

A Message from the General Manager



Municipal utility customers do not receive “standard offer service”, so its expiration has not affected municipal utility rates. I am writing to clarify that customers of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant have not seen their rates increase since Feb. 28 as a result of the expiration of “standard offer service”, a type of electric service established by the state’s electric industry restructuring law in 1998. There have been several articles in the newspapers recently discussing the increasing of electric rates throughout the Commonwealth.

Municipal utility customers do not receive standard offer service, so its expiration will not affect municipal utility rates. Likewise, municipal utility customers do not receive “default service”, another type of electric service established by the electric restructuring law that is more sensitive to short-term changes in the market price for electricity. Because the non-profit municipal

utilities are locally owned and operated, and governed by local officials, they have continued to provide their customers with electricity the same way they always have, at the lowest cost possible, with a high degree of reliability. We cannot guarantee there will not be any rate increases, but changes required as part of deregulation legislation will not be the cause.

Generally, municipal utilities receive their electricity from power plants they own, from long-term contracts with suppliers, or from shorter-term arrangements, including market purchases. Restructuring certainly has changed the way municipal utilities do business, but buying electricity in this manner has helped them keep their rates stable and competitive during the restructuring period. Since March 1, there has been a change in the type and price of service received by many electric customers across the Commonwealth. Fortunately for the customers of HMLP, they will not be among them.

John G. Tziorangas, General Manager
Visit our website at www.hmlp.com

Planting Around or Near HMLP Equipment?

Spring time is here and this means that many people start to think about the warmer weather, flowers, shrubs and new landscaping. The Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant would like you to keep in mind that it is important to maintain certain clearances in and around our electrical equipment that may be on or near your property.

HMLP needs to be able to access electrical equipment with certain clearances in order to safely operate the equipment in the case of routine maintenance or outage response. Maintaining planting clearances helps HMLP workers to do their job and ultimately maintain a safer and more reliable system for you, our customers.

When planting around or near an HMLP piece of equipment, be sure to maintain a clearance of 10 feet from the front and a minimum of 3 feet from the sides. All HMLP electrical equipment have stickers that identify the clearance standards around the equipment.

When digging and planting on your property, it is your responsibility as a homeowner to locate and protect underground electric utilities. The law states that you must call 1-888-DIG-SAFE (344-7233) to learn the location of all underground utilities so you can avoid costly damage or injury. You can also send your Dig Safe requests directly through the Internet at www.digsafe.com.

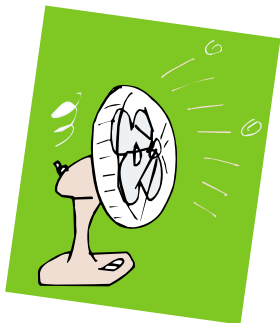
HMLP wants everyone to have a safe and fun summer. If you have any questions in regard to where and how you should plant around electrical equipment then please feel free to contact HMLP at (781) 749-0134.

How to Control your Energy Costs this Summer

To help beat the heat, and beat high energy bills here are some energy-saving tips that will lower your usage and control your energy costs:



78°F =
30% savings



- Have your air conditioner inspected by a qualified contractor to make sure it is operating efficiently and delivering the maximum energy savings. When thinking about replacing your older system consider an Energy Star labeled appliance. Energy Star room air conditioners can reduce energy consumption by 20% to 50%.
- Clean or change filters regularly, and consider installing a programmable thermostat or timer.
- Set your air conditioning thermostat at the highest comfortable setting. A setting at 78°F could cut your energy costs by as much as 30 percent, in addition to conserving electricity supplies.
- Consider an air conditioner alternative: window fans, ceiling fans or whole house fans use much less power.
- Close blinds, drapes and shades during the day. This keeps the strong sunlight from heating up your home.
- Give major appliances a rest during the day. Stoves, dishwashers and dryer, all give off heat while operating.
- Use the microwave, make cool salads, or cook out on the grill to keep heat outside.
- Use the air-dry feature on dishwashers. Consider hanging laundry outside to dry.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs that use 75 percent less energy than typical incandescent bulbs.

Postal Customer
Hingham, MA 02043

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #30
Hingham, MA

HINGHAM MUNICIPAL
LIGHTING PLANT
222 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043-2745

Energy Efficient Lighting

The Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant has been working with local community vendors to provide you with low cost energy efficient products. Energy Saving Bulbs are a great way to save money.

The bulbs are the same size as a standard light bulb. They will fit all fixtures and last longer with up to 3 years of trouble free use. Energy Efficient Bulbs use 78% less energy than the incandescent bulbs that they replace. Energy efficient lights translate into a cost savings to you.

These bulbs can be purchased at the following local community suppliers: Hingham Lumber, 165 Chief Justice Highway, Route 3A; (781) 749-4200 or Walsh & Packard, 99 South Street, Hingham, MA 02043; (781) 749-1447.



Light



Spring 2005

Hingham
Municipal
Lighting
Plant
Newsletter

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How Are We Doing? HMLP Survey

The Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant (HMLP) wants our customer's input? HMLP is working hard to provide you with the very best electric service. We've recently placed an online survey on our website at www.hmlp.com so that we can obtain some feedback from you, our customers. The survey is designed to evaluate our performance as a company and our ability to serve the needs of our customers.

The survey will target certain critical areas such as reliability, customer service, payment options, and overall satisfaction. The survey is anonymous and only takes a minute to complete. If you wish, you also have the option to provide your name, address and/or any comments. We encourage you to go to www.hmlp.com and take this brief survey.

You may complete and submit the form online or the website gives you the ability to print the form and mail or drop off the completed survey to HMLP, 222 Central Street, Hingham, MA 02043-2745.



Town Buildings to Receive Energy Audit

The Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant has hired Source One, Inc. of Boston to perform comprehensive energy audits of the Town of Hingham buildings, starting with the School buildings. In a letter to the Light Board Commissioners and Board of Selectman, General Manager John G. Tzimirangas stated that the goal of the program would be to identify the possible areas to help reduce the energy operating costs of the Town's buildings. The audit will review the energy consumption profile of each building, evaluate existing cooling, heating and lighting infrastructure's energy efficiency and develop preliminary budget estimates, payback analysis and funding sources for the upgrades. The increased costs in oil and natural gas have made this program an important one for the Light Plant and the Town to explore ways of reducing the costs associated with running our municipal buildings.