

Light reading

Seattle City Light: The first carbon-neutral utility in the nation.

November/December 2012

Your Seattle City Light From the superintendent

In July, the Seattle City Council approved City Light's six-year strategic plan. The plan allows the utility to move ahead with long deferred improvements, which benefit customers by ensuring you continue to receive affordable, reliable power.

These investments will require an annual average residential rate increase of about 4.7 percent, starting in January 2013. For the average customer, this will increase your bill about \$2.90 a month, or \$34.86 per year.

For many customers, taking steps to conserve energy will defray a rate increase. We have information to help you save energy and money at this website: www.seattle.gov/light/conserve. City Light also has a rate-assistance program for income-eligible customers. To find out if you qualify, visit www.seattle.gov/UDP, email UDP@seattle.gov, or call **206.684.0268**. In addition, Project Share provides one-time assistance to people having trouble paying their electric bill: www.seattle.gov/light/help/share.

If you can, please consider supporting Project Share by purchasing a City Light 2013 calendar for \$10 each, with proceeds going to this worthy program. The calendar features student artwork from our Shrinking



Bigfoot energy-saving contest. To buy calendars look for the order form in this mailing.

**Superintendent
Jorge Carrasco**



Conservation news

Have a question about energy conservation or our renewable power programs? Call a Seattle City Light Energy Advisor at **206.684.3800**, or email SCLEnergyAdvisor@seattle.gov.

Energy Advisor tip

During the fall and winter, weatherizing your home is an easy way to stay comfortable while increasing your home's efficiency: caulk windows, add weather stripping to exterior doors, and insulate the attic and walls. You may be eligible for insulation rebates through the City of Seattle's Community Power Works program. Go to www.communitypowerworks.org for information.



Fridge facts

Your refrigerator is one of your biggest electricity users, and an old, inefficient one can cost up to \$140 to run for a year. Let City Light haul away your old second refrigerator. You'll get \$30 for taking the appliance off the grid, and you'll lower your energy bills. For details, see www.seattle.gov/appliances. More ways to save:

- Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight;
- Keep your freezer defrosted;
- Set refrigerators at 36-38 degrees and freezers at 0-5 degrees.

New light standards

The federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires that light bulbs meet certain efficiency standards. The standards phase out incandescent light bulbs in 2012, starting with the 100-watt incandescent bulb, and the 75-watt bulb in 2013. They're being replaced with more energy-efficient incandescent-halogen bulbs that are at least 27 percent more efficient. Even more energy-efficient options are available with CFLs and LEDs. Visit www.seattle.gov/twistandsave to get information about discounts on ENERGY STAR® CFLs, fixtures, and new LED recessed-can retrofit kits, as well as information on how to choose the right bulb.

The Lighting Facts label (see sample on the right) is required on all light-bulb packages and can help you select the right bulb based on brightness, light appearance, energy use, and longevity.

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 Cool	
2700 K ▲	
Energy Used	13 watts
Contains Mercury	
For more on clean up and safe disposal, visit epa.gov/cfl	

Ready for the worst



Fifty years ago the Columbus Day storm knocked out power to more than 100,000 City Light customers, and six years ago the Hanukkah Eve storms caused half of the utility's customers to lose power. Today, your Seattle City Light is prepared to respond quickly to major events. We've made major improvements such as trimming vegetation along more than 2,300 miles of power lines, and installing an outage management system for better customer communications. We're ready. Are you? Learn more at <http://seattle.gov/light/twbs>.

'Tis storm season

The holidays coincide with blustery weather, which can lead to power outages. When the lights go out, report a problem to the Outage Hotline (**206.684.7400**). You also can call the utility's Call Center (**206.684.3000**) to request an automated call-back for outage updates. From a computer or smart phone, check the online outage map: www.seattle.gov/light.



Stay in touch

Help us keep you informed about important information, especially during storm season, by giving us your email address. We never share your email; it's considered part of your customer account information. Go to www.seattle.gov/light/Accounts/cust_info.asp and enter your email address, along with your service address, account number, and phone/cell number.



Trimming trees safely

Winter is a good time to remove deadwood and limbs likely to break from snow, ice or wind. Before you hire an arborist to trim your trees, contact City Light. Only qualified line-clearance tree trimmers are allowed to work on trees close to power lines. Plus, our crews can disconnect the lines that power your home for up to 12 hours — a free service to City Light customers. Contact our Vegetation Management office at **206.386.1733**.

From the field

"Never go near downed power lines, or anything in contact with them, including water. In a power outage, don't bring a generator or barbecue indoors, or into a garage. Find out more at <http://seattle.gov/light/twbs>."



- Fanny Nguyen, City Light safety & health supervisor

New TV for the holidays

If you're thinking of buying a flat screen, get one that's energy efficient. LCD TVs are more efficient than plasmas, and screen size makes a difference, too. A 52-inch LCD TV uses about twice as much electricity as a 32-inch model, and look for the Energy Forward Most Efficient label. See a list of efficient models and retailers here: www.energyefficientelectronics.org.



Streetlight out?

Report streetlight problems online: www.seattle.gov/light/streetlight.

In your neighborhood: City Light @ work

Crews are in these neighborhoods, working to keep your lights on.

- SODO: relocating power lines to add capacity and serve tunnel-boring machine;
- Harrison St./Aurora Ave. (east of Seattle Center): pulling cable to relocate lines;
- Laurelhurst (north of Webster Point): replacing underground cable to increase capacity;
- First Hill: replacing poles, increasing wire size to add capacity;
- Rainier View: installing new vaults, poles, and conduits to prepare for replacement of wooden poles, increasing reliability and capacity;
- Gatewood: converting power lines to add capacity.
- Pioneer Square: upgrading underground infrastructure, pulling in new cable between Cherry and Columbia on First Ave.;
- Ambaum Way/Hurstwood and Innis Arden/The Highlands: injecting underground cable with silicon to extend its life.

Visit www.seattle.gov/light/construction and click on the  construction sign for details.



Your Seattle City Light

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

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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.

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



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