

PMLD NEWSLETTER

Princeton Municipal Light Department, 168 Worcester Road, PO Box 247, MA 01541
www.pml.com pml@pml.com (978) 464-2815

Electric Rates

PMLD's number one priority is to maintain the lowest possible rates while providing the most reliable electric service possible. Our non-profit status and corresponding rate of return at 3% helps ensure that PMLD only collects enough revenues to meet expenses and invest in a reasonable number of capital improvement projects. PMLD provides service to approximately 1,500 customers. 86% of the town's energy use is from residential customers.

PMLD increased its electric rates by 5% on July 1, 2008. This relatively small increase caused the average home electric bill to increase by approximately \$7.00 per month.

This rate increase covers higher energy costs

PMLD Facts

- Average home consumes 800 kWh's
- Average home spends \$150/mth on energy
- PMLD is one of 41 municipal , non-profit, light plants in MA
- Our rates are generally lower than investor owned utilities

to the town and higher operating expenses. Our five year operating budget anticipates a 5% increase in July 2009 and 3% rate increase in July 2010.

The best way to save money on your bill is to conserve energy. Compare your energy consumption to the average. If it's much greater; try to conserve energy to reduce your bill. You can also sign up for a free energy audit by calling 1-888-333-7525.

Wind farm project is under construction!

Construction of the wind farm is well underway. The wind farm will help stabilize PMLD's electricity rates and generate cost savings in PMLD's energy budget. Most of the site construction will be completed by the end of 2008.

Approximately \$5M of the project funds are already committed to the turbine manufacturer and the turbines will be delivered in the spring of 2009. Worldwide demand for wind turbines has caused some delays in manufacturing and shipping.

Our wind farm project has real economic and environmental benefits. The wind farm project demonstrates our commitment to renewable energy, reduces our town's dependency on the fossil fuels, and reduces our Town's energy costs.

This project was proposed by PMLD because we can generate electricity using the wind turbines cheaper than we can purchase electricity through any other means!

Solar Panel Partnership

PMLD formed a partnership with MMWEC and Evergreen Solar to promote solar power in Princeton. Princeton's residents and businesses are now able to purchase the latest photovoltaic system components systems through PMLD.

PMLD already placed its first order for solar panels. PMLD will provide a complete grid-tied solar energy system to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. The solar panels will be installed on the recently renovated garage at 213 Mountain Road.

DCR is planning to utilize this property as an environmental education and research center in the future. This solar system installation will be ideally suited given the environmental education theme. Demonstrating the latest in solar power technology at this location also fulfills PMLD's commitment to DCR for their cooperation with our wind farm upgrade project.

Stop by or call us at 978-464-2815 to learn more about grid-tied solar energy systems.

Wireless Internet

PMLD's high-speed wireless Internet network is working well. PMLD is working with the wireless equipment manufacturer and an engineering firm to make recommendations and improvements to the network. In the near future, PMLD expects to install additional equipment to improve to the wireless Internet service throughout town.

PMLD has approximately 300 active customers. PMLD continues to expand the wireless network coverage areas, maintain and upgrade the network, and increase the number of new customers.

Please call the office to check on Internet service availability and recommendations on how to improve your existing service.

Energy Saving Tips

- The cost of "energy" is greatest from 4:00pm to 8:00pm every weekday. Shift major appliance use, like dishwashers and clothes washers, to some other time.
- Adjust temperatures to run your air conditioning and heating units less.
- Limit the use of dehumidifiers, humidifiers, room sized ac units.
- Replace 10-15 year appliances like refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes washers.
- Take advantage of our \$25.00 - \$50.00 appliance rebates to help lower the purchase cost.
- Use compact fluorescent lamps instead of incandescent lamps.
- Install digital 7-day thermostats in your home to turn off or reduce the use of your HVAC systems. You can receive a \$25.00 rebate for qualified thermostats.

Pay your electricity and Internet bills online at www.pml.com; it's easy, fast, and secure!