

# LIGHT READING

customer newsletter



Sept/Oct 2006

## Lower electric rates proposed

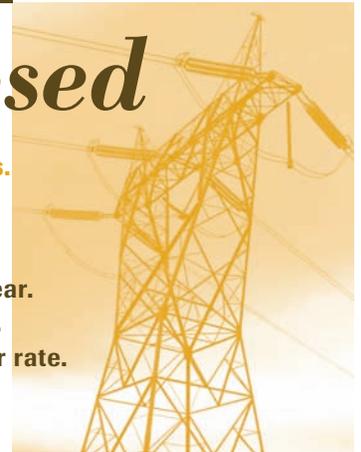
On July 19, 2006, Mayor Nickels proposed the largest electric rate reduction in more than 35 years. If approved by the Seattle City Council, reduced rates will go into effect January 2007.

The proposal sets rates that reflect the actual cost to serve the different classes of customers:

- Seattle residential customers would see, on average, a 2.2% rate reduction - or about \$13 per year.
- Commercial and industrial customers would receive between 2.3% and 13.8% in rate reductions.
- Low-income and qualified elderly customers will continue to pay 40% of the residential customer rate.

Superintendent Jorge Carrasco says: **"Public power utilities strive to keep rates affordable."** The Mayor's proposal provides modest rate relief while maintaining prudent financial policies. The proposed rates are designed to provide future rate stability and to meet challenges the utility may face due to weather or unpredictable energy markets.

The Seattle City Council encourages public discussion of utility rates through public meetings before the Energy and Technology Committee. For more information contact Councilmember Jean Godden at (206) 684-8807 or visit [www.seattle.gov/council](http://www.seattle.gov/council) and [www.seattle.gov/light/news/Issues/RateProc](http://www.seattle.gov/light/news/Issues/RateProc).



## Meeting our future energy needs

City Light receives about 35 percent of its power from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) through a contract that will expire in 2010. Currently, BPA is looking at how it will structure its power sales for 2011 and beyond. BPA is soliciting public comment about their *Long-Term Regional Dialogue Policy Proposal*. The outcome of this dialogue is important to City Light and our customers, to ensure we maintain our current, low-cost power rates.

For a copy of the proposal's *Issues Summary*, call (800) 622-4520. Please email questions on this proposal to: [regionaldialogue@bpa.gov](mailto:regionaldialogue@bpa.gov). Comments can be submitted online to: [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment); by email: [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov); and by phone: (800) 622-4519. Comment deadline is September 29, 2006.



## 3 great programs to help you save \$ and energy

For residential customers **Home Resource Profile** [www.seattle.gov/conserves/homeprofile](http://www.seattle.gov/conserves/homeprofile)  
Web-based report shows how you use water and energy in your home. Calculations are based on your actual billing data. (Need 10 months of residency.)

For small-business owners **Smart Business Programs** [www.seattle.gov/light/conserves/business](http://www.seattle.gov/light/conserves/business)

For energy-efficient light rebates, contact City Light. We provide a free lighting assessment and issue rebates once the installation of the new lighting is verified. Find your own contractor or choose from a participating contractor list available from us.

For owners of multifamily buildings with five or more units

**Multifamily Weatherization Programs** [www.seattle.gov/light/conserves/resident](http://www.seattle.gov/light/conserves/resident)

To get discounts for efficient windows, insulation and lighting, contact City Light. We provide a free building assessment and verify the upgrades when installed. (For townhouses and condominiums, entire complexes must participate.)

For details about these programs contact the Conservation Help Line at (206) 684-3800.



### Imagine

what we can save together



# Superintendent Jorge Carrasco On transformation at City Light



Superintendent  
Jorge Carrasco

For more than a year, we have worked to reorganize City Light to reflect our four key performance measurements:

- producing low-cost, clean, environmentally responsible, reliable power;
- providing sound financial management;
- delivering the best customer service of any utility in the U.S.; and
- creating a high-performance workplace.

"We have reached a major milestone. Our executive officers are now in place - individuals who have a wealth of utility experience," says Superintendent Jorge Carrasco. "We are working to improve our organizational performance and accountability. The fact that we can offer a rate reduction at a time when most electric utilities aren't, demonstrates the gains we are making on behalf of our customers. Our goal is to build on our rich history, yet welcome the changes necessary to prepare City Light for its second hundred years of service."

## Get ready for winter

It's likely your summer energy use has been low, so now is a good time to catch up with bill payments. Call **(206) 684-3000** if you have questions about your account.

As we move into winter, conserving energy is an easy way to cut your energy use and help save the environment. For information, call the **Conservation Help Line, (206) 684-3800**. Here are tips for conserving energy at home:

- Turn down your thermostat to 55 degrees or lower when you sleep or when you are away.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Install insulation in your attic, walls and/or crawlspace.
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Use resource-efficient appliances to save both energy and water. Call us for information about WashWise rebates for qualified resource-efficient clothes washers.
- Use energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs. Call us for information about recycling fluorescent bulbs in an environmentally safe way, or visit [www.takeitbacknetwork.com](http://www.takeitbacknetwork.com).
- Set your water heater thermostats to 120 degrees F.



## Keeping the lights on

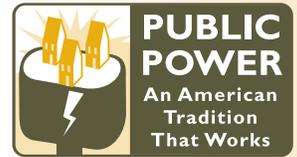
We appreciate your help with reporting streetlight problems. You can report a malfunctioning light electronically at [www.seattle.gov/light/streetlight/](http://www.seattle.gov/light/streetlight/) or by phone at **(206) 684-7056**.

Our crews work hard to keep more than 100,000 streetlights on. When the number of trouble reports increase, so does our response time. Average response times are eight working days in the fall and 17 working days in the winter.

We can respond more efficiently when you give us detailed information:

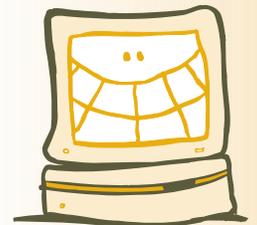
- Report the pole number - one to five yellow numbers posted six to ten feet up the pole. Tell us if there is an "A" after the number.
- Provide the address of the closest building, including the street name and direction (for example, 1234 5th Avenue S.).
- Describe the problem (for example, light goes on and off or flickers).

**Seattle City Light is a publicly owned utility dedicated to exceeding our customers' expectations in producing and delivering low-cost, reliable power in an environmentally responsible and safe way. We are committed to delivering the best customer service experience of any utility in the nation.**



**Public Power Week**  
October 1-7, 2006

Our community is served by hometown power. All day, every day, our homes and businesses are reliably and safely powered by Seattle City Light, a community-owned, not-for-profit utility. Public power supports local business goals by holding down costs, employing residents, and improving the quality of life in our community.



## Kids come explore

For the next generation of decision-makers, City Light offers a fun Web site that teaches energy basics. To learn about line work, electricity generation, energy conservation, electrical safety, renewable energy and protecting natural resources, visit [www.seattle.gov/light](http://www.seattle.gov/light) and click on "Kids."



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This newsletter is available in alternate formats upon request.  
Call (206) 684-3000.  
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