

at Home

December 2003

Let Your Home Shine Throughout The Holiday Season!

It costs less than you think

- ❄ One hundred miniature lights cost about \$.68
- ❄ Two colored porch lights cost about \$3.37
- ❄ Two high-pressure sodium floodlights cost about \$3.15

(Based on approximately five hours lighting per night for a month.)



Holiday Safety Tips

- ❄ Always turn off and unplug holiday lights before you go to bed or leave home.
- ❄ Replace light strings that have frayed cords, damaged plugs or loose connections.
- ❄ Use insulated staples or ornament hooks when hanging outdoor lights.
- ❄ Don't plug too many cords into the same outlet.
- ❄ Never touch tree lights or other electric decorations when your hands are wet.
- ❄ Always turn your portable space heater off when you leave home or go to bed.

Give Your Warmest Wishes

You can help a relative or friend pay an electric bill and let them know you care. By calling 1-800-662-7764, or visiting our website, psnh.com, you can purchase a gift certificate for any amount which is then credited to your friend's or relative's electric bill.

Start A Holiday Tradition With The NH Symphony Orchestra



If you haven't been to the New Hampshire Symphony Orchestra (NHSO) lately, then you are missing out on one of New Hampshire's crown jewels. The NHSO has received a \$10,000 grant from PSNH to help expand its outreach in communities across New Hampshire and engage a younger audience by partnering with public and private organizations, as well as community music schools.

Under the artistic leadership of Conductor Kenneth Kiesler, the NHSO is recognized as the state's premiere professional orchestra. Besides the NHSO's regular winter classical music series, the NHSO's schedule for 2003-04 features a series of concerts including jazz, pop and light classical selections appealing to audiences of all ages.

The Holiday Pops will be held on December 19 in Manchester at the Palace Theatre, December 20 in Derry at the Stockbridge Theatre, December 21 in Concord at the Capitol Center for the Arts, and December 23 in Portsmouth at the Portsmouth Music Hall.

For more information about the NHSO's current schedule, call the box office at (603) 669-3559 or visit their website at www.nhso.org.

Clearing A Path To Your Meter

Our meter readers are something like mail carriers; neither snow nor rain keeps them from their appointed rounds. Winter weather can make those appointed rounds quite a challenge.

Gates that are frozen shut and ice and snow that block the way make some meters difficult and hazardous to read. If our meter reader is unable to gain access to your meter, we have to estimate the usage and adjust later when an actual reading is taken.

When you're out clearing driveways and walkways, please think about the path to your electric meter. Clearing the way will help reduce the risk of injury, and our meter readers will truly appreciate it!



Supporting Your Life in Every Moment



Public Service
of New Hampshire

The Northeast Utilities System

Give Your Home An Energy Check-Up

Air leaks that let warm air out of your house in the winter and hot air in during the summer are your home's biggest energy consumers. Check the insulation in your attic and basement to minimize air leaks. Make sure insulation is evenly spread and in complete contact with walls, ceilings, or the floor surface it is insulating.



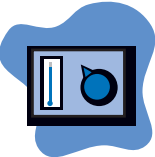
Where most air leaks occur:

Floors, walls, and ceiling	31%
Ducts	15%
Fireplace	14%
Plumbing Penetration	13%
Door	11%
Windows	10%
Fan and Vents	4%
Electric Outlets	2%

Home Heating Tips

Here are some tips for lowering your energy usage – and costs – this winter:

- ❄ Lower thermostats to 68–70 degrees or lower, if possible, especially in rooms that will not be occupied for a period of time during the day.
- ❄ Set back the thermostat setting to 60 degrees at night or when you'll be away for eight hours or longer. This could save you 5 to 10 percent of your heating energy.
- ❄ Lower your thermostat a few degrees when entertaining a large group; people generate heat.
- ❄ Keep doors and windows tightly shut, and weather strip around them to keep heat inside.



PSNH In The News: PSNH Sponsors Business Plan Competition

PSNH is playing a pivotal role in the new Start Up New Hampshire Business Plan Competition. PSNH, in collaboration with the State of New Hampshire, is underwriting the competition with a \$250,000 grant that is aimed at giving new businesses the seed money to implement their best ideas.

Prizes of \$40,000 each will be awarded in three categories, best biomedical/life sciences plan, best financial services plan and best North Country business plan. The grand prize of \$130,000 will be awarded to the best overall business plan of any industry. This business plan competition is similar to other competitions that have been sponsored by MIT, Dartmouth and Texas with the NH Business Plan Competition offering the largest award. All plans must be submitted by March 31, 2004 and finalists will be announced on April 21, 2004.

“PSNH is proud to support economic development initiatives that will result in new jobs and a stronger and more vibrant state,” said Gary Long, president and chief operating officer. “Start Up New Hampshire is an exciting idea that we think has a great chance for success.”

PSNH Quick Pay:

A Single ePayment Option

You can use PSNH's Quick Pay option to make a single payment each month to PSNH from your checking or savings account. It's fast and it's free! You can schedule the payment up to 30 days in advance. The payment will appear on your next bank statement and PSNH bill.



For more information about Quick Pay visit our website at psnh.com.

Reliability. By Design.

PSNH will invest up to \$500 million over a five-year period maintaining and improving the reliability and efficiency of New Hampshire's electric grid. As New Hampshire communities and businesses grow, so does the need for electric power. At PSNH, making sure you always have reliable, affordable electric power is one of our top priorities. So we're continually analyzing our system, designing ways to expand and modernize our network... increasing coverage and adding delivery capacity to more of the state. PSNH is also investing in the equipment and new technologies that will deliver the power New Hampshire needs, now and in the future.

For more information on PSNH's reliability investments, log onto psnh.com.

New Hampshire's Economic Review Available

The “New Hampshire Economic Review” is prepared annually by the Public Service of New Hampshire's Economic and Community Development Department. The Economic Review provides data and statistics on key economic indicators, population trends, quality-of-life surveys, New Hampshire manufacturer listings and more. This year's edition of the Economic Review is now available on our web site, psnh.com, or by calling 1-800-490-7764.



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