



# LIVING *with Energy*

## A Sweet Reuse for Chocolate Byproduct

Electric power production on the Seacoast in March got a little bit greener—and the air may even smell a little bit sweeter—thanks to a unique collaboration between PSNH and premium chocolate maker Lindt USA.

PSNH's Schiller Station in Portsmouth tested a new fuel mix in its Unit 6 boiler, combining the coal it normally burns in the unit with a new ingredient: cocoa bean shells. Designated by the state of New Hampshire as biomass, cocoa bean shells are a byproduct of the production of chocolate. When Lindt USA begins producing its own chocolate from raw cocoa beans, as it expects to do at its Stratham facility by the end of 2009, the company will produce these shells each week. The test burn at Schiller will determine the feasibility of putting these shells to use as a fuel source.

"Sending shells to Schiller Station would be a win-win for us," says Thomas Linemayr, Lindt USA's President and CEO. "Not only would it be a quick, local solution for disposing of a byproduct, but it would afford us another opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint as we bring our chocolate production in-house."

"At PSNH, we are always looking for ways to increase our use of cleaner, renewable, local energy sources," says Schiller Station Manager Dick Despina. "If all goes well with the test, our collaboration with Lindt will allow us to replace a portion of coal with a portion of biomass, and each step we take toward replacing a fossil fuel with green power is a step in the right direction."



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## Saving Energy Can Be a Family Affair

Given the high cost of energy these days, many of us have done just about all we can think of to tighten up the home and conserve energy. But one way to find even more energy savings is for family members to search for energy losses together.

Have kids start with their own rooms: Are computers set to save energy? Are cell phone chargers and electronics unplugged when they're not being used? And what teenager wouldn't benefit from a switch that automatically turns the lights on and off when entering or leaving the bedroom? You'll find these switches and other energy-saving products at [psnh.com](http://psnh.com) by clicking on the *Energy Saving Products* section.

Parents can check bathrooms and laundry centers to be sure that fan/vent doors aren't sticking. It also pays to make sure that electric infrared lamps and fan heaters are equipped with working timers, and faucets, showerheads, and toilets aren't leaking or running excessively, which can cause water pumps to waste electricity.

In common areas such as dining rooms, kitchens, and living rooms, get the whole family together to find hidden energy wasters. Organize the refrigerator so everyone can find things and retrieve common items quickly so the door can be closed sooner.

Families that work together can save energy together.



## Neighbor Helping Neighbor Donations Needed

PSNH established the *Neighbor Helping Neighbor Fund* in 1986 in an effort to assist needy families who have difficulty paying their utility bills, but who do not qualify for local financial assistance or low-income federal fuel assistance programs. The program has since expanded to include other New Hampshire electric and natural gas utilities, and, last year, the Fund was able to help more than 1,300 families experiencing financial hardships.

You can contribute by adding an extra dollar when you pay your PSNH electric bill—or by sending a larger contribution directly to the *Neighbor Helping Neighbor Fund* in the special envelope included with your utility bill at various times during the year. With fuel costs rising, your tax-deductible donation will be greatly appreciated by these families in need. You can also be assured that 100 percent of your donation will go to help pay for these families' electric and/or natural gas bills. All administrative costs to manage the Fund are paid for by the utilities.

*For more information about contributing to the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Fund, visit [www.nhnfund.org](http://www.nhnfund.org), or to apply for assistance, contact your local Community Action Agency (CAA). The list of local CAAs is available on [psnh.com](http://psnh.com) in 'Neighbor Helping Neighbor' under 'Community' on the main menu.*

## Receive your PSNH Bill Electronically!

RECEIVING YOUR BILL ELECTRONICALLY IS A CONVENIENT, ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS ALTERNATIVE TO RECEIVING A PAPER COPY. IF YOU SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC BILL DELIVERY, PSNH WILL SEND YOU AN EMAIL CONTAINING AN INTERNET LINK THAT CAN BE USED TO VIEW YOUR BILL AFTER YOUR METER IS READ EACH MONTH. THIS LINK PROVIDES THE SAME INFORMATION AS A PAPER BILL, INCLUDING A VIEW OF YOUR ACTUAL ELECTRIC BILL, AND A LINK TO THE LIVING WITH ENERGY NEWSLETTER AND ANY SPECIAL INSERTS.

*You can register for eBilling, as well as many other online services, by visiting our website at [psnh.com](http://psnh.com).*

## Lineworker Safety: Keep Utility Poles Clear!

SIGNS THAT ARE TACKED TO UTILITY POLES CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS — SO DANGEROUS THAT IT IS ACTUALLY ILLEGAL IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. MANY PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THAT PUTTING SIGNS ON POLES ENDANGERS LINEWORERS WHO HAVE TO CLIMB THOSE POLES TO MAKE REPAIRS. STAPLES, NAILS, AND TACKS USED TO HANG SIGNS FROM POLES — AS WELL AS THE SIGNS THEMSELVES — CAN CAUSE VERY SERIOUS DAMAGE. LINEWORERS RISK INJURY TO THEMSELVES AND DAMAGE TO THEIR EQUIPMENT AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.

IF YOU'RE PLANNING A YARD SALE OR SOME OTHER ACTIVITY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, PLEASE DO NOT POST OR HANG SIGNS TO ADVERTISE IT ON UTILITY POLES. THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP OUR LINEWORERS SAFE!

# Work Zone Awareness Week

As New Hampshire road crews are out in full force to ensure safe and reliable roadways with the on-set of spring, PSNH lineworkers are also out performing regular maintenance on the state's electrical infrastructure to ensure safe and reliable service.

The first full week of April is *Work Zone Awareness Week* to make us all aware of the men and women working on our state and local roads to improve New Hampshire infrastructure. To help ensure their safety, here are some driving tips:

- **Expect the unexpected.** Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people may be working on or near the road.
- **Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes, so anticipate and reduce speed.**
- **Don't tailgate.** Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you. The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear-end collision, so leave extra space between you and the car in front of you.
- **Always maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and the construction workers and their equipment.**
- **Pay attention to the warning signs and flaggers directing you safely through the work zone.** Observe all posted signs until you've left the work zone.

Remember, driving fines are doubled in work zone areas.

For more information, visit the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration at [safety.fhwa.dot.gov](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov).

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The Northeast Utilities System



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