at the site several times and are ready as soon as we can give them the final go-ahead."

The other major component of construction is building 7.2 miles of transmission line to carry the methane-

generated electricity to a VELCO (Vermont Electric Power Company) substation in Irasville, where it will enter the statewide electric transmission system. For this, WEC has selected the Johnson-based Vermont Electric Cooperative, which, like Washington Electric, is a customer-owned utility serving retail consumers.

"While we were happy to be working with our sister co-op, the bottom line is they gave us the best bid in terms of cost," Patt said. "VEC will meet our time frame, as well."

It will be a mutually beneficial undertaking for the two electric co-ops. VEC is the utility that serves consumers in that part of Vermont, as well as the landfill itself. The construction project gives VEC an opportunity to upgrade its distribution system.

"Eventually VEC is going to move its local distribution lines onto our transmission poles, for much of the distance," Patt explained. "They will co-own and co-maintain the poles and the right-of-way corridor with us."

Once begun, construction of WEC's new renewable-energy system is expected to take three to four months.



On Wednesday, September 22, four Co-op employees participated in a "Day of Caring," sponsored by Green Mountain United Way.

Under the program, now in its fourth year, workers from participating businesses spend a day providing services for those in need.

Shawna Poirier and Elaine Gonier (who is pictured above, with child) of WEC's Member Services Department, spent the day helping out at The Family Center in Montpelier. Other participants were bookkeeper Bonnie Shadroui, who did painting at Good Samaritan Haven in Barre, and Field Technician Mike Patterson, who worked for the Vermont Center for Independent Living, building a home-access ramp for a VCIL client in Warren. "Several more of our employees expressed an interest in helping out," said WEC General Manager Avram Patt, "and we hope they'll get an opportunity next year. But we needed to have enough staff on hand to carry out Co-op business during the day." A GMUW representative said the agency was "very pleased" with the response to its Day of Caring.



### Welcome Additions!!

On September 17 and 18, two Co-op employees became fathers. Congratulations to Beth and (lineman) Rich Hallstrom on the birth of their daughter Julia. And congratulations to Judy and (senior utility field technician) Brent Lilley on the birth of their daughter Addelyne.

### Marketplace

FOR SALE: 1974 Chevrolet, one-ton truck. Stake body, dual wheels, good tires. Less than 25,000 miles since complete motor job. You have to see and hear it to believe it. Price is \$1,500. For information, call (802) 563-2635.

FOR SALE: NordicTrack 'Walkfit' exercise machine. ALSO, exercise bench, used for weight lifting and leg lifts. Will take best offer. Call anytime. 229-4296