

# LIGHT READING

customer newsletter



## New, *lower* electricity rates

Recognizing that Seattle City Light has made great strides in recovering from the 2000-2001 West Coast energy crisis, Mayor Greg Nickels and the Seattle City Council have agreed to enact a system-wide 8.4 percent decrease in rates starting January 1, 2007. The new rate schedule achieves City Light's goal of offering rates that reflect the actual cost of service to all customer classes. "We are pleased to be able to offer some relief to all of our customers. This is an acknowledgement that the financial practices we have put in place in the past three years are beginning to pay off," states City Light Superintendent Jorge Carrasco.

With these new rates, Seattle will have the lowest commercial rates and the second-lowest residential rates of comparably sized cities in the U.S.

### 2007-2008 estimated average rates (cents per kWh)

#### Estimated average rate decrease (%)

Customer Class	Seattle	Downtown Network	Suburban	Tukwila
Residential	<b>6.23</b> (6.2%)	-	<b>6.81</b> (3.0%)	<b>7.01</b> (1.0%)
Small General Service	<b>5.51</b> (5.9%)	-	<b>5.77</b> (3.4%)	<b>5.89</b> (4.4%)
Medium General Service	<b>4.91</b> (17.0%)	<b>5.89</b> (9.9%)	<b>5.30</b> (12.2%)	<b>5.39</b> (13.3%)
Large General Service	<b>4.85</b> (12.3%)	<b>5.69</b> (5.2%)	<b>5.25</b> (6.7%)	<b>5.34</b> (7.6%)
High Demand	<b>4.51</b> (14.6%)	-	-	<b>4.96</b> (13.0%)

### Typical estimated annual bill savings

Customer Class	Seattle	Downtown Network	Suburban	Tukwila
Residential	<b>\$36</b>	-	<b>\$18</b>	<b>\$6</b>
Small General Service	<b>\$87</b>	-	<b>\$51</b>	<b>\$68</b>
Medium General Service	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
Large General Service	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
High Demand	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	-	-	<b>\$406,000</b>

Qualified low-income customers will continue to pay rates that are approximately 40 percent of the standard residential rates.

For more complete rates information such as cost per kilowatt hour for Seattle and suburban customers call **(206) 684-3000** or visit [www.seattle.gov/light/accounts/rates/](http://www.seattle.gov/light/accounts/rates/).

*At the peak of December's wind storm, 175,000 City Light customers lost their power - 49 percent of our service area. For some, power came back fairly quickly, but others waited days. Our crews worked around the clock to repair extensive damage so that power could be restored. Your patience was greatly appreciated during an extremely difficult time. Thank you.*

### Coming soon - new

## WashWise qualified clothes washers mean larger rebate\$

Clothes washers have become steadily more efficient over the years, in part because of the efforts of utilities nationwide. Customers like the way these efficient machines clean their clothes using less electricity and water. To help customers save even more, local energy and water utilities jointly offer rebates on models that exceed the minimum federal standards. This rebate program is called WashWise.

The U.S. Department of Energy is setting new energy efficiency standards for washers manufactured in 2007. WashWise efficiency requirements and rebate amounts for qualifying washer models will increase early in 2007.

Stars	Rebate \$	
	Old Rebate	New Rebate
1 star (efficient)	\$25	\$50
2 stars (more efficient)	\$50	\$75
3 stars (most efficient)	\$100	\$100



Call the hotline at **(866) 632-4636** or visit [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) for detailed information and to download the rebate application form. Most local appliance dealers can help you select a qualified machine.

# Bill payment contacts



Payment arrangements and information: (206) 684-3000.

TTY speech or hearing impaired: (206) 233-7241. Call us right away if you find billing irregularities or if you are unable to pay the full amount of your bill by the due date. Interpreters are available upon request.

The following payment options are free of charge.

**Automatic Bill Payment:** (206) 733-9100. Your bill amount is automatically deducted from your checking account on the due date.

**Budget Billing Plan:** (206) 684-3345. This is for residential and small general-service customers with account balances of \$100 or less. The billing amount is calculated by dividing the past annual electricity charge into equal installments, which are applied over 12 months. This amount is recalculated annually.

**E-Payment:** (866) 873-0944 or [www.seattle.gov/light/accounts/onlinepayment.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/light/accounts/onlinepayment.asp). Pay your bills with selected credit or debit cards online or over the telephone. E-checks are also accepted.

**Income guidelines apply to the following payment assistance options.**

**Discounted rates:** (206) 684-0268; for qualified low-income customers.

**Emergency Low-Income Assistance:** (206) 684-3688; one-time per year emergency assistance.

**Federal Home-Heating Assistance:** (800) 348-7144; federal funds provided on a first-come, first-served basis between November and June.

**Project Share:** (206) 684-3000; emergency assistance to income-qualified customers who have received a shut-off notice.

*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.*

## Trimming trees from power lines

City Light is stepping up tree trimming around "feeder" power lines to reduce the number of tree-caused outages.

Utility policy requires a 10-foot trimming clearance which may significantly alter trees. Our contractor, Asplundh, specializes in utility line clearance. They will give advance notice to customers in the tree-trim area. Both City-owned and privately owned trees will be impacted. For more information visit [www.seattle.gov/light/neighborhoods/nh4\\_trtr.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/light/neighborhoods/nh4_trtr.htm). If you have questions, call (206) 386-1733 or email [respond.scl@seattle.gov](mailto:respond.scl@seattle.gov).

## Identity theft alert

Don't be fooled by scam artists who call customers to obtain credit card information. If an account is past due, Seattle City Light sends at least two written notices asking customers to contact the Utility directly to make a payment. When in doubt, call (206) 684-3000, Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., to verify problems and make payment arrangements. Report scams to the police.

## Warm your heart, heat a home through Project Share

Winter is here, and some City Light customers struggle to pay their electric bills. Every year, Project Share helps a few thousand customers. It's supported completely by your generous voluntary contributions.

Your contributions are tax deductible and every penny goes to customers, not to administrative costs.

Donations can be authorized online at [www.seattle.gov/light/help/share/](http://www.seattle.gov/light/help/share/), or by mail to the address

 printed on the sign-up form below. For assistance call (206) 684-3000.



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This newsletter is available in alternate formats upon request.  
Call (206) 684-3000.  
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## Project Share donation Warm heart, warm home

I authorize Seattle City Light, until further notice, to add \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to each of my regular electric bills for Project Share.

OR

Enclosed is a check payable to Project Share in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, a one-time contribution.

I understand that these voluntary contributions will be placed in a separate Project Share account. These funds will be used only for emergencies to assist low-income customers pay their electricity bills.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone number (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

1 - - \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
City Light account number

Mail coupon to: City of Seattle, Treasury Services, PO Box 34017, Seattle, WA 98124-1017