

Belmont Substation & Transmission Project



As we journey into 2016, the future of reliable electricity in Belmont continues to look bright! The construction of Belmont Light's new substation on Flanders Road, which began at the beginning of last summer, continues

to progress toward its final stages. The building is now "weather tight", with only internal construction and the installation of equipment remaining. Some major equipment is already on site and a remaining transformer is scheduled for delivery this winter. Work for the project's electrical contractor is underway and the building's expected completion date of June 2016 within reach.

As the substation building nears completion, the second phase of construction – the installation of a 1-mile 115 kV transmission line – is just beginning. Construction crews are currently performing final site inspections and necessary site-clearing. Soon, crews will commence digging the trench and installing the pipe that will house the new transmission line. Once the pipe has been installed, the 115 kV cable will be pulled through this summer, ultimately being connected and tested next fall.

Full energization for the project is now expected for October 2016. Due to some challenges stemming from changing MBTA policies and strict regional electricity rules, the target energization date was recently changed from June 2016. This

schedule adjustment does not affect ongoing construction and will not increase Belmont's costs for the project. The new energization date will ultimately help preserve overall project quality.



Site preparation for the transmission line near Alewife.



From left to right, Town Treasurer Floyd Carmen, General Manager Jim Palmer, Municipal Light Board Vice Chair & Selectman Mark Paolillo, State Representative David Rogers, and State Representative Jonathan Hecht pose in front of the newly construction substation building.



Belmont Goes Solar!

Take advantage of a time-limited discount on rooftop solar panels

Why is now the time for Belmont to go solar? Until April 30, 2016, you can take advantage of discount pricing to purchase solar rooftop panels to provide electricity to a Belmont home or business with Belmont Goes Solar. Combined with a federal tax credit of 30% and a state tax credit up to \$1,000, the final cost to purchase solar panels is very attractive. And there are no-money-down financing options that make solar power possible for many more homeowners.

Belmont Goes Solar is a community group supported by the Belmont Board of Selectmen and formed of members from the Belmont Energy Committee, Belmont Light, Sustainable Belmont, and Mothers Out Front. After a rigorous selection process, the group chose Direct Energy Solar as the partner installer for solar in Belmont. On the BGS website, you can find FAQs as well as free upcoming community events to help you decide if solar is right for you. And you can also view experts discussing the program in a Belmont Media Center video.

If you have questions, contact a Belmont Goes Solar coach at coach@BelmontGoesSolar.org or call 617.855.8209. They are Belmont residents who are very knowledgeable about solar and offer independent advice. The Solar Coaches are volunteers who are happy to answer the community's questions about going solar.

For more information or to request a free no-obligation solar site assessment of your home or business, visit: BelmontGoesSolar.org or call 800-903-6130.

Submitted by Jan Kruse

Belmont
GOES Solar

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

Monday, April 18 – Patriots Day

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

BELMONT LIGHT
POWERING YOUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1898

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

Annual Perennial Plant Sale by Belmont Garden Club

The Belmont Garden Club will hold its Annual Perennial Plant Sale on Saturday, May 21, 2016, from 9am-noon, in front of the Lions Club at 1 Common Street, Belmont. This event will be held rain or shine in conjunction with Belmont Town Day.

Local gardens supply all plants for shade or sun; some annuals and herbs are available. Proceeds from the sale benefit community plantings, horticultural scholarships, garden therapy at the Belmont Manor.

Submitted by Anne Lauriet

Heat Pumps: The Right Heating & Cooling System to Reduce Your Energy Bills

Belmont Light's Energy Grant Program is currently offering Belmont residents special discounts on heat pumps.

Heat pumps are highly efficient mechanisms that can both heat and cool your home by moving heat from one space to another. Because they move heat rather than generating it, modern heat pumps can warm and cool your home using only a fraction of the energy consumed by conventional heating and cooling systems and appliances. Depending on what fuel source you presently use to heat your home, converting to a heat pump could help reduce your annual energy consumption—and your carbon footprint—by 50% or more. If you heat with oil, you could save hundreds of dollars each winter (even with today's low oil prices).

Inquire about Belmont Light's heat pump grants today by visiting www.BelmontLightEnergyGrant.com or calling Sagewell, the program administrator, at 617-963-8141. Grants range from \$500 to \$1500 depending on the size of heat pump system installed.



Belmont Light General Manager Jim Palmer, left, and Frosty the Snowman greeted guests at the recent Winter Solstice celebration at Belmont Light. In addition to meeting Frosty and enjoying refreshments, members of the Gaffey family of Belmont received a 2016 historical calendar, a CFL light bulb, an LED nightlight and an LED flashlight. The event also allowed local residents to donate bedding materials to Mission of Deeds.



Jack Ananian, left, of Belmont donated bedding for Mission of Deeds during the recent Winter Solstice event hosted by Belmont Light. Jack also received energy information, materials and a 2016 historical calendar from Becca Keane, Executive Assistant & Communications Coordinator during the event.

Be safe.... Dig Safe

Belmont residents are reminded that they should call Dig Safe at 8-1-1 before doing any digging this spring.

Massachusetts law requires that anyone who digs must notify utility companies before starting any work through Dig Safe, a communications network that assists excavators, contractors and property owners by notifying the appropriate utility before any digging begins. State law also requires that the area of excavation must be pre-marked using white stakes, paint or flags before notifying Dig Safe.

Callers should expect to provide information about the contractor, the work to be done, the location and the scope of the project. Dig Safe assigns a permit number as a confirmation. The utilities then visit the site and identify and mark the location of their underground facilities.

Member utilities use paint, stakes or flags to identify the location of their underground lines. Color codes are used to identify the type of utility:

- Red – electric
- Yellow – gas, oil, steam
- Orange – communications
- Blue – potable water
- Purple – reclaimed water
- Green – sewer/drainage
- Pink – survey marks
- White – proposed excavation

Dig Safe is funded entirely by member utilities like Belmont Light to promote public safety, protect utility services, and safeguard against property and environmental damages. Massachusetts state law requires advance notice of at least 72 business hours (3 days), excluding weekends and holidays.