

Groveland PUBLIC

January 2009

POWER



A newsletter from Groveland Electric Light Department

Bills here remain competitive

New power contract began in 2009

Groveland Electric's new wholesale power contract went into effect in January, replacing a 10-year agreement that expired at the end of December.

As a result, the Purchased Power Adjustment Charge (PPAC) rose by \$.0125. The PPAC, which helps cover Groveland's wholesale power costs, is added to each kilowatt-hour used. For customers using 750 kilowatt-hours a month, the increase raised bills by \$9.38.

Despite the change, bills here remain very competitive with other area utilities. The average residential customer in Groveland who uses 750 kilowatt-hours a month now pays \$113.13. National Grid's bill for the same amount of electricity is \$136.85, or 21% higher.

Groveland's old power con-

tract provided 100% of the town's needs, while the new agreement covers about 70% of our requirements. The difference is due to radical changes in the wholesale power markets since the old contract was signed.

"Higher energy prices and market changes mean that favorable fixed-price contracts such as the one we enjoyed for a decade no longer exist," said General Manager Mike Cloutier. "Our current strategy balances protection from marketplace price spikes with the flexibility to take advantage of lower-cost opportunities that may occur."

Under the new strategy, about 25% of the town's needs will come from the more volatile spot energy market. Some 5% will continue to come from the New York Power Authority's

hydroelectric facility.

Current plans are to analyze the PPAC quarterly and make adjustments as necessary to keep pace with the complexity and volatility of today's power markets. "As a municipal utility, our goal is to keep customer costs stable and competitive," Cloutier said.

Bill Comparison January 2009

\$113.13

Groveland Electric

\$136.85
(21% higher)

National Grid

750 kilowatt-hours

Knowledge is power

If you're not sure how to make your home more energy-efficient, help is just a phone call away. Groveland Electric customers can call **888-772-4242** weekdays during business hours for fast, free advice.

You'll reach an expert energy advisor who can give you immediate information about anything from appliance efficiency to the recommended levels of wall and attic insulation. They can also send you written material on energy conservation measures as well as tips on how to save energy.

If you'd like more detailed help, call the same number to schedule an energy audit for an onsite home evaluation. Groveland Electric sponsors all these service at no charge to our residential customers.

Get your free light bulbs!



Here's an offer that's too good to refuse—stop by our office and pick up two free compact fluorescent light bulbs. It's our way of helping customers save energy and money.

The free bulbs use 75 percent less energy than the standard 60- and 75-watt bulbs they replace. They'll also last up to 10 times longer than standard bulbs, and are a surprisingly powerful weapon in the fight against global warming.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, if every American home replaced just one standard light bulb with an efficient compact fluorescent, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

The bulbs are available to Groveland Electric customers while supplies last on a first-come basis, so be sure to stop by soon. Our 23 School St. office is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Since 1907

Groveland has public power benefits

The Groveland Electric Light Department is one of 40 municipal utilities in Massachusetts, each independently owned by the communities they serve. This makes us very different from the state's large, private utilities.

The people of Groveland founded Groveland Electric in 1907 because they believed that electric service works best for all customers when it is locally owned and controlled.

Because the people of Groveland — not out-of-town investors — own Groveland Electric, all utility benefits flow back to our customers in the form of lower rates, better service, and enhanced community programs. Here are just some of the public power benefits our town enjoys:

- **Local utility control.** Three local citizens, elected by the people of Groveland, serve on our Light Board. The Board sets utility policy and oversees operations through the

Department's Manager. Decisions are guided by the traditional municipal utility values of outstanding service and low, competitive rates.

- **Outstanding reliability.** Unlike large utilities that divide construction resources among competing areas, we invest solely in Groveland. This keeps our electric distribution system strong and efficient, which is why we have very few outages and an outstanding record of reliability.

- **Local service.** When you need us, we're right here in town, not miles away in another city. If a problem occurs, that means faster response time. It's also easy to call or drop by our office if you need to speak with us. We're your friends and neighbors, and we take

pride in taking care of you.

- **Lower bills.** A hallmark of public power is low, not-for-profit rates. For example, National Grid's customers now pay 21% more for an average residential bill than Groveland's customers.



- **Streetlight savings.** The Town of Groveland enjoys a much lower rate for the electricity used by local streetlights than nearby communities pay National Grid. This annual savings helps hold down local tax rates and frees money for other key purposes.

- **In-lieu-of-tax payments.** Groveland Electric makes annual in-lieu-of-tax payments to the Town of Groveland. This also helps hold down local tax rates.

How much does it use?

A sure way to cut your electric bill is to reduce the amount of electricity you use. But it's not always easy to figure out which of your household appliances are using the most energy.

Now you can find out with one of our new watt-hour meters. Connect a meter to a household appliance and it will show exactly how much it's costing you to run. Then you'll know where it makes the most sense to cut back, or perhaps to consider a more energy-efficient purchase.

To borrow a meter, call our office at 978-372-1671.



Owned by the people of Groveland since 1907, the Groveland Electric Light Department is one of 40 public power systems in Massachusetts with a proud history of outstanding service and lower rates.

Streetlight problem? Let us know!

You can help us keep Groveland's streetlights in good repair by letting us know right away if you notice a problem. There are 665 streetlights in Groveland, so we may not immediately detect the one you see. If you see an unlit streetlight at night, or catch one shining during the day, please call our office at 978-372-1671 so that we can repair it as soon as possible.

Be careful with space heaters

Electric space heaters can be a good way to supplement your central heating system. But if you use a space heater, remember these safety rules:

- When buying a heater, make sure you get one that automatically turns off if it tips over, and that has a protective grille that covers the heating element.
- Leave at least four feet of space between your portable heater and drapes, furniture or bedding.
- Be careful with extension cords. If you use one, make sure that the number of watts your heater uses is not more than the cord's rating listed on its packaging. You may need to buy a special heavy-duty extension cord.
- Never leave a heater unattended, especially if there are children or pets around.



And, finally, remember that plug-in space heaters use electricity — so don't be surprised to see the extra usage show up on your electric bill.