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NHEC enlists Clean Air - Cool Planet to assist in reducing greenhouse gases

Coop to tackle emissions from operations

PLYMOUTH, NH – In a landmark initiative for a utility, the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) has announced a partnership with Portsmouth-based Clean Air - Cool Planet (CA-CP) to quantify and reduce the company's greenhouse gas emissions.

Clean Air - Cool Planet will provide its expertise in the area of greenhouse gas (GHG) calculation, and then assist NHEC in preparing a plan to reduce or eliminate emissions from its use of electricity and other fuels in the direct operations of the company.

“We have worked in various capacities with utilities in the past, but this is the first time we've helped a power company tackle emissions from its operations,” said Adam Markham, CEO of Clean Air - Cool Planet, the leading nonprofit finding and promoting solutions to global warming.

“NHEC is to be congratulated on taking pioneering steps in this area,” Markham said. He noted that the Coop, which is a member-owned and -controlled electric distribution company serving 116 cities and towns, intends to use what it learns in the process with CA-CP to help other utilities.

“We see this partnership with Clean Air – Cool Planet as a reflection of our social and environmental responsibilities,” said NHEC President/CEO Fred Anderson. “This program, which focuses on our internal business operations, is part of the strategic actions we are taking to reduce carbon emissions across the three major segments of our organization: energy procurement, internal business operations and members' energy usage. This initiative will complement our nationally recognized energy efficiency programs that are now enabling our member-owners to reduce their carbon footprints.”

The New Hampshire Electric Cooperative serves approximately 80,000 members and maintains more than 5,400 miles of energized line that traverses nine of the 10 counties in New Hampshire.

The first step in the process will be to collect data on the company's use of electricity, fuels for space and water heating, fuel used in its fleet of line trucks and other vehicles, and employee travel.

Ultimately, the process will give NHEC tools to examine and reduce its energy use, according to CA-CP COO Bob Sheppard.

“More and more corporations are realizing that in order to control costs and stay competitive, managing energy costs is a key,” Sheppard said. “The truth is, you can't manage what you don't measure, so this is a critical step.”

The inventory, planning, and implementation process will take the company through the summer.

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