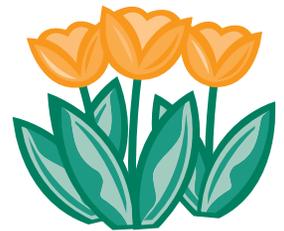


LIGHT READING

customer newsletter



Mar/Apr 2006

University of Washington becomes largest **Green Up!** partner

Businesses and residents align their power choice with their values when they join City Light's **"Green Up" Program**. These customers choose to pay extra so that the Utility can invest in renewable electricity for a cleaner environment.

The University of Washington will purchase more than 15-thousand megawatt-hours of green power from City Light this year, enough to power about 1,600 households. One hundred percent of the electricity they receive from City Light will be renewable energy.

Other leading Green Up commercial partners are Unico Properties, U.S. General Services Administration, PCC Natural Markets, FedEx Kinkos, Pagliacci Pizza, Omni Group, Kiehl's Since 1851, Pioneer Organics, Quixote Foundation and Parsons Public Relations.

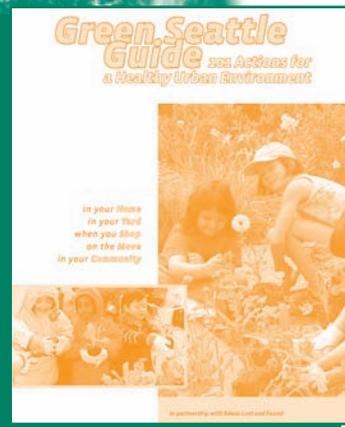
For more information about our Green Up partners, participation investment levels, and signing up, visit www.seattle.gov/light/Green/greenPower/greenup.asp.



The City of Seattle recognizes University of Washington conservation achievements on February 8, 2006. From left to right: Mayor Greg Nickels, City Light conservation services employees Zuhair Mased and Javad Maadani, Superintendent Jorge Carrasco, Councilmember Jean Godden, and U.W. President Mark Emmert.

April 22 is Earth Day

2006 promises to be one of the most active years for Earth Day. Celebrating 35 years of a worldwide movement to protect our planet, our children, and our future, the focus of Earth Day 2006 is climate protection. This is particularly exciting for Seattle residents since Mayor Greg Nickels has made climate protection a priority and is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Seattle. There are many things that you can do to help reduce climate disruption and take care of our environment.



The City offers earth-friendly information and activities all year long including:

- The **"Green Seattle Guide,"** a one-stop shop for environmental information and programs which describes and ranks 101 actions that can help protect the air, climate, land, water, wildlife and natural habitat. To view and download the guide, visit www.seattle.gov/environment/ and click on the "Green Seattle Guide."
- Seattle's Climate Protection Initiative: for updates and a list of events and opportunities, access the climate protection site at www.seattle.gov/environment/.
- For information on environmental stewardship and recreational activities visit Seattle Parks and Recreation at www.seattle.gov/parks/ and the Green Seattle Partnership at www.greenseattle.org/
- For information on neighborhood plantings visit the Department of Neighborhoods at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/treefund.htm. Also, City Light operates an Urban Tree Replacement Program. Call **(206) 386-1902** for details.

Big rebate\$ for small businesses

Interior lighting accounts for up to 60 percent of your electric bill. City Light rebates small businesses \$25 to \$65 per fixture, when inefficient lighting is upgraded to energy-efficient models.



About 400 Seattle businesses received lighting rebates last year, and they averaged a 1.5-year payback on their investment in electricity savings alone. According to a customer survey, business owners were *extremely satisfied* with our Smart Business Program. John Kasperbauer of John's Cleaners in Shoreline said, "My old lighting was pretty bad. The new fixtures make everything look cleaner and brighter. Even my customers noticed. Saving energy is icing on the cake!"

What can efficient lighting do for your business? Call **(206) 684-3800** to schedule a free, no-obligation audit to check light output and quality; provide advice for replacing or retrofitting existing fixtures; and to estimate your annual savings. You can also request a free booklet, *No Cost/Low Cost Ways to Save Energy Dollars - A Brief Guide for the Small Business*. Visit www.seattle.gov/light/consERVE for more information.

Trees + power lines = outages

Trees interfering with power lines are the number one cause of power outages in Seattle. It's important to keep branches trimmed back and plant trees that won't grow into the power lines.

Did you know?

- City Light customers are responsible for keeping the service lines between poles and buildings clear of trees and obstructions.
- City Light will temporarily disconnect power for free, so that you can safely prune trees. Call in advance to request this service. For locations north of Denny Way, call **(206) 615-0600**; south of Denny Way, call **(206) 386-4200**.
- Keep at least 10 feet away from energized power lines, including items you're carrying, such as ladders.
- City Light trims trees away from main electrical lines located in the right-of-way. If you spot a tree near a power line that's smoking or burning, call **(206) 386-1733** immediately to report this.
- Do not plant vines near the poles. Plants growing up poles compromise worker safety and system reliability and should be removed.
- We offer a free guide to tree selection: "The Right Tree Book." Call **(206) 684-3000** to request one.
- City Light has an Outage Hotline, **(206) 684-7400**, where customers can report outages and listen to recorded information about known outages.

For more information, visit www.seattle.gov/light/neighborhoods/nh4_trtr.htm.

Winter billing cycle ends March 31



Many customers are struggling to pay high winter bills. Utility representatives can answer your payment questions, as well as advise you about payment options and assistance programs. Translation services are also available. Call **(206) 684-3000** from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Information about rates, including public comment opportunities, is posted at www.seattle.gov/light/accounts/rates/.

While most utility customers pay their bills by mail, e-payment is becoming more widely used. E-payment saves customers time, money, and accepts payment any time including weekends. City Light offers these payment alternatives:

- E-Payment: 1 (866) 873-0944; www.seattle.gov/light/accounts/onlinepayment.asp.** Conveniently pay your bills with selected credit or debit cards online or over the telephone. E-checks are also accepted.
- Automatic Bill Payment: (206) 733-9100** Automatically deduct your bill amount from your checking account on the due date.
- Budget Billing Plan: (206) 684-3345** Your annual electricity charge is estimated and divided into equal monthly payments. The account is balanced once a year. This plan is for residential and small commercial customers with zero account-balances.



We want to hear from you

City Light seeks public input regarding the **Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)**. This comprehensive plan will provide the City with strategy and guidance for the acquisition of electric resources from 2006-2025. The IRP ensures that we supply reliable electricity to customers at a reasonable cost while factoring in key environmental and social considerations.

Customers and other stakeholders are invited to comment by telephone, email, letter, FAX, or attendance at public meetings. Reference materials, updates about the evolving processes, contact names and numbers may be found at www.seattle.gov/light/news/issues/irp/.



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This newsletter is available in alternate formats upon request.
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