

Belmont Substation & Transmission Project



The New Year brings with it a focus on construction for Belmont's new Substation and Transmission Line Project. With much of the project's planning, permitting, and design work ongoing or successfully

completed, actual construction will begin in 2015 and the goal for full energization of the new substation remains set for mid-2016.

Over the past few months, many important milestones were reached. For instance, a Request for Proposals (RFP) soliciting bids for the construction contract for the new substation building was released in late 2014. The project team is currently reviewing submitted bids with the expectation that the contract will be awarded by the end of January. After a vendor is selected, construction of the new substation is expected to begin this spring.

The Belmont Light project team also recently requested proposals for the major equipment needed for the new substation. This equipment includes the transformers and switchgear that will be installed at the substation. Bids for equipment are currently under review and final purchase decisions are expected by the end of January, meaning that the actual delivery of major equipment is expected to occur in autumn 2015.

Construction of the new 115kV transmission line between Alewife and the new substation on Flanders Road will mark a final phase of construction for the project, but beginning stages are already underway. A final design of the transmission line is expected by the beginning of February and a construction RFP for the transmission line is expected to be released and awarded in the first quarter of 2015.

Overall, 2014 saw tremendous progress on the project and this momentum will continue throughout 2015. For more information on the project, visit www.belmontlight.com > Energy Solutions > Projects.

Belmont Light Customer Satisfaction Survey

A number of Belmont Light customers will be contacted via telephone during the month of February to participate in a customer satisfaction survey. If you receive a call from Great Blue Research, we encourage you to participate to let us know how we're doing.

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

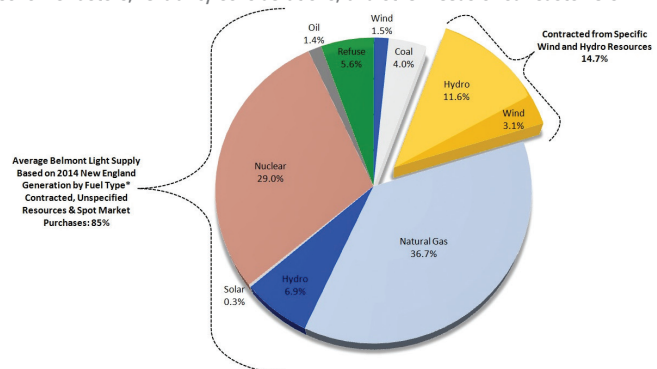
February 16th – Presidents Day
April 20th – Patriots Day

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

How Much of My Electricity Comes from Renewable Energy Resources?

As a local distribution utility, Belmont Light purchases electricity from wholesale generating plants all over New England and delivers it to Belmont homes and businesses. When purchasing power on our customers' behalf, it is Belmont Light's overall policy is to attempt to contract for **environmentally benign and renewable power whenever it is cost-effective relative to other available resources**. This policy allows us to support renewable energy resources while keeping our rates stable and our service reliable.

As shown in the graphic below, renewable energy resources are part of a diverse power supply portfolio. This portfolio is carefully managed according to prices and other economic factors, reliability considerations, and other needs of our customers.



(For a full-size version of the graphic, visit www.belmontlight.com > Energy Solutions > Portfolio)

For 2015, 15% of the power we deliver to our customers is contracted for with specific renewable generators: 3% comes from wind power and 12% from hydro power. Belmont Light also recently signed a contract for even more wind power— so starting in 2016, an additional 3% of power supply will come from a specific New England wind resource.

The other 85% of Belmont Light's power supply comes from **the general mix of resources available to us from the New England grid**. Thus, on average, an additional 14% of power supply comes from hydro, wind, solar, and refuse resources. **Therefore, approximately 29% of Belmont Light's energy supply comes from renewable energy resources.** Natural gas and nuclear resources are the most abundant power sources in New England, together accounting for over 65% of supply. A very small amount of power (< 5%) in New England comes from coal and oil generators.

If you would like to support additional renewable resources, consider signing up for the Green Choice Program. Details can be found on our website. It is also important to remember that you, the customer, supply Belmont with its cleanest, most cost-effective energy resource-- conservation!

Source for graphic: ISO New England Daily Generation by Fuel Type, 2014, available at <http://www.iso-ne.com/isoexpress/web/reports/operations/-/tree/daily-gen-fuel-type>.

DPW Snow Emergency Information

Belmont Public Works Department's Snow Emergency Hotline be reached by calling 617-993-2698 from November through April during snow and ice events only. To report different types of emergencies, call E-911 Communications at 617-993-2501.

BELMONT LIGHT
POWERING YOUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1898

40 Prince Street
Belmont, MA 02478
617-993-2800
www.belmontlight.com

Belmont Elementary Schools Participate in the Green Cup Energy Challenge

From January 14th through February 11th, students, faculty and staff of Belmont Public Elementary Schools will be participating in the **Green Cup Energy Challenge**. The goal of the challenge simple: to reduce energy consumption by 5% over a month long period. How will these students and teachers do it? By turning off lights, unplugging devices, shutting windows and doors, and taking other quick energy-savings measures.

Last year Belmont's Roger Wellington Elementary School reduced its energy consumption by an impressive 13.6%, making it the 2nd place finisher in this nation-wide competition! By achieving double-digit reduction in energy consumption (compared to the same period the previous year), the school conserved 13,280 kilowatt-hours of electricity, reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 14,717 pounds, and saved \$1,894 on its energy bill.

This year, the Wellington is being challenged by the Burbank, Butler and Winn Brook Schools. For the Challenge, students, faculty and parent volunteers will be reading their school's electric meters and will work with Belmont Light staff's Operations Manager Ed Crisafi to confirm the data. From January 14 through February 11, meter data will be collected locally and nationally on a weekly basis.

In December, the Town of Belmont was designated a Green Community. This competition acts immediately toward achieving the 20% reduction goal set by the designation. The school population—its employees, students and related families—make up a significant portion of our Town. By reducing energy consumption in school buildings, we save money for our schools. We also decrease demand for harmful fossil fuel-based energy. And, through the Challenge we create real-world connections for our students; they will use right-level math concepts and gain an awareness of energy in our lives and environment.

The Green Cup Energy Challenge is sponsored nationally by the Green School Alliance. Locally, it is being coordinated by the Belmont PTA/PTO Green Alliance with support from the Town of Belmont, Sustainable Belmont and Belmont Light. For more information, visit <http://www.greenschoolsalliance.org/energy-challenge> or contact Belmont PTA/PTO Green Alliance Chair Amanda Mujica at amanda@amandamujicadesign.com.

information submitted Amanda Mujica

We Heart Belmont Light's Residential Energy Grant Program and You Should Too

The Energy Committee is working closely with Belmont Light to spearhead initiatives to help Belmont residents make their homes more energy efficient. While it is Belmont Light's job to distribute electricity, we want all homes to use all forms of energy—natural gas, oil, etc.—as efficiently as possible. Why?

- Energy efficiency saves homeowners money. It can help make our homes more comfortable too.
- Most of our town's greenhouse gas emissions come from our homes. We will only reach our climate action plan goals once our homes become more efficient.
- In New England, natural gas is the major fuel used to generate electricity. Thus, the less natural gas we use, the easier it is to keep electricity prices low.

So insulating and weatherizing your home makes sense. In many cases, so does using advanced technologies like heat pumps to replace oil-based systems.

Fortunately, Belmont gets it! When it comes to improving home energy efficiency via weatherization and insulation, our town has one of the highest per capita participation rates of any town in the country, and we are on track to beat most in the state for our heat pump program as well. That means progress toward our climate action goals. Stay tuned for more successes in the months to come.

For more information about the Belmont Light Energy Grant, please visit www.BelmontLightEnergyGrant.com, call 617-963-8141, or email support@sagewell.com. Act today as opportunities are limited!

submitted by Ian Todreas, Co Chair of the Belmont Energy Committee

Belmont Light Celebrates Winter Solstice

Belmont Light recently hosted a Winter Solstice celebration which provided an opportunity for local residents to learn more about energy conservation programs and to receive some items to brighten the winter months, including a CFL lightbulb, LED nightlight and flashlight. The event also included refreshments and a visit from Frosty the Snowman.

Belmont Light also provided an opportunity to help others in need by accepting donations of 50 new and gently used blankets, sheets and comforters which were donated to Mission of Deeds, an organization dedicated to helping disadvantaged families and individuals living in Middlesex and Essex counties by providing beds and gently used furniture.



Frosty the Snowman greeted guests at the recent Winter Solstice event including Sami Baghdady, left, Vice Chair of the Municipal Light Board and the Board of Selectmen, and his son, Johnny. In addition to meeting Frosty and enjoying refreshments, guests received a free CFL light bulb and LED nightlight and were able to donate bedding materials to Mission of Deeds.



Need Help this Winter?

Belmont Light customers who need help with their energy bills this winter may be eligible for heating assistance and other programs, including the Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Belmont Light Rate Change Program, and the Salvation Army Good Neighbor Energy Fund, among others. Information about the programs, as well as income guidelines and contact information, is contained in a pamphlet available at the Belmont Light office and on the website

Eligibility for the LIHEAP program is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member that is 18 years of age or older. Household income cannot exceed 60% of estimated State Median Income, which ranges from \$32,618 for a one-person household, to \$62,727 for a family of four. Homeowners and renters including households whose cost of heat is included in the rent can apply at the agency in their area. Belmont residents can apply for fuel assistance through Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI) in Lowell by calling toll free at 1-877-451-1082.

The Salvation Army Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance. Income must be within 60% and 80% of the state median income which ranges from \$32,618 to \$43,491 for a one-person household to \$62,727 to \$83,636 for a family of four. For more information about eligibility criteria and where to apply, call 1-800-334-3047, or visit the website at www.magoodneighbor.org.

For additional information about these financial assistance programs, contact Belmont Light at 617-993-2800.



Belmont Light Senior Customer Service Representative Debra Bottiglio, right, greeted Municipal Light Advisory Board member Patricia DiOrio and her family at *Turn on the Tree*, the town's annual tree lighting ceremony sponsored by the Belmont Center Business Association. The family received informational materials and the 2015 Belmont Light historical calendar at the Belmont Light display.