

Exciting Progress for the Energy Grant Program

We are happy to report that more than 200 residents have participated in Belmont Light's Energy Efficiency Grant Program since the program's launch in October 2014. Program participants receive no-cost weatherization reviews and opportunities for big savings on energy efficiency products and services.

Over 60% of the grants originally available through the program for weatherization services have been claimed so far. Additionally, more than 10% of all the oil-heated homes in Belmont have participated in the program—an impressive participation rate for this type of residential energy efficiency initiative! Funding is still available for interested customers on a first-come, first-serve basis. (Visit www.BelmontLightEnergyGrant.com or call 617-963-8141 to sign up.)

Given recent increases in New England energy costs, continuing customer engagement in the program is a priority for Belmont Light. Opportunities like the Energy Grant Program help customers proactively manage increasing costs since taking energy efficiency measures now will help customers save money when higher winter energy costs eventually return. Residents who have been through the weatherization program can expect to save between 10% and 30% on their heating and cooling costs annually. Oil-heated homes that installed heat pumps will reduce their heating oil use by hundreds of gallons per year.

Belmont Light also reminds customers that the energy efficiency measures they take in their own homes can lead to economic and environmental benefits for the wider Belmont community, like lower electricity costs and reductions in air pollution.

Continued on reverse

Update on Solar Distributed Generation Policy

On June 16, 2015, the Municipal Light Board created the Temporary Net Metering Working Advisory Group to evaluate and provide recommendations on Belmont Light's policy and pricing structure for solar PV customers. The Working Advisory Group's duties also include advising on programs and initiatives that will help Belmont Light further reduce carbon emissions. It is expected that recommendations from the Working Advisory Group will be presented to the Municipal Light Board at a public meeting by August 15, 2015.

Unless a new rate is approved by the Municipal Light Board, Belmont Light will continue to bill and compensate solar customer via net metering (Phase 1 of Belmont Light's Net Metering and Buyback Tariff for Emission-Free Renewable Generating Facilities). Customers will be notified in advance if a new solar rate becomes effective as the result of the Working Advisory Group's recommendations.

Note: Though a new rate (Residential Rate APV) was approved for Belmont's solar customers in late 2014, the implementation of Rate APV was deferred until further notice by the Municipal Light Board in April 2015.

Belmont Substation & Transmission Project



June 2015 marked a significant benchmark in the effort to bring a long-term energy solution to Belmont Light customers. After several years of researching, analyzing, negotiating, planning, engineering, permitting, and preparing the project site, the Belmont Light project team officially broke ground on the construction of Belmont's new substation. Beginning construction of the Blair Pond Substation is a critical project milestone as we progress toward next summer's target in-service date.

Prior to June's groundbreaking, contractors wrapped up the final stages of the demolition of 20 Flanders Road. The contractor completed the construction of modifications to the

party wall, which will now become the exterior wall of the Flanders Road building. Upon completion of the demolition and new exterior wall at Flanders Road, the construction at the substation building site began with underground utility work.

Other important milestones were also met this quarter. All of the project's regulatory and environmental permits have now been received. With the exception of one final contract bid package that will solicit work on the substation's electrical power, all contracts for construction and procurement have been awarded or put out to bid. The engineering for the substation's electrical power is in its final stages.

Though there is a lot of work and several challenges to come before energization happens next summer, the project's overall schedule and budget remain on target, which is an achievement worth boasting about for this complex and major transmission and distribution project!

*Belmont Light's business office will be closed
on the following dates:*

Monday, September 7th – Labor Day

Monday, October 12th – Columbus Day

If you have an emergency, please call Belmont Light at 617-993-2800.

Summer Schedule

Belmont Light will operate on a summer schedule until Friday, September 4, 2015.

Summer business hours are:

Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

BELMONT LIGHT

POWERING YOUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1898

40 Prince Street

Belmont, MA 02478

617-993-2800

www.belmontlight.com

Tips to Save Energy this Summer!

- **Dress appropriately for summer.** The lighter your clothing, the higher you can set your thermostat and the more energy you'll save.
- **Use your barbecue outdoors** to avoid heating up your kitchen.
- **Entertain and dine outdoors.** You'll save energy normally used by indoor lighting and air conditioning when you dine al fresco.
- **Use your ceiling fan** to maximize air circulation.
- **Plant deciduous trees and shrubs** against the south and west sides of your home. In summer, the leafy foliage shades against solar heat, while in winter, bare branches let warm sunlight stream into your home. As shade trees grow, so do your energy savings.
- **If you have a window air-conditioning unit,** improve its energy-efficiency by cleaning the filter.
- **Set your outdoor security lights on motion-sensor settings.** They'll come on only when needed.
- **Close curtains and shades** before leaving for the day to protect against solar heat.

Did You Buy a New Appliance this Year?

Belmont Light offers rebates to customers who purchase certain energy-efficient ENERGY STAR® appliances. The 2015 Appliance Rebate Program includes the following rebates and appliances:

- **\$100 Refrigerator** 15.0 cu. ft or larger (with proof of Belmont DPW vendor disposal)
- **\$100 Central air conditioner** with a SEER rating greater than 14
- **\$100 Room air conditioner** (with proof of Belmont DPW vendor disposal)
- **\$75 Dehumidifier**
- **\$25 Room air conditioner** (with no proof of disposal)

For more information visit the Belmont Light website www.belmontlight.com > Energy Solutions or 617-993-2800 to receive an application. Applications and documentation must be submitted by January 31, 2016.

...Energy Efficiency Grant Program

The Energy Grant Program provides Belmont Light customers with 2 savings opportunities:

Weatherization Grants (35 still available) that provide residents with \$1,500 worth of weatherization products and services for a co-pay of just \$299. **Homes must be heated with oil, electricity, propane, pellets, or other fuels to qualify** (homes heated with natural gas are eligible for weatherization benefits through their gas provider and the Mass Save® program).

Heat Pump Grants (32 still available) ranging between \$500 and \$1,500 are available for Belmont residents to put toward high efficiency heating and cooling heat pump systems. These grants are available for homes currently heated with any fuel type.

Grants require pre-approval and will remain available until they are all claimed. Visit www.BelmontLightEnergyGrant.com or contact Sagewell, Inc., the program administrator, at 617-963-8141 or support@sagewell.com to sign up.

Funding for the program was awarded to Belmont Light from MA DOER via a competitive grant process. The award will also fund the installation of 100 new LED streetlights in Belmont.

COMMUNITY News... Meet Belmont, August 25th

Are you interested in learning more about Belmont? Do you have questions that you're not sure how to get answered? Plan to come to the 13th annual **Meet Belmont** on Tuesday, August 25th, 2015, from 6:00 – 8:30 P.M. in the cafeteria of Chenery Middle School, 95 Washington Street.

Originally organized for new residents, **Meet Belmont** has evolved into a fun, community information fair where all residents can learn about Belmont's government, town departments and schools, houses of worship, citizen groups, clubs, committees, and more. New residents can also register to vote, get pet licenses, sign up for a library card, ask questions of Town department heads and elected officials and join an impressive array of community organizations. Many residents come to greet old friends and "check out" what's new in town.

The event is completely non-commercial, so leave your wallets at home. It is free, fully accessible, and open to the public. Attendees are invited to support the Belmont Food Pantry by bringing a non-perishable food or toiletry item to donate.

Meet Belmont is sponsored by the Town's Vision 21 Implementation Committee and cosponsored by the Belmont Public Schools, with special assistance from Belmont Light and the generous support of Belmont Car Wash. For more information, email meetbelmont@gmail.com.

Submitted by Jennifer Page



Belmont Light Senior Customer Service Representative Debbie Bottiglio, left, and Customer Service Representative Heather Fisk, right, met hundreds of local residents at the recent Town Day celebration and talked to them about Belmont Light programs and services. Among the many people who stopped by the Belmont Light table were Catherine Stalberg and Julia French.



Celine and William Pechyon stopped by the Belmont Light table at Belmont Town Day to pick up a hard hat and information from Belmont Light Senior Customer Service Representative Debbie Bottiglio, left, and Customer Service Representative Heather Fisk, right.