Light **reading**

May/June 2014

Seattle City Light

From the general manager

We're fortunate to have clean, abundant hydro power, which helps keep your energy bill affordable. Just how affordable is reflected in this chart comparing City Light rates to neighboring utilities.*

Tacoma	6.09
Seattle	6.89
Snohomish PUD	7.90
Portland	9.07
Puget Sound Energy	9.90

Among the nation's 25 largest cities, City Light offers the lowest cost energy. This chart also shows a mid-range cost, and the highest rates.*

Seattle	6.89
Columbus	9.87
New York City	22.94

See all 25 cities at **www.seattle.gov/light/greenest/lowrates.htm**.

*Shows the average cents per kilowatt-hour for all customers (residential, commercial and industrial); 2012 data, the latest numbers available.

Some customers do struggle with their bills, which is why we want folks to know about our Utility Discount Program. Income-qualified people can reduce utility costs by 60 percent (**www.seattle.gov/light/assistance**).

Another way to lower bills is by conserving. This issue of Light Reading is full of ideas on how to save energy and money through conservation.

Jorge Carrasco
General Manager, CEO

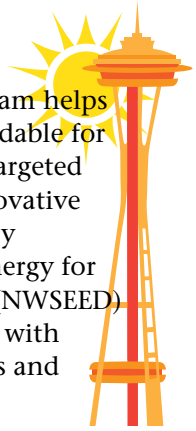
Conservation news

Live from the aquarium roof

City Light's latest Community Solar project on the Seattle Aquarium roof is now streaming live data — current solar generation as well as kilowatt-hours generated to date. Follow that feed here: **http://tinyurl.com/solarlivedata**.

By investing in Community Solar, you receive a credit on your bill for energy generated, and enjoy the cost savings of solar without having to install a system of your own. Our two projects at the Seattle Aquarium and Jefferson Park create affordable, renewable energy, offset carbon dioxide emissions, and protect our planet. Both sites offer scenic views where you'll learn more about solar energy (new signage coming this summer). And look for new projects starting up soon. More at **www.seattle.gov/communitysolar**.

Solar in Seattle? Yes.



The Solarize Seattle program helps make solar easy and affordable for City Light customers in targeted neighborhoods. This innovative program was developed by Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (NWSEED) and works in partnership with community organizations and local contractors.

Participants benefit from free educational workshops, site assessments, bulk system pricing, and financing options. More than 2,000 families have participated in some aspect of the program in neighborhoods all across Seattle. With support from City Light, Solarize is now coming to West Seattle. Details here: **http://solarizewa.org/get-started**.

Crossword congrats

Hundreds of customers studied up on energy efficiency to enter our first, City Light crossword puzzle contest. Sue S. from Lake Forest Park had all nine answers correct and was randomly selected as the winner. *"I am so excited to win,"* Sue told us. *"This was a really fun way to learn more about energy and my utility."*

Conservation heros

Being the nation's greenest utility takes teamwork, which is why City Light applauds customers who do their part.

"We love our hot tub, but after calling an Energy Advisor, we realized it was why our bill was so high. The Energy Advisor gave us two tips on how we could reduce hot tub operating costs: use a timer and a bubble cover. That advice resulted in 10 percent savings on each bill, or $240 annually." – Anne & Carol

Want to save like a conservation hero, or have questions about energy conservation and our renewable energy programs? Contact an Energy Advisor at **206.684.3800** or email **ConservationHero@seattle.gov**.

EXPERIENCE the North Cascades

Encounter the beauty, adventure and fun of the North Cascades. To learn more about what awaits you, visit **www.skagittours.com** or call **360.854.2589**.

In your neighborhood: City Light @ work

Crews are in these neighborhoods, working to provide you with reliable power.

- View Ridge: installing conduit;
- Pioneer Square (S. Washington St. between 3rd Ave. S. and 4th Ave. S.): rebuilding vault, installing duct bank;
- SODO (1st Ave. S. between Atlantic St. and Railroad Way S.): installing new duct bank;
- Burien, Seattle, Shoreline (various locations): replacing utility poles;
- West Capitol Hill (various locations): installing new electrical service connections, and moving power lines underground in areas established by city ordinance.

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

Route Smart

Meter reading improvement

To increase efficiency and reduce operating costs, City Light will be changing our meter reading routes over the next year. As a result, there may be some one-time changes to your billing date. The initial changes affect customers in our southern territory (south of Yesler Way). The number of days in the next billing period may be greater or less than what is reflected on the current bill, which may impact the dollar amount of the bill. For detailed schedule changes, visit **www.seattle.gov/light/meterroutes**.

Streetlight success story

City Light is making dramatic progress repairing or replacing streetlight fixtures, going from a backlog of several thousand streetlights out, to less than 400, in five years. Meanwhile, residential streets have been converted to energy-saving LED lights, and we're starting the switch on arterial streets. Across City Light's service territory, we project an annual energy and maintenance savings of about $6,900,914.

Light Reading translated

This customer newsletter is available online with translations in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Somali, Tagalog, and Korean: **www.seattle.gov/light/publications/lightreading**.

Safety tip from the field

"City Light's website offers advice on how to be safe around electricity, plus you can download a safety brochure: http://bit.ly/1jZYzuK."

- Uzma Siddiqi, Seattle City Light electric power systems engineer

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Mobile phone app
www.seattle.gov/light/mobile

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

Questions, comments or suggestions? Call **206.684.3000**. Newsletter available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, Tagalog and Korean online or call **206.684.3000**.

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www.seattle.gov/light
www.twitter.com/SeaCityLight

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Join Green Up!

Our legacy of environmental leadership

As a Seattle City Light customer, you enjoy the cleanest, lowest-cost electricity among large U.S. cities. In fact, more than 90 percent of our electricity is generated from renewable resources, most of which is hydropower. However, while hydroelectricity is renewable and low cost, it's not infinite. Even though the electricity you receive from City Light is carbon neutral, the region as a whole continues to depend on carbon-emitting fossil fuels.

Go beyond hydropower

City Light's **GREEN UP** program encourages new renewable energy-generation that will help power our region's future. We do that by investing customer purchases in regional renewable projects such as geothermal, wind and biogas, and by funding local demonstration and education projects. That means when you join **GREEN UP** you support clean, renewable energy as well as the independent Northwest businesses that produce it.

Join more than 14,000 of your neighbors who have signed up to build a more sustainable future through GREEN UP. On the back page of this newsletter, learn more about the technologies used in GREEN UP, and how the program compares to the utility's product mix.

Enroll today at **www.Seattle.gov/GreenUp** or call an Energy Advisor at **206.684.3800**, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Seattle City Light

Interested in solar energy?

In addition to **GREEN UP**, City Light helps customers experience solar power through our award-winning Community Solar program, or makes it easier to install solar on your roof.

Visit **Seattle.gov/Green** to learn more about all voluntary renewable energy programs at Seattle City Light.

Seattle City Light

is proud to support a variety of renewable energy technologies through our **GREEN UP** program. The **GREEN UP** product[1] is made up of the new[2] renewable energy resources shown below.

You can participate in **GREEN UP** by purchasing blocks of $3 (200 kWh), $6 (400 kWh) or $12 (800 kWh) per month, in addition to your standard electricity usage charges.

The average Seattle City Light customer uses 800 kWh of electricity each month. For commercial customers, this product can be calculated to match up to 100 percent of your estimated electricity usage.

Seattle City Light Power Mix*

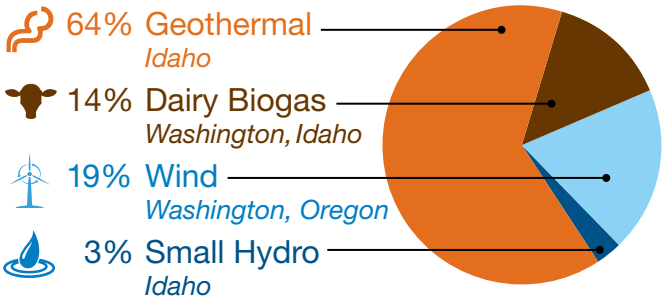
Hydro	92.4%
Wind	4.1%
Nuclear**	2.5%
Coal**	0.5%
Other***	0.5%

* 2012, the latest numbers available.

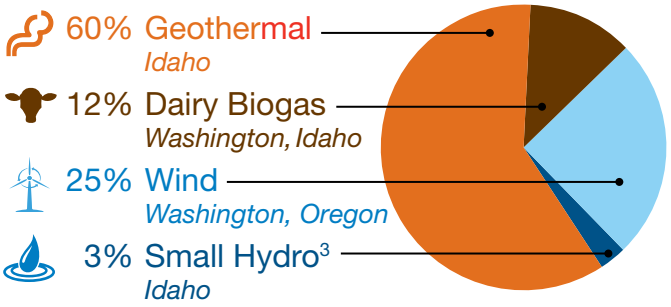
** Represents a portion of the power purchased from Bonneville Power Administration.

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

2013 GREEN UP Actual Power Mix



2014 GREEN UP Prospective Power Mix



[1] These figures reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased during the preceding year.

[2] New renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 2000.

[3] Eligible hydroelectricity facilities are defined by Green-e Energy National Standard and include facilities certified by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute; facilities that are run-of-the-river hydropower facilities with a total rated nameplate capacity equal to or less than 5MW; and facilities comprised of a turbine in a pipeline or a turbine in an irrigation canal.

Join **Green Up!**

For specific information about this electricity product, call Seattle City Light at **206.684.3800**, or visit **www.Seattle.gov/GreenUp**.

I want to support clean, renewable Northwest energy generation!

- ☐ **$3 per month (purchases 200 kWh)**
- ☐ **$6 per month (purchases 400 kWh)**
- ☐ **$12 per month (purchases 800 kWh)**
- ☐ **I already participate, but want to add $ _____ each month**

Your participation in Green Up! will appear on your regular bimonthly utility bill.

Name: Phone Number:

Service Address: City: State: Zip:

Mailing Address (if different from above): City: State: Zip:

Account Number: Email:

Enclose with City Light payment or mail to: GREEN UP, Seattle City Light, PO Box 34023, Seattle, WA 98124-4023

Interested

in GREEN UP for your business? Call 206.684.3800

Questions?

Call 206.684.3800 or visit www.Seattle.gov/GreenUp

Green-e Energy CERTIFIED

The Green-e Energy™ program certifies that GREEN UP meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resourced Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy™ certification requirements, call 1.888.63-Green or visit www.green-e.org.