

# Light reading

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

July/August 2013



“Highest Customer Satisfaction With Business Electric Service in the Western U.S. Among Midsize Utilities” \*

## Your Seattle City Light From the general manager

City Light crews work 24/7 to keep your lights on. The job really goes into high gear as our weather improves. We take advantage of the season to tackle projects that can be difficult in the cold months. Summer through fall, we focus on major projects.

City Light is in the early stages of building the Denny Substation, the first one in 30 years. It will offer more reliability, and meet increased demands for energy, particularly in the growing high-tech, bio-medical hub of South Lake Union. Through October, crews will install shoring on the site, excavate and dispose of contaminated soil, backfill with clean material, then restore streets and sidewalks.

Meanwhile, in preparation for the new Elliott Bay seawall, identified as a critical public-safety project, we're relocating electrical utilities, and installing overhead wires on new poles.

Crews are also busy on First Hill, replacing aging wood poles and upgrading wire.

When you see a yellow City Light truck and its crew, remember, they're out there to give you the best customer service in the nation.



**Jorge Carrasco**  
General Manager, CEO



## Conservation news

City Light wants you to put a new spin on your most creative, tastiest recipe. Our Cookin' With Kilowatts contest asks you to create or use a recipe for a dish that you would typically bake in an electric oven. The challenge is to use a cooking method that uses less electricity than an oven. For instance, as you see in the chart below, a microwave oven uses half as much electricity as a standard oven.



APPLIANCE	TEMP	TIME	ENERGY	COST <sup>1</sup>
Electric oven	350 F	1 hr.	2.0 kWh	19 cents
Toaster oven	425 F	50 min.	.95 kWh	9 cents
Crockpot	200 F	7 hrs.	.7 kWh	7 cents
Microwave oven	“high”	15 min.	.36 kWh	3 cents

<sup>1</sup> Assumes 9.5 cents/kWh

Table from *Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings*

Each customer who submits a recipe will receive a token of appreciation. The owner of the winning recipe also receives the grand prize, and will be featured in City Light publications. For rules, prizes, contest information, and to submit your recipe, go to [www.seattle.gov/light/recipe](http://www.seattle.gov/light/recipe).

### 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](mailto:SCLEnergyAdvisor@seattle.gov)

### Rebate reward

Appliances make up about 20 percent of your home's electricity use. City Light's appliance rebates help you upgrade to more efficient models, saving money and electricity. Receive a \$100 rebate on a new high-efficiency clothes washer, and a \$50 rebate on an ENERGY STAR® refrigerator. More at [www.seattle.gov/appliance](http://www.seattle.gov/appliance).

### Energy Advisor tip

Save energy this summer:

- Hang-dry your clothes.
- Run ceiling fans (fans cool people, not rooms).
- Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors or windows.
- Use blinds or window coverings to prevent solar heating.
- Minimize the use of ovens, computers, dishwashers, even a hair dryer or curling iron, all of which generate heat.
- Switch to energy-efficient light bulbs. About 10-15 percent of the electricity that incandescent lights consume results in light; the rest is turned into heat.

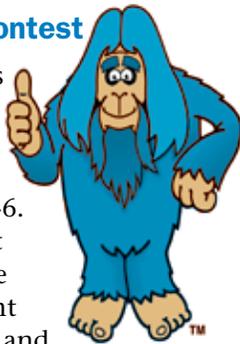


## City Light on YouTube

Watch videos on how to save energy, get an inside look at crews at work, and more on our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/SeattleCityLight](http://www.youtube.com/user/SeattleCityLight). Access the playlist by category: click on "Videos," "Uploads," and "Playlists."

## Kids: Enter our contest

This fall, City Light's second annual Shrinking Bigfoot contest returns for students in grades 3-6. Send us artwork that shows how to reduce your carbon footprint and save energy. Art and photos of 12 winners will be published in our 2014 Shrinking Bigfoot calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales go to Project Share, which helps customers having trouble paying electric bills. Details at [www.seattle.gov/light/contest](http://www.seattle.gov/light/contest).



## Ask an arborist

City Light's arborists offer this tip for trees planted in warm weather: In their first two years, trees need about five gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter, each week through October. Water "slow and low," a steady trickle or drip at ground level when the sun is low in the sky. City Light is proud to be named a "Tree Line USA Utility" by the Arbor Day Foundation for protecting and enhancing the urban forests in our service territory.



## Help with bills, repairs

Need assistance with your bills, critical home repairs, or want to weatherize your home? The City of Seattle offers three programs to qualified customers. Call **206.684.3417** or visit the Seattle City Light Utility Discount Program website at [www.seattle.gov/light/discount](http://www.seattle.gov/light/discount) to save up to 60 percent on your energy bills. To learn about the Home Repair Loan Program and HomeWise Weatherization Program for low-income households, call the Office of Housing at **206.684.0244** or visit [www.seattle.gov/housing](http://www.seattle.gov/housing).

## Sun flowers

City Light's **Green Up!** program, supported by customer contributions, has funded a solar-powered sculpture at the Pacific Science Center. Called Sonic Bloom, the display includes five flowers that stand up to 33 feet — lit day and night by solar energy.



## Our annual report

Read about City Light's accomplishments and challenges in our 2012 annual report: [www.seattle.gov/light/publications](http://www.seattle.gov/light/publications).



## From the field

**"Keep yard work safe. Before you start moving metal ladders, using long tools, or working anywhere on the outside of your home, look up. Make sure there are no overhead wires you could make contact with." - Wanda Davis, City Light electrician constructor**



## In your neighborhood: City Light @ work

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

- Fauntleroy Crest (West Seattle): installing upgraded grounding system; trenching and drilling but no new above-ground infrastructure.
- First Hill, E. Columbia St.: increasing power line capacity, adding redundancy.
- College St. to Denny Way (to mid-July); Denny Way to Ship Canal (July-Sept.): installing residential LED streetlights.

Visit our Web page and click on the  construction sign for details: [www.seattle.gov/light/construction](http://www.seattle.gov/light/construction)

## Your Seattle City Light

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

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Seattle, WA 98124-4023

[www.seattle.gov/light](http://www.seattle.gov/light)    
[www.twitter.com/SeaCityLight](http://www.twitter.com/SeaCityLight)

Questions, comments or suggestions? Call **206.684.3000** or contact *Tell Seattle City Light* at [www.seattle.gov/light](http://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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\* Seattle City Light received the highest numerical score among midsize utilities in the West region in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2013 Electric Utility Business Customer Satisfaction Study<sup>SM</sup>. Study based on 25,794 total online interviews ranking the 9 largest providers in the West (AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed April-June and September-December 2012. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com).



# TIME TO SAY BYE-BYE TO THAT OLD FRIDGE?

\$30 REBATE & FREE PICK UP

 **Your Seattle City Light**



## SAYING BYE-BYE TO THAT OLD FRIDGE IS EASY.



### YOU CONTACT US

Go to [seattle.gov/refrigerator](http://seattle.gov/refrigerator)  
or call (206) 386-1399



WE  
**PICK IT UP  
FOR FREE**



YOU GET \$30  
And save up to \$150/yr  
on your utility bill



WE  
**RECYCLE IT**

To qualify your fridge must be residential in style, between 10 and 30 cubic feet and manufactured before 2001. Your \$30 rebate check will be mailed 4-6 weeks after appliance collection. The Refrigerator Recycling Rebate is a limited offer and is subject to the availability of funds. This rebate cannot be combined with the \$50 Refrigerator Replacement Rebate.

 **Your Seattle City Light**