

Light reading



September/October 2014

Conservation news

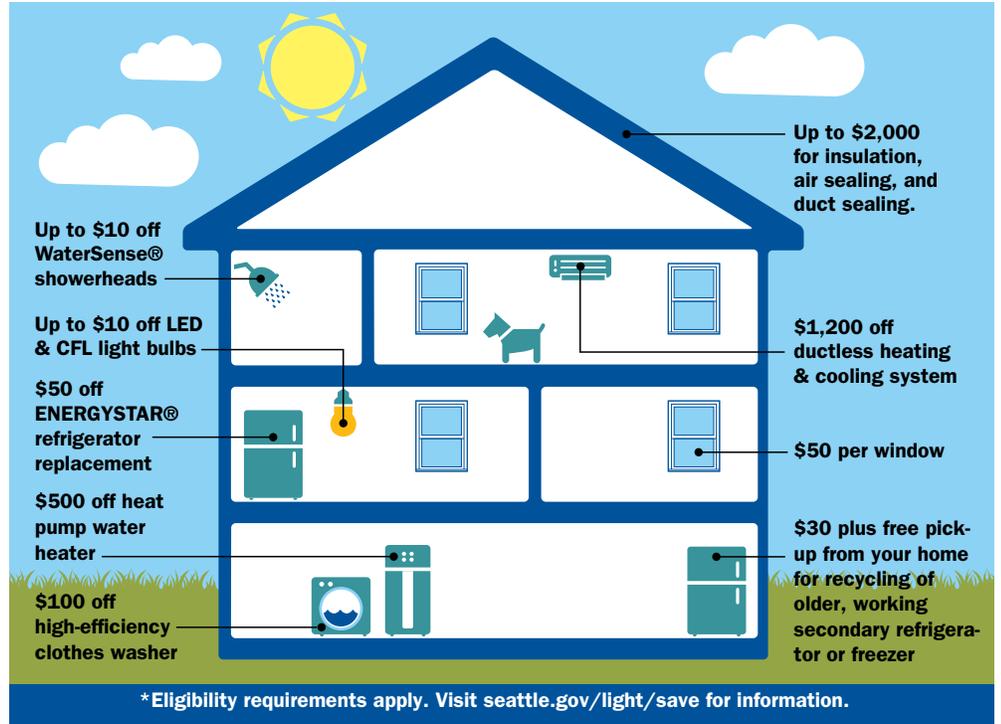
Whole home rebates

Take the next step in making your home energy-efficient and comfortable. In partnership with the City of Seattle's Community Power Works, City Light provides generous rebates for home energy audits and upgrades completed by participating, qualified auditors and contractors. In addition:

- Take advantage of affordable loan rates and hassle-free loan payments on your City Light bill.
- Receive ongoing customer service and support, as well as oversight to ensure the job is done right.

Find out more at

www.seattle.gov/light/weatherize.



Avoid high bills this winter



Cold weather, less daylight and longer periods spent at home can add up to higher electricity bills. There are many ways to keep the warmth in and lights

on while reducing your bill. Get information on home rebates at

www.seattle.gov/light/save.



Conservation Hero

"My 2,500-square-foot home was heated with an electric baseboard system. My bills in the winter were well over \$1,000. After I installed a ductless heat pump system, my bills dropped significantly, saving me hundreds of dollars on my bill. Plus, the unit is clean and quiet, and the filters are great for allergens." - Paul W., Seattle

Visit www.seattle.gov/ductless, for more information about upgrading your electric heating system.

Want to save like a Conservation Hero? Have a question about energy conservation or our renewable-energy programs? Call a City Light Energy Advisor at **206.684.3800** or email SCLEnergyAdvisor@seattle.gov.

From the general manager

If you've seen City Light's yellow trucks at a lot of construction sites lately, you're witnessing our six-year Strategic Plan in action. These projects are an investment in the future as we upgrade the electrical distribution system. The result is, you experience fewer, shorter power outages.

The Seattle City Council's recent approval of an update to the utility's plan allows City Light to make more than 40

strategic investments that will enhance your service, including:

- improving City Light's customer-support services, such as online billing and the utility's website;
- increasing customer self-service options;
- changing technologies to support improved customer service;
- enhancing participation in the Utility Discount Program by income-qualified customers;
- and budgeting improvements to keep rates stable and predictable.

The plan also helps us live within our means by requiring that the utility continually seek efficient operations. We exceeded our efficiency target in 2013 and are on track to achieve overall savings of \$18 million over the coming years.

The Strategic Plan is a powerful tool to guide us for the next six years and years to come.



Jorge Carrasco
General Manager & CEO

 **Seattle City Light**



Be prepared, be ready

Bad weather is more common this time of year, which can lead to power outages, school closures, and traffic problems. Keep your family safe this season. Find out how at www.TakeWinterByStorm.org.

Heads up, tree planters

Fall is a good time for planting trees around here, which is why Seattle celebrates Arbor Day in October rather than spring. Make sure the tree you choose doesn't grow into power lines: Download a PDF of our "Right Tree" book, available online:



www.seattle.gov/light/vegmgmt.

In your neighborhood: City Light @ work

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

- Seattle waterfront, piers 52, 54, 55, and 56: installing temporary electrical service in preparation for upcoming Elliot Bay seawall replacement project, beginning Oct. 1;
- 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;
- South Beacon Hill/Allentown: installing new transmission poles and wire across I-5, south of Boeing Field;
- Burke-Gilman Trail: installing new duct bank to increase electrical capacity for the University of Washington;
- Viewridge (various locations): pulling new electric cable into recently installed conduits.

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

Good news for rate payers

Federal forecasters believe we'll have more than enough water to generate power for the next few years. In addition, City Light expects to make more revenue than predicted by selling its surplus power. All of this means the utility does not expect to have any rate surcharges through October 2017. Automatic surcharges go into effect when City Light's Rate Stabilization Account falls below \$100 million.

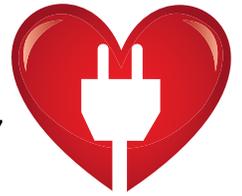
Safety tip from the field

"We're entering storm season, so please be wary of downed lines during or after stormy weather. Never go near or touch a downed wire or anything touching it. For more ideas on safety, visit <http://bit.ly/1kwumCe>."

***- Lucie Huang
City Light energy analyst***



Give to Project Share



As temperatures fall, people turn up the heat. For some customers with electric heat, that means higher utility bills they can't afford. City Light's Project Share program helps out with one-time assistance. Recently, City Light employees organized a fundraiser for the program, collecting \$2,400 in just a couple of hours. Please consider donating to Project Share by visiting www.seattle.gov/light/help/share or calling **206.684.3000**.

Power for the people

City Light is marking Public Power Week Oct. 5-11, joining more than 2,000 other utilities that provide electricity on a not-for-profit basis to 47 million Americans. Learn about public power and its importance at www.publicpower.org.

Color us green

With a zero-carbon footprint, clean hydro electricity, and more than 35 years as a conservation leader, City Light is the nation's greenest utility.

Learn more at www.nationsgreenest.org.



Seattle City Light

The first carbon-neutral utility in the nation.

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