

Light reading

CITY LIGHT

City Light offers some of the lowest rates in the nation and the Northwest.

January/February 2012

Your Seattle City Light From the superintendent

After several years of hard work, Seattle City Light is completing its proposed Strategic Plan, a document that will guide the utility's operations for the next six years.

There's a lot at stake in this effort that will affect you, the customer, including infrastructure investments, energy efficiency, alternative energy, rates, reliability, and technology.

We continue to seek public opinion on the plan before making our recommendations to the mayor and presenting it to the City Council this spring. I hope you can attend one of our Strategic Plan forums. Find the meeting schedule and locations at this website: www.seattle.gov/light/strategic-plan.

A reminder that a modest rate adjustment goes into effect this January — 3.2 percent — after it was approved by the City Council two years ago as part of the utility's 2011-2012 budget. The average monthly increase is \$1.67 for residential customers.

And finally, have you tried our new phone apps? You should have received an announcement with your bill about this innovation. Using a mobile phone with internet access, you can download important information including details on power outages (<http://m.seattle.gov/light>). This is just one more way your Seattle City

Light is trying to make it easier for you to connect with the utility.

**Superintendent
Jorge Carrasco**



Conservation news

Light bulb update

Although discussion continues in Congress, light bulb manufacturers are moving ahead with the production of more efficient bulbs, phasing out traditional incandescent 100-watt light bulbs in 2012.



New incandescent bulbs are about 30 percent more efficient while providing the same amount of light. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and light-emitting diode bulbs (LEDs) are even more efficient. When choosing a bulb, use the new Lighting Facts label on the package.

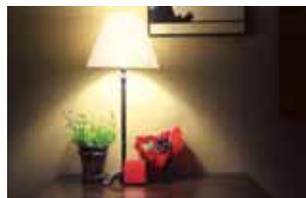
Here's how to read the label:

Brightness. Light output is measured in lumens, not watts. The higher the number of lumens, the brighter the bulb. A 23-watt CFL puts out about the same number of lumens as a 100-watt incandescent.

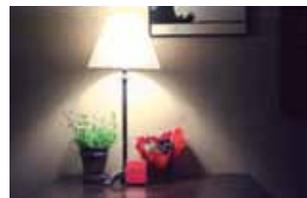
Energy used. Measures the power required to light the product in watts. The lower the watts, the less energy consumed and the less it will cost you.

Light appearance. Measures light color in kelvins (K). If you like light similar in color to an incandescent, choose a bulb on the warm end of the spectrum, 2700K. For bright white, choose a bulb in the 3000K-4000K range. Daylight, 5000K or more.

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
Brightness	870 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$1.57
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use	
Life	5.5 years
Based on 3 hrs/day	
Light Appearance	Warm <div style="position: absolute; left: 0; top: -5px; width: 10px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%;"></div> Cool
2700 K	
Energy Used	13 watts
Contains Mercury For more on clean up and safe disposal, visit epa.gov/cfi	



Soft or warm light 2700K



Bright white light 3000-3500K



Daylight 5000K or more

Visit www.seattle.gov/twistandsave for details and discounts.

Rebates redux

Residential rebates continue in 2012 for appliances, refrigerator/freezer recycling, heat pump water heaters, and ductless heat pumps, ranging from \$30 to \$1,200. More at www.seattle.gov/light/conserve or **206.684.3800**.

Energy Advisor TV tips

Consider energy costs when you buy a new TV. A 52-inch LCD TV uses about twice as much electricity as a 32-inch model. LCD models are more efficient than plasmas, and always look for the Energy Forward "Most Efficient" label. More at www.energyefficientelectronics.org.

Info and events

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



Stealing electricity

City Light field workers keep an eye out for households that may be diverting electricity and not paying for it. We ask customers to be vigilant as well because this problem affects you. Not only can energy theft be dangerous for neighborhoods, it also means we all pay more for power. It's estimated that, every year, the utility loses revenue between \$3 million to \$5 million this way. If you notice meters or wiring from our poles that look tampered with, don't approach, but call **206.684.3000**. Customer service reps can pass information on to our technical metering group. Suspicious signs include upside down or broken meters, or odd wiring around meters.

Kits for kids

City Light is taking part in Kits for Kids, assembling emergency preparedness kits for low-income children in our service territory. Utility employees will put together about 150 of these kits, and we'll include important information about what to do during power outages and emergencies. Kits for Kids is sponsored by the National Title I Association, an educational group that enables disadvantaged children to meet high academic state standards.

From the field

"My rule to live by is, always have an escape plan for the unexpected like a fire, or a power outage. Learn how to prepare for an outage here:

www.seattle.gov/light/neighborhoods/nh4_pout.htm."



- Cecile Rieder, crew coordinator

Easy on the Earth

We strive for environmental responsibility. Some examples: Since 2005, City Light has had the unique status of net-zero carbon emissions, and we continued that in 2011, our 7th year. Last fall, we had near record salmon runs on the Skagit River below our hydroelectric operations. And City Light was judged one of the best values among U.S. utilities, according to a recent survey of residential electricity customers by The Nielsen Co. and E Source. Scores were based on nine criteria including environmental efforts.

Our power sources

City Light's fuel mix disclosure report from the Washington State Dept. of Community Trade and Economic Development is based on 2010 data:

 Hydro	87.9%
 Nuclear*	6.4%
 Coal*	2.5%
 Wind	2.1%
 Other**	1.1%
Total	100%

* Represents a portion of the power purchased from Bonneville Power Administration.

** Includes natural gas, biomass, waste, petroleum, landfill gases and other fuels.



Warm winter homes

Project Share helps pay electric bills for people who need temporary assistance. A tax-deductible contribution can be a one time donation or a regular part of your utility bill. For details, call **206.684.3000**, or contribute online at www.seattle.gov/light/help/share.



In your neighborhood: City Light @ work

Crews are in these neighborhoods to deliver reliable energy to you:

- Pioneer Square: removing old cable as follow-up to 1st Ave. S. construction;
- S. Washington St. between 2nd and 3rd Ave.: building new ducts, replacing aging cable;
- Blue Ridge/North Beach: testing, injecting underground cables with silicone to extend their life;
- Harrison St. and Aurora Ave. (east of Seattle Center): setting vaults to relocate major power lines ahead of bore tunnel work;
- Mercer St.: Moving power lines underground as part of Mercer improvement;
- Laurelhurst (north of Webster Point): Replacing 4kV cable with more reliable 26kV.

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

Your Seattle City Light

The first carbon-neutral utility in the nation.

700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3200

PO Box 34023

Seattle, WA 98124-4023

www.seattle.gov/light

www.twitter.com/SeaCityLight



Questions, comments or suggestions?

Call **206.684.3000** or contact *Tell Seattle City Light* at www.seattle.gov/light.

Editor: Connie McDougall

connie.mcdougall@seattle.gov

Newsletter available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Somali, Tagalog and Korean online or call **206.684.3000**.



Printed on recycled paper.



GEOTHERMAL



DAIRY BIOGAS



NEW HYDRO

What do **YOU** think about renewable energy?



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Renewable energy in Seattle Join the discussion

Seattle City Light wants to know what you think about renewable energy and what we can do together to create more of it.

Simply complete a 5-minute online survey once per month. It's easy and important!

 Make a difference.
Enroll at seattle.gov/forum

 **Your Seattle City Light**