

General Manager's Letter



As we prepare for the colder months that inevitably lie ahead, we are faced with the uncertainties created by the war in Ukraine, increasing prices in all areas, and the volatility of the energy markets that affect worldwide markets for fuel supply, especially natural

gas. These have all played a part in the prices that we pay at the gas pump and the grocery store, and for the goods and services we buy which rely on transportation. The energy market, like all other service providers, has not been immune to increased costs which have been passed along to electric utilities like Georgetown Light. Unfortunately, we are required to pass through these costs as we continue to deliver electrical power to our customers.

As a result, we have increased our rates 1 cent per kilowatt to reflect this cost adjustment beginning with the October 31, 2022 bills. This increase equates to approximately \$1 per 100 kWh. For the average customer who uses 700 kWh each month, the monthly bill will increase by approximately \$7.00. Georgetown Light is committed to setting rates accordingly to be fiscally responsible in order to maintain the local distribution system, and to provide the best service to our customers. While any news of a rate increase is unwelcome, the good news is that this increase of approximately 10% is well below the average increase of 65% passed through to customers of investor-owned utilities in Massachusetts.

Here at Georgetown Light, we'll be keeping an eye on the global energy market to ensure that we keep our costs as low as possible while maintaining our exceptional level of service. We need you to join us in this effort by monitoring your own energy usage; every customer can have make an impact, not only on their own energy usage, but also on the overall consumption by conserving electricity. The little things can often have the greatest impact. There are several ways you can save energy outlined in this newsletter.

On a lighter note, we celebrated Public Power Week in October with our annual open house. Many thanks to all who stopped by during the event to learn about Georgetown Light and the importance of public power.

Dave F. Schofield

Dave Schofield,
General Manager



Georgetown Light celebrated Public Power Week

The Georgetown Municipal Light Department (Georgetown Light) joined more than 2,000 other locally-owned utilities and celebrated Public Power Week during the week of October 2nd through October 8th. The week celebrated the benefits of hometown, community-owned electric utilities like Georgetown Light. "As a public power utility, Georgetown Light has been able to offer its ratepayers programs and opportunities not available to customers of privately-owned utilities," Georgetown Light General Manager Dave Schofield said. "Although these benefits are available year-round, we use Public Power Week to remind our ratepayers of our services as a locally-owned and controlled electric utility."

"As a municipal utility, our job is to provide power to Georgetown at reasonable rates that benefit all ratepayers," he added. "We can do this because, unlike private utilities, we don't have shareholders. We can charge not-for-profit rates and keep the proceeds right here in Georgetown. Our ratepayers know they can count on us to be there when they need us. Georgetown Light employees are committed to providing reliable, safe power and service to all our ratepayers and have been doing so since 1912. We're proud that Georgetown Light has been a part of the community for 110 years and we plan to provide that same level of quality reliable electric service to our community for many years to come."

As part of the Public Power Week celebration, Georgetown Light hosted an Open House for the public to learn more about the Invoice Cloud billing process and the incentives and rebates that Georgetown Light offers. The event also included conservation and energy saving tips handouts, line crew demonstrations, a raffle and refreshments.



John (left) and Kandy Shamberger (center) were among the many Georgetown residents who stopped by the annual Public Power Week open house, where they were joined by General Manager Dave Schofield (second from left), Business Coordinator Cara Lane (second from right), and retired Business Manager Karen Marchand, right.



Business Coordinator Cara Lane (left) and Business Manager Mary Snow (right) welcomed local resident Susan Clay during the October annual Public Power Week open house.



Georgetown Light celebrated the anniversary of its founding 110 years ago with a ribbon cutting during the recent Public Power Week open house. Georgetown Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco (center, left), helped to cut the ribbon with (from left to right) Apprentice Lineman Joe Laperchia, Lineman First Class Mike Correale, Commissioner Wayne Snow, Business Coordinator Cara Lane, Lead Lineman TJ Middleton, Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco, Commissioner John Smolinsky, General Manager Dave Schofield, Lead Lineman Jesse Cote, Business Manager Mary Snow, Light Dog Bobby, and Distribution Superintendent Mike Conwell.

Georgetown Light will mark its 110th anniversary on December 9th.

Location:

Georgetown Light Office
94 Searle Street
Georgetown, MA 01833
Tel: 978-352-5730
Fax: 978-352-5733

Customer Service hours:

Monday - Thursday
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
info@georgetownlight.com

Emergency number:

978-352-5730

Payment Options:

Walk in payment
94 Searle Street

Payment online
www.invoicecloud.com/georgetownlight

Drop Box payment
Water Dept. parking lot -
W Main St at Moulton

Light Dept parking lot at
94 Searle Street

Holiday Closings:

Veterans Day – November 10
Thanksgiving - November 24 and
November 25
Christmas – December 26
New Years – January 2
If you have an emergency, call
Georgetown Light at (978) 352-5730.

Commissioners:

John Smolinsky, Chairman
Peter Dion
Wayne Snow

General Manager:

David Schofield



Save Energy – Save Money!

Georgetown Light offers a variety of programs to help ratepayers curb their energy consumption. For residential customers who want to be sure their house or apartment is energy efficient, Georgetown Light offers an energy assessment through its partnership with Energy New England (ENE). ENE's energy assessment professionals will help identify heating, lighting, and weatherization opportunities that can help reduce energy consumption. Visit the website for more information and/or to schedule a no-cost home energy assessment.

Weatherization rebates

Customers who have an ENE energy assessment at their homes may qualify for a weatherization rebate if their improvements have been identified by the energy assessment.

Air sealing including caulking, weather-stripping, gaskets, and pipe and duct insulation, and insulation installation including attic, wall, rim joist, and basement may qualify for a rebate of 50% of the total cost of the job, up to a maximum of \$500.00. Customers must have an ENE energy assessment and meet other criteria to qualify.

Air Source Heat Pumps

Customers who need to update their heating and cooling systems should consider a ducted air source heat pump, or a ductless mini split heat pump. Georgetown Light offers rebates of \$500 for a ducted air source heat pump, and \$100 for a ductless mini split heat pump to customers who meet the qualifications. There is a maximum of two systems and a maximum rebate of \$1,000.

An ENE energy assessment is strongly encouraged. For information, including qualifications and applications, visit the website www.georgetownlight.com.

Winter Energy Tips!

The colder weather often brings higher energy bills. People spend longer periods of time indoors, the days get shorter and the nights get longer, and the heating system is turned up when the weather outside gets frightful! Winter is also the time for holiday gatherings and celebrations, which lead to higher energy consumption and bills.

It's important to save electricity in winter to not only lower your electric bills, but to also reduce your carbon footprint. There are several ways to conserve energy when the temperature drops.

Check your insulation: Now is the time to check your insulation before the cold weather really sets in. Insulation is an inexpensive way to reduce your electric bill. Start in your attic and work down from there and move to areas of your home. Check the walls, especially around electrical outlets and anywhere utilities enter your home. Check around plumbing to prevent heat from escaping and to protect pipes from freezing.



Install programmable thermostats: Better yet, install a smart thermostat that lets you fine-tune and determine when your furnace runs. A programmable thermostat lets you turn down the heat while you're sleeping, when you leave for the day, or when you're away, and turn it up when you're coming back home. You can reduce your electric bill in winter without any inconvenience.

Buy a timer or use an app for your lights, especially if you have holiday lights: You'll waste energy and

money if you leave the lights on when you leave the house for a night out. There are a variety of smart devices and plugs that let you use an app to regulate your lights. A timer will also let you turn off your holiday lights at a certain time, eliminating wasted energy if you forget to turn the outside lights off when you go to bed.

Use a rug on hardwood floors: Area rugs are great insulation, especially if you have a pad underneath. You'll be adding a layer of insulation between your floor and your feet! You'll stay warm, too.