

WELLESLEY MLP

MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT

www.wellesleyma.gov/mlp

781-235-7600

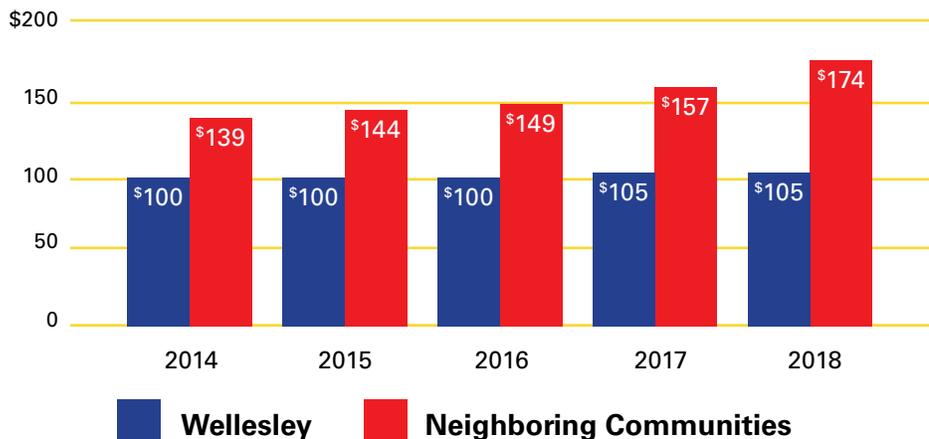


SPRING
2019

FIVE-YEAR RATE COMPARISON

Wellesley residents and businesses enjoy rates considerably below those paid by electric consumers served by investor-owned utilities. In December 2018 residents in surrounding towns and cities using 750 kilowatt-hours a month paid \$174 for their electricity; 66% more than the \$105 paid by

Wellesley residents. The Municipal Light Board ("Board") has been able to stabilize rates by accurately projecting expenditures and continually updating the *Five-Year Financial Forecast*. The Board has also reduced rates by allocating profits from non-operating businesses.



IS ELECTRIFICATION THE ANSWER TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

In reality, most everyone knows there is no one silver bullet that will eliminate climate change. Looking into the future, however, the combination of electrification, conservation, carbon sequestration, battery storage, and renewable energy may be the answer. In June 2018, Analysis Group finalized their *Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Study, Phase I: Near Term Measures for 2018 to 2030* ("Study"). Interestingly, one of the more effective greenhouse gas ("GHG") emission reduction opportunities is to encourage electrification of the heating and transportation sectors. According to the Study, converting residential passenger vehicles and home heating would reduce the Town of Wellesley's GHG emissions by 19% and 69%, respectively.

Focusing on heating and transportation should not come as a surprise since these two sectors are the biggest users of fossil fuels in Wellesley. The technological advances in battery storage and electric vehicles are continuing to evolve at a rapid pace. The Municipal Light Plant ("MLP") plans to offer an electric vehicle incentive program fairly soon. The MLP's only major concern with electric vehicle usage is quick starting batteries during peak demand hours. Increasing the Town's electricity demand during these times not only drives up the price of electricity for all residents and businesses but, in many cases, increases GHG emissions as the most inefficient and dirtiest generation plants

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Be sure to receive a monthly discount on your electricity by having your payments automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. To save time and money you may sign up for Auto Pay at <https://wellesleyma.seamlessdocs.com/f/DirectPayment>.

Our Customer Service department is open from 7:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to accept payments and there is a drop box available after hours.

EBILL SIGN UP

Save paper and simplify your record keeping by signing up to receive your monthly utility bill by email. To enroll in this program simply email Candyce Wright cwright@wellesleyma.gov and put "Paperless Billing" in the subject line. That's it! Candyce will respond to your email with confirmation of enrollment.

are required to operate. Electric vehicle software is being developed and tested that will prevent this occurrence without requiring a second electrical service.

Similar advances are being made with heating and cooling equipment. The MLP offers rebates for mini-split heat pumps and central air conditioners. Ductless mini-split heat pumps with a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating ("SEER") of less than twenty are eligible for a rebate of \$150. With a SEER rating of twenty or more, the rebate increases to \$300. Given Wellesley's low electric rates, residents and businesses will be able to take maximum advantage of the environmental benefits of electrification as the technology continues to evolve.

WMLP in the Community and Beyond

SOLAR INSTALLATIONS EXCEED 1,000,000 KILOWATT-HOURS/YEAR

Given the price of land and number of trees in Wellesley, promoting in-Town solar installations will always be a challenge. In addition, the MLP's low rates eliminate the financial incentives available to electricity consumers in neighboring towns and cities. Despite these disadvantages the Town has done

quite well in the development of rooftop solar installations. Wellesley's solar installations are summarized below:

In an attempt to replicate the MLP's successful 2013 solar campaign with the Sustainable Energy Committee, the Board will be implementing a second Town-wide outreach in 2019.

This campaign would include the MLP matching the \$115,000 rebate being provided by the Department of Energy Resources ("DOER"). The

details of the 2019 program have not been finalized but the expectation is that a final combined rebate of \$1.20/watt will be provided for all solar installations until DOER funding is depleted.

The Town of Wellesley's willingness to encourage and promote in-Town solar installations was recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office ("ESETO"). After completing a comprehensive analysis of Wellesley's solar policies, procedures and incentives, the ESETO SolSmart program awarded the Town the "Silver" designation. Wellesley narrowly missed receiving the "Gold".

Installation	Number	Kilowatts	Kilowatt-Hours
Residential	98	686	841,000
Commercial	11	166	204,000
MLP	3	97	119,000
Total	112	919	1,164,000

LED STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The MLP has completed the retrofit of over 2,850 cobra head style streetlights with LED fixtures. The streetlight retrofit will eliminate 1,026,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity every year, a reduction that is the equivalent of taking 152 passenger vehicles off the road. In addition to the environmental benefits, Wellesley taxpayers will

realize an average annual savings of \$133,000. The total cost of this project was \$860,750 with funding coming from the MLP (\$562,700), the Board of Selectmen (\$105,000) and a Department of Energy Resources grant (\$193,050). These lights are expected to last 20 years but if you see one that has burned out please email kbracken@wellesleyma.gov.



MLP PURCHASES FIRST TOWN OWNED ELECTRIC VEHICLE

Have you ever wondered how the MLP reads your meter each month? While the entire process starts in the office, each meter is read in the field via a radio. The MLP's drive-by Automated Meter Reading System requires every meter, both electric and water, to be read monthly from a seat-mounted computer in the MLP vehicle. The system provides accurate, timely data for billing. Since 2007, in an effort to reduce carbon emissions, the MLP's meter reading car has been a hybrid vehicle. In 2018 the MLP purchased a Prius Prime, a plug-in hybrid which gets over 133 MPG and it is the first electric vehicle purchased by a Town department. If you see our Lead Meter Reader Dave driving around your neighborhood please be sure to give him a wave.

MLP MAKES NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LAB “TOP TEN” LIST

Wellesley initially established its voluntary renewable energy program (“VREP”) in 2008. Throughout the years the VREP has been a success. In 2017 Wellesley’s participant percentage ranked 4th nationally.

In January the Board voted to retire all renewable energy certificates (“RECs”) within the power supply portfolio. The Board’s decision provides an opportunity to make Wellesley’s already successful

VREP even better. The staff has received a number of suggestions (community solar, purchase market RECs, solar farm investment, etc.) on ways to invest voluntary contributions beginning in July. The Board welcomes input from all residents and businesses so please do not hesitate to share your ideas by emailing the MLP Director at djoyce@wellesleyma.gov or via telephone, 781-235-7601.

**You can’t replace the environment.
But you can renew it.**



Rank	Top Green Power Participation Rate	Participation Rate
1	Portland General Electric (Green Source)	19.44%
2	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	11.61%
3	Farmers Electric Cooperative – Kalona	10.78%
4	Wellesley Municipal Light Plant	10.56%
5	River Falls Municipal Utilities	10.00%
6	Silicon Valley Power (Santa Clara)	9.35%
7	Alameda Municipal Power	8.91%
8	Pacific Power	8.76%
9	Muscoda Utilities	6.00%
10	Naperville Public Utilities - Electric	5.43%



HISTORIC RENOVATION OF 1906 SUBSTATION

The first electric substation in Wellesley was constructed in 1906 at a cost of \$7,300. The building was initially built to accommodate the electrical equipment necessary to power the Town’s streetlights. As the use of electricity grew, transformers, relays and other equipment were needed resulting in additions to the building

in 1924 and 1930. The substation remained in operation until replaced by the Wellesley Hills Substation in 1968. For the past fifty years the old substation has had many uses including the central hub for the fire alarm system, storage, record retention and its now current use as a telecommunications operations center. In October 2009 the Massachusetts Historical Commission recognized the old substation in the “National Register of Historical Places”.

replacing all windows and doors with 1906 facsimiles. Next year re-pointing and repairing the external brick will be completed. The total cost of the exterior historical preservation is estimated to be \$187,000 with almost half of the costs subsidized by a grant from the Community Preservation Committee.



Substation in 1906

Based on the limited availability of office space, the MLP prepared a two-year plan to weather-tighten the building exterior while preserving the historical significance. After studies concluded the building was structurally sound, the restoration began with professional engineering plans prepared by Krause Associates. Once the plans were approved, Sweeney Custom Homes and Renovations undertook the painstaking work of



Substation in 2019

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant
4 Municipal Way
Wellesley, MA 02481

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INSIDE

Five-Year Rate Comparison

**Is Electrification the Answer
to Climate Change?**

**Solar Installations Exceed
1,000,000 Kilowatt-Hours/Year**

MLP Makes "Top Ten" List

LED Streetlight Replacement

Historic Renovation

First Town Electric Vehicle

Resident Town of Wellesley

NO COST ENERGY ASSESSMENT

During calendar year 2018 the MLP formed a partnership with National Grid to promote a Town-wide residential energy assessment campaign. National Grid was responsible for performing assessments at homes heated by natural gas while the MLP contracted with Energy New England ("ENE") to complete electric and oil heating audits.

To encourage more assessments, the MLP expanded its full home energy audit to include a lighting retrofit with LED bulbs, two power strips, infrared scan of the home (if conditions allows), faucet aerators and low flow showerheads. The 634 combined assessments completed by the MLP (114) and National Grid (520) far exceeded the MLP's goal of 500.

As part of the 2018 campaign the MLP reached out to Wellesley Green Condominium to include multi-family assessments for the first time. The

feedback received from Diane Campbell, President, Wellesley Green Board of Managers was very similar to the feedback received from other participants: "... ENE scheduled appointments to install upgrades in the units of those owners enrolled. Work was completed efficiently with no inconvenience to

owners...". Although the joint campaign ended in December, both National Grid and the MLP still provide the same assessment to Wellesley homeowners. To schedule an appointment call:

Natural Gas Customers 1-855-891-9899
All Other Customers 1-888-772-4242



*Learn more
about no-cost
home energy
assessments.*

**It only takes two hours of your time.
And Think of What you'll Save.**



DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE

Customer Service: ext. **3364** or **3365**

Our office is open: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Moving? You must call Customer Service to set up a final reading of your electric and water meters.