



Light reading

Conservation News

September/October 2016

GREEN UP

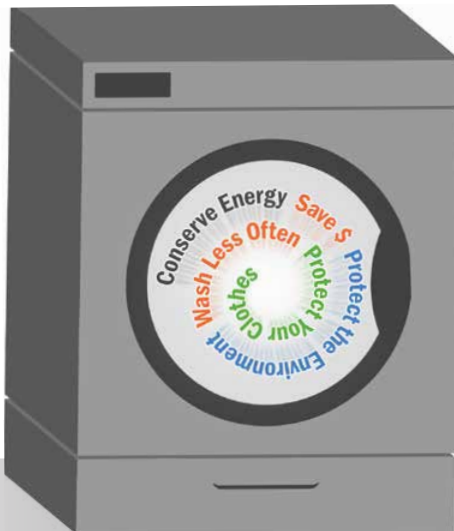
Support renewable energy in our community and region through the Green Up program. Choose to add \$3, \$6 or \$12 per month to your bill to help purchase renewable energy credits, fund local education and award grants for solar demonstration projects. Visit seattle.gov/greenup to sign up and learn more.

IT JUST MAKES CENTS

Get a rebate from City Light when you buy a qualified energy-efficient washing machine.

Qualified models outperform and save money when compared to new standard washers.

- They're easier on your clothes and the environment, using at least 25 percent less energy and 40 percent less water.
- They save you time doing laundry. Higher capacity machines mean fewer loads and the improved spin cycle means less drying time.
- They save you money. Save up to \$500 or more over the life of the washer, by reducing water consumption, water heating, and dryer costs.



Go to seattle.gov/light/clotheswasher for more information and a list of qualified products.

RENTER'S CORNER

About half of our customers are renters. Not all renters have the opportunity to install energy-efficient appliances, but here are some ways anyone can lower their electric bill:

Install LED light bulbs

LEDs use up to 80 percent less energy, last up to 25 years, and are better for the environment and your wallet. Look for City Light instant discounts at local retailers.

Lower your thermostat

Dropping your thermostat by one degree can reduce your energy bill enough to afford a few extra lattes each month.

Check out Kill-a-Watt

The Kill-A-Watt electric-load monitor is available for check out from the Seattle Public Library (SPL.org), and can help you track energy use of various electric devices.



For more information, go to seattle.gov/light/renters-corner.

HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS

City Light offers a \$500 cash rebate on qualified heat pump water heaters, devices that are more than twice as efficient as standard electric water heaters. Added benefits include dehumidifying damp spaces and conserving energy with the vacation-mode option when you're away from home. For more information and eligibility, visit seattle.gov/appliances.

RATE SURCHARGE

Low revenue from the surplus energy City Light sells to other utilities triggered a 1.5 percent surcharge on electricity rates, starting in August. The typical residential bill sees an increase of about \$1 per month.

To make up the difference between what was expected in the budget and actual revenue, City Light draws from a rate stabilization account. When the account dips to \$90 million or below, a 1.5 percent surcharge is automatically applied to every customer's bill until the account is refilled to \$100 million. For details, please read more on our Power Lines blog: seattle.gov/light/surcharge.

NEW BILLING SYSTEM

Be sure to check in your utility bill for a flyer that offers information on the city's new billing system for customers. We're replacing an outdated system in order to give you the best possible customer service.



SOLAR INCENTIVE CAP

With the popularity of solar generation, City Light estimates that the state annual incentive payment for solar customers will be reduced per customer for the 2016 fiscal year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016). The utility's cap is set by the Washington State Legislature and is affected by various factors including the increase in the average size of solar systems being installed and more customers installing solar. Solar customers still benefit from solar generation, including net metering and federal solar tax credits. These are not affected by changes in the state incentive payment. Find out more at seattle.gov/light/solar-incentive-cap or visit powerlines.seattle.gov.

WHY PUBLIC POWER WEEK MATTERS

This year, Oct. 2-8 marks Public Power Week. As a publicly owned utility, City Light serves its community, focusing on the needs of customers rather than the profits of shareholders. We're held accountable through the oversight of local, elected officials. And we share the values of public power — social responsibility, energy efficiency and environmental stewardship. Learn more at publicpower.org.

WE ♥ PROJECT SHARE

As temperatures cool and thermostats are turned up, we remember those who may have trouble paying their utility bills. Project Share offers one-time assistance to help people pay for their electricity. It's supported entirely by city of Seattle employees and customer contributions. Please consider a tax-deductible donation. Find out more at seattle.gov/light/ProjectShare.

OUR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Get an overview of City Light's highlights and challenges, as well as customer statistics and detailed financial reports. Learn more at seattle.gov/light/AnnualReport.



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: CITY LIGHT @ WORK



Crews are in these neighborhoods, working to provide reliable service:

- South Lake Union/Denny Triangle: installing underground vaults and duct banks for the new Denny network. Construction is also underway for the new Denny substation;
- Blue Ridge: installing underground conduits and vaults for electric-cable upgrade project;
- Holly Park: upgrading street lights;
- Laurelhurst: upgrading electrical system by replacing transformers and distribution cable;
- Elliott Bay: restoring underground and streetlight services near Piers 53 (fire station) in support of seawall project;
- Shoreline substation (Parkwood/Meridian Park): transformer replacement to maintain reliability.

This is a partial list. For details go to seattle.gov/light/atwork and click on an orange cone.



SAFETY TIP FROM THE FIELD

"Storm season is on the way, so now is a good time to get ready. If you have emergency kits for home, car and work, make sure they're stocked. If you don't have kits, take time to gather supplies. Find out how at takewinterbystorm.org."

-Dana Mortensen, City Light material supplier





**Your Seattle City Light
account number has changed!**



seattle.gov/light



So, I have a new account number, what do I need to do?

Most customers don't need to do anything! However, if you:

- Pay by check or in person, be sure to include the payment stub with your new account number on it
- Participate in our autopay electronic billing program you don't have to do anything
- Pay through your bank or use a third-party payment service, you will need to provide your bank or payment provider with your new utility account number
- Use our one-time online payment service or pay by phone, you will need to use your updated utility account number

If you are not already using our autopay service, this might be a good time to consider signing up. It's fast, simple and convenient. Just visit our website at seattle.gov/light/ebill.



seattle.gov/light

