



# Customer Newsline

## Dig Safely

Now that spring is around the corner, some homeowners are gearing up to start outdoor digging projects. Before you reach for that shovel to start digging, remember to call 811, the national call-before-you-dig number, to ensure that buried utility lines are marked.

National Safe Digging Month was designated to remind us of a complex underground infrastructure of pipelines, wires and cables. Striking an underground utility line while digging can cause harm to you or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

(Continued on page 4.)

## RATE/POWER ADJUSTMENT CHARGE OUTLOOK

According to the most recent MMWEC survey, Hudson Light's rates are still the lowest in the State. Anticipated cost increases will impact utility bills across New England during 2018. Hudson Light has an amelioration plan and expects its bills to remain among the lowest in the State (See page 2).

## 2018 ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Hudson Light continues its conservation rebate and incentive programs during 2018. The Department offers generous programs for residential, municipal and commercial accounts (See page 3.)

## APRIL IS DIG SAFE MONTH!

Digging into a utility line can be dangerous and expensive. Call 811 before you dig to have utilities mark out their equipment. If you have private underground facilities, complete a release form to have Hudson Light mark them out for you (See left).

## GREEN CORNER

During 2017, Hudson Light's fuel sources were almost 90% green-house gas free. (See page 4.)

## POWER ADJUSTMENT CHARGE INCREASE

The Power Adjustment Charge (PAC) is used to cover wholesale market costs that are not controlled by Hudson Light and Power. These market costs include energy, transmission, and capacity. Hudson Light and Power does not mark-up or make a profit on these charges. In 2018, the wholesale transmission rates will increase in order for the Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-NE), a non-profit organization tasked with operating the wholesale market in New England, to pay for newly constructed transmission lines throughout New England.

In addition to increases in the wholesale transmission rates, ISO-NE will be increasing the rate that market participants will pay for generation capacity in New England through the Forward Capacity Market. In June 2018, the wholesale capacity rates will increase to the highest level since the capacity market was established in 2006. All wholesale market distribution companies will have to pay this higher rate. These capacity funds are collected by ISO-NE in order to provide a revenue stream to all generators, including those who may not be needed until the summer peak load. Typically, these generators make profits when they produce electricity, but if their cost to run is high, they may only be dispatched during summer peak hours, limiting their profits. An unprofitable generator may go out of business and reduce the overall grid reliability. ISO-NE therefore pays them for the capacity they can provide during peak hours. ISO-NE incentivizes new generation capacity in New England through a capacity auction process that provides financial stability to those who would build new generating plants. Increased costs resulting from previous auctions are now being realized.

In Hudson, the PAC has increased by \$0.008 to \$0.05 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) effective in March. Residential customers will also receive an increased credit in the PASNY discount relative to hydro-electric power received from the State of New York. The bottom line is about a \$4.50 increase to the average net monthly residential bill for 750 kWh – still the lowest in the State according to a recent rate study released by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company.

Hudson Light and Power attempts to absorb variable market costs by planning well in advance. This increase in the PAC is expected to coincide with rate increases from all distribution companies and Hudson Light expects its rates will remain among the lowest in all of New England.

# Rebate programs continue in 2018

Hudson Light offers one of the more generous rebate and incentive programs, which will be continued into 2018:

## Residential Appliance Rebates

We offer a rebate credit of 10% of the appliance price up to \$50 per qualifying Energy Star electric appliances: clothes washer & dryers, dish washers, refrigerators, air cleaners, window air conditioners, and dehumidifiers.

## Residential Heating/Cooling Program

Hudson Light offers rebate credits of 50% of the project cost up to \$500 for the installation of Energy Star Central Air Conditioning, Electric and Geothermal Heat Pumps and Electric Ductless Heating/Cooling. AHRI Certificates are necessary.

## Residential Electric Car Battery Charger Program

Residents who install a qualifying Energy Star electric car battery charger may be eligible for a rebate credit of 50% of the project up to \$250.

## Residential Electric Heat Pump Water Heater Program

Residents who install a qualifying Energy Star hybrid electric water heater may be eligible for a rebate credit of 50% of the project up to \$750.

## Residential Home Energy Audit Program

Residential Customers can contact the Energy Hot Line at 888-772-4242 to schedule a free home energy audit. The audit includes free infra-red screening and LED light bulbs.

## Incentive Programs

### Residential and Commercial Photovoltaic (PV) Incentive Program\*

For PV installations, Hudson Light offers a rebate of \$1 or \$1.25 per watt of installed capacity depending upon orientation.

Hudson Light purchases excess generation from customers with Distributed Generation (DG) such as solar, wind turbines, etc., at a tariff based upon the monthly Power Adjustment Charge.

### Commercial and Industrial Energy Audits\*

Business and municipal customers interested in improving their energy efficiency can contact the Energy Hotline at 888-772-4242 to schedule a lighting or energy audit. The audit may be partially subsidized by Hudson Light.

### Commercial and Industrial Energy Efficiency Rebate Program\*

Hudson Light offers business and municipal customers financial incentives to replace inefficient lighting and to update across-the-line starters with variable-frequency drives on existing motors.

*\*Eligibility requirements apply.*

*More detailed information on all of our incentive and rebate programs are available at the Main Office, 49 Forest Avenue, Hudson 978-568-8736, on our website [hudsonlight.com](http://hudsonlight.com) or by emailing [info@hudsonlight.com](mailto:info@hudsonlight.com)*

## DIG SAFELY (continued from page 1).

A call to 811 ensures that lines installed and maintained by utilities will be marked. However, many homeowners do not realize that underground utilities on their private property were not installed by Hudson Light. Utilities are only required to mark their own equipment. If you have underground electric service, the underground line that runs from the utility pole or transformer to your home is not our equipment. We will mark it for you with a signed waiver.

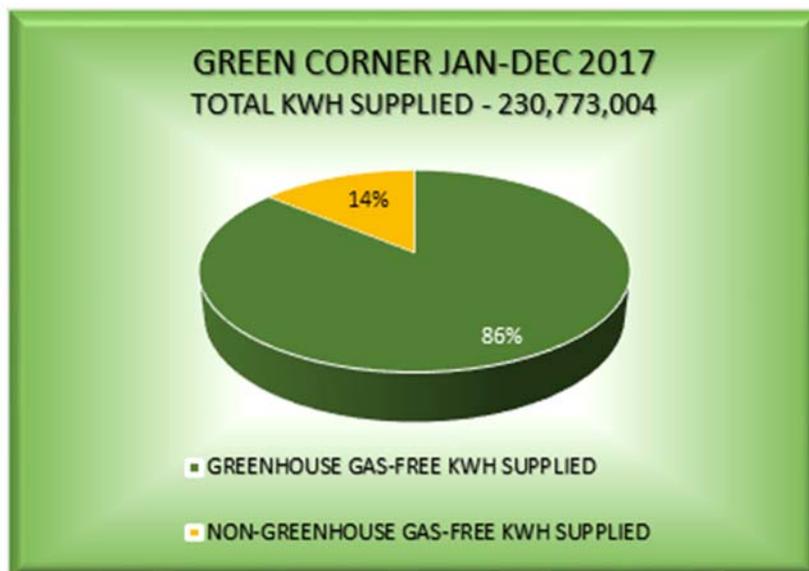
A call must be placed to 811 before **every** digging project, from simple landscaping projects like planting trees or shrubs, to building a deck or installing a rural mailbox. Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. Don't become part of the statistic – make sure to call 811!

### For further information:

Hudson Light Digging Safe Release: Call 978-568-8736, visit [www.hudsonlight.com](http://www.hudsonlight.com) or email [info@hudsonlight.com](mailto:info@hudsonlight.com)

Private Utility Locators: [http://www.digsafe.com/private\\_locators.php](http://www.digsafe.com/private_locators.php)

Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.digsafe.com/faqs.php>



## ABOUT US

[hudsonlight.com](http://hudsonlight.com)

### Payment Locations:

PO Box 844568, Boston, MA 02284

*For fast, efficient payment processing, please use the envelope enclosed with your bill. Do not submit post-dated checks. Do not use payment envelopes for correspondence.*

49 Forest Ave., Hudson  
Monday through Friday,  
8 am to 4:30 pm.  
24-Hour Drop Box.

Hudson Town Hall  
Monday through Friday,  
8 am to 4 pm; 24-Hour Drop Box.

### Contacting Us:

Office: 978-568-8736  
After-Hour Hotline: 978-562-2368  
Fax: 978-562-1389  
Email: [info@hudsonlight.com](mailto:info@hudsonlight.com)  
Conservation Hotline: 888-772-4242

### Spring Holiday Closings

April 16<sup>th</sup> Patriots Day  
May 28<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day  
July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day

### Light Board Meetings

Third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm, 49 Forest Ave., Hudson. Open to the Public. Agendas are posted online 48 hours prior to meeting.

Mail Date: 03/31/2018