Light **reading**

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

January/February 2013

Clip and save **CONSERVATION TIPS**

Energy-saving ideas to help save money and lower your bill.

TOASTY TIPS

- Set thermostat to 68 degrees when home, 55 degrees (or off) at night and when not home. Your bill drops 2-5 percent for every degree a thermostat is turned down.
- Caulk holes and cracks, apply weather-stripping around outside doors.
- Change furnace filters, vacuum dust and debris from heating units.

WATER HEATING COSTS

- Install an efficient showerhead and save on both energy and water costs.
- Shorten your showers. Even a few minutes per shower really adds up.
- Set water-heater thermostat to 120 degrees.
- Use cold water in wash and rinse cycles. Run full loads in clothes washer, dryer, dishwasher.

TWIST AND SAVE

- Install CFLs and LED bulbs. They use less electricity and last much longer than incandescent light bulbs.

MORE WAYS TO SAVE

- Recycle your second, older refrigerator and save up to $150 per year on your electric bill. Call **206.233.COLD** to have it hauled away for free and earn $30.
- Cook with a microwave, toaster oven, or slow cooker, all of which use less electricity than an oven.
- Use smart power strips to stop the idle current drawn from your outlets when electronics are not in use.
- Is your house cold and drafty? Free weatherization is available from the Seattle HomeWise Program for income-eligible residents. To see if you qualify, call **206.684.0244** or go to **seattle.gov/housing/homewise**.

UPGRADE AND SAVE

Get City Light rewards for upgrading to energy-efficient appliances.

ENERGY STAR ® refrigerator replacement	$50
High-efficiency clothes washer	$100
Heat pump water heater	$500
Ductless heating and cooling system	$1,500
WaterSense® showerheads	up to $10 instant discount
ENERGY STAR® CFLs, LEDs and fixtures	up to $10 instant discount

Have a question about energy conservation or our renewable power programs?

Go to **seattle.gov/light/conserve** or contact an Energy Advisor at **206.684.3800** or email **SCLEnergyAdvisor@seattle.gov**

Your Seattle City Light

From the superintendent

Seattle City Light had a productive 2012, and we look forward to a dynamic 2013.

Last year, we installed 11,500 LED streetlights, which means about two-thirds of our residential service territory now has the new lights. LEDs are more energy efficient and last much longer than high-pressure sodium lights. We'll save about $3 million annually when all of the LEDs are in place.

We've also eliminated a backlog of routine streetlight repairs, now averaging less than 10 days from the time you report a problem. (Track repairs at **www.seattle.gov/light/streetlight**.)

Another 2012 accomplishment was adoption of our six-year strategic plan. It provides rate predictability while finding $18 million in utility efficiencies by the end of the third year. Investments include new technologies needed for our facilities and our employees, so both keep pace with today's energy demands.

To support these long-delayed improvements, a rate increase of about 4.7 percent starts in Jan. 2013. The average residential bill will go up by about $2.93 per month.

At the bottom of this publication is information on rate-reduction programs you may qualify for. And save this front page of conservation tips to help lower your energy bills.

Superintendent Jorge Carrasco

Involved in community

- City Light employees are proud to be part of the Northwest community, and also the larger community of utilities. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, City Light sent 14 crew members and four utility trucks to Long Island to help restore power to thousands of people.
- Our employees are already planning a community project for Earth Day, and work with Rebuilding Seattle this spring to help homeowners in need. If you would like to join us, visit this website: **www.seattle.gov/light/comm_inv**.

Bigfoot calendar winners

Thanks to all the kids who entered our Shrinking Bigfoot 2013 calendar contest last year by submitting artwork. Check it out online, **www.seattle.gov/light/calendar**, and stay tuned for contest details about our 2014 calendar contest, benefiting Project Share.

Winter tree tips

Advice from our vegetation-management folks: Winter weather can send tree branches to the ground, but before spring arrives, look up and see if there are broken limbs, or stubs where limbs snapped off. Trimming breaks now while the tree is dormant will ensure the tree won't waste energy on dead or dying limbs when it wakes up this spring.

Online info for you

City Light's website has news you can use:

- track power outages with our outage map;
- follow City Light news on Facebook, Twitter, and our Power Lines blog;
- reach customer care reps with the "Tell Seattle City Light" link, and more at **www.seattle.gov/light**.

From the field

"If you see downed power lines, always assume they're 'hot' and do not approach. Call 911 to report any downed lines."

- Walt Aho, Seattle City Light crew chief

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 1st Ave.; 2nd Ave. alley and James St.: upgrading underground infrastructure, pulling in new cable;
- Ambaum Way/Hurstwood, Innis Arden/The Highlands, Broadmoor: injecting underground cable with silicon to extend its life.

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

Your Seattle City Light

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

700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3200
PO Box 34023
Seattle, WA 98124-4023

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www.seattle.gov/light
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Questions, comments or suggestions? Call **206.684.3000** or contact *Tell Seattle City Light* at **www.seattle.gov/light**. Newsletter available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Somali, Tagalog and Korean online or call **206.684.3000**. Editor: Connie McDougall **connie.mcdougall@seattle.gov**

You may be eligible for help with utility bills

Find out if you qualify for low-income and elderly rate assistance. If your household income does not exceed 70 percent of the state median income, you can receive a rate reduction from Seattle City Light — up to a 60 percent reduction on your energy bill.

For more information, please visit **www.seattle.gov/light/accounts/assistance** or call **206.684.3417**.

Your Seattle City Light

If you'd like to be contacted about rate-assistance information, please fill out the other side of this flyer and mail it back with your bill payment.

The income guidelines are listed to the right.

Number in household	Total monthly income
1	$2,506
2	$3,277
3	$4,048
4	$4,820
5	$5,591
6	$6,362
7	$6,507
8	$6,651

Currently, residents in federally subsidized housing are not eligible to receive rate assistance.

Let's talk

Would you like more information on our rate assistance programs? Fill out the form below and mail it back with your bill.

_____
Name

_____
Phone number (include area code)

_____
Email address

1 - _____ - _____
City Light account number

The best way to contact you is:

❑ By phone. Best time(s) to call you: _____

❑ By email

More help with electric bills

City Light offers additional assistance:

- The **Electric Payment Assistance Program** is for customers who receive an urgent or shutoff notice on balances of $250 or more. Contact us at **SCL_InforElia@seattle.gov** or call **206.684.3688**.
- **Project Share** offers one-time emergency assistance with electric bills. Information at **www.seattle.gov/light/help/share** or call **206.684.3000**.
- **Budget billing** averages monthly bills across a 12-month period for qualified customers. Details at **www.seattle.gov/light/budget** or call **206.684.3000**.
- **Ebilling** saves on stamps and envelopes by using our online electronic billing and payment option. More at **www.seattle.gov/light/accounts**.

Your Seattle City Light