

Light reading



City Light offers some of the lowest rates in the nation and the Northwest. **May/June 2010**

From the superintendent



City Light relies on the sale of surplus hydroelectric power to help keep customer rates low. When energy prices plummeted last year, City Light's revenues dropped by half of what we expected. This year the problem is El Niño. With far less snowpack in the mountains, there's not as much runoff, and that means we can't generate as much surplus power to sell. That's why we anticipate a nearly 67 percent drop in surplus power revenues this year.

To end this revenue roller coaster ride of volatile energy prices and unpredictable weather, the Seattle City Council unanimously approved creation of a rate stabilization account for City Light. As part of that, the council agreed to a temporary 4.5 percent rate surcharge that went into effect on May 1, 2010. The surcharge continues to 2011 if needed, until the account hits the expected \$100 million target. The account should provide long-term rate stability for customers and revenue stability for City Light. It would only be used when surplus power revenues drop below expected levels.

For the average residential customer, the surcharge is about \$2 per month, but, of course, any increase is difficult in a recession. The good news is that a moderate adjustment now buys all of us a more stable future.



**Superintendent
Jorge Carrasco**



Conservation news

Check it out: in-home power monitors

City Light and The Seattle Public Library have teamed up to make "Kill-A-Watt" in-home power monitors available to library patrons.

Find out how much you're spending to keep an old VCR plugged in, or how much electricity your computer uses when the screen saver is on. The monitors show how much electricity specific appliances are using so you can make informed decisions on energy savings.

To check one out, all you need is a library card, which you can get at any Seattle library, or online: www.SPL.org.



Fridge program on hiatus

City Light's refrigerator/freezer recycling program is suspended for the remainder of 2010 due to budget reductions. Appointments already made for free pick-up will be honored and participants will receive a rebate.

You can still save by unplugging your older, second fridge or freezer, and stay tuned: The program is scheduled to return in 2011. Since 2008, customers have recycled more than 6,500 old appliances. By getting them off the grid, we've saved enough electricity to power 650 average Seattle homes for a year.

Rebates = savings



Get up to \$200 in rebates from Washington state's Cash for Appliances program and City Light's WashWise program when you buy qualifying

energy-efficient clothes washers. The state also offers \$75 rebates on ENERGY STAR®-rated refrigerators. The program runs through Dec. 31, 2011 or until funds run out. Visit www.cashforapplianceswa.com for instructions on how to get appliance rebates from the state, and www.washwiserebate.com for City Light rebates. Also check with local appliance retailers.

For details, call our Energy Conservation Help Line: **206.684.3800** or visit www.seattle.gov/light/conserve/

Free CFL

Along with your bill, we've included a special coupon for a free CFL, redeemable at your local Bartell Drug store. Or download and print the [coupon here](#). See coupon for details.

Info and events

Read the latest Light Reading online: www.seattle.gov/light/publications/lightreading

We're an LED leader

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) save energy and last longer than conventional lighting, and we're finding new ways to use the technology. We partnered with the Mariners on a new, energy-efficient LED scoreboard. And City Light is gradually switching to LED streetlights, this year installing 5,000 LED streetlights along residential streets. In all, 40,000 will be added during the next five years. In recognition of City Light's leadership in LED technology, the U.S. Department of Energy selected us to lead a new national consortium that provides other municipalities with the latest information on LED streetlights. Learn more at www.ssl.energy.gov/consortium.html.



An LED scoreboard is installed at Safeco Field.

Skagit Tours cancelled



City Light's popular Skagit Tours program is cancelled for 2010 due to budget reductions and staff cuts. A new schedule is planned for 2011. Meanwhile, you still can visit the upper Skagit River region — a scenic destination with lots to see and do. For ideas, see the North Cascades National Park Web site: www.nps.gov/noca/index.htm; and The North Cascades Institute Web page: www.ncascades.org.

Green Festival 2010

Watch for City Light's display at the 2010 Green Festival on June 5 and 6 in the Washington Convention and Trade Center. If you can't make the event, check out their Web site for audio and video of Green Festival speakers, as well other informative links: www.greenfestivals.org/seattle.



It's about streetlights

One of the most recognized symbols of City Light is the streetlight. People notice when they're not working. The utility has implemented a streamlined strategy to maintain them. Watch a short video on that project here: www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=8050601.



City Light's Twitter & blog

Follow City Light news with a free account on Twitter, the social networking site: www.twitter.com/SEACityLight, and get news on the utility's blog, Power Lines: www.seattle.gov/light. Both provide outage information and other news.

Traffic alert

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is widening the S. Spokane St. viaduct, and completing the new eastbound 4th Ave. S. off-ramp, causing traffic-pattern changes. See the SDOT Web site for details: www.seattle.gov/spokane.



In your neighborhood: City Light @ work

City Light is in these neighborhoods to ensure you have reliable service:

- working on network vaults and ducts on Virginia St., from alley between 1st and 2nd Ave. to alley between 7th and 8th Ave.;
- relocating feeder lines from 1st Ave. S. to Occidental Ave. S.; from Railroad Way to King St.;
- continuing underground cable-injection projects in View Ridge, Arroyo Beach, Leschi; upgrading Laurelhurst underground cables.
- streetlight re-lamping project (phase 3 of 4) continues through December, from Denny Way north to N. 65th.

Visit our construction projects Web page and click on the  construction sign for details: www.seattle.gov/light/const_mgmt.



**The first carbon-neutral utility
in the nation.**

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This newsletter is available in alternate formats upon request. Versions in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Somali, Tagalog and Korean available online or call 206.684.3000.

Get up to \$200 off a new clothes washer!



 **Seattle City Light** offers up to \$100 in rebates on a resource-efficient clothes washer through its WashWise program. Washington state also offers a \$100 rebate through the new Cash for Appliances program.

The great news is that you can combine the rebates for a \$200 savings! Be sure to purchase a Tier III model to qualify for both the WashWise \$100 rebate and the Cash for Appliances \$100 rebate.

To download the rebate form and view a list of qualified clothes washers for the WashWise rebate, visit www.washwiserebate.com. A rebate form and list of qualified clothes washers for the Cash for Appliances rebate may be found at www.cashforapplianceswa.com. Funds for both programs are limited and eligibility requirements apply. Visit each Web site or your local appliance retailer for more information.

WASHWISE



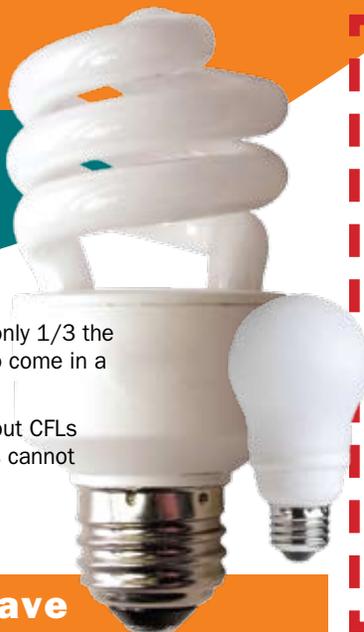
WashWise rebates are brought to you by Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities. Washington state Cash for Appliances rebates are brought to you by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Washington State Department of Commerce Energy Policy Division.

Seattle City Light **Twist & Save!**

CFLs last 6-10 times longer than regular bulbs, and use only 1/3 the amount of energy for the same amount of light. CFLs also come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors to meet your needs.

Seattle City Light encourages you to recycle your burned-out CFLs free of charge at any Bartell Drug store. Remember, CFLs cannot be thrown into the trash due to the very small amount of mercury they contain. For a complete list of recycling locations, call **206.684.3800** or visit the Web site below.

www.seattle.gov/twistandsave



Try one today- **FREE!**

This coupon is good for one free CFL at any Bartell Drug store located within the Seattle City Light service area.

For a list of stores call 206.684.3800 or visit www.seattle.gov/twistandsave. Discounts provided by Seattle City Light.

Maximum value is 99 cents. Expires 9/30/2010. Not for resale. Per Washington state law, consumer must pay any sales tax. Cashier: Use PLU 9393 and enter a value of 99 cents. Photocopies will not be accepted.

**BARTELL
DRUGS**

Washington's Own Drugstores

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