

**LEARN ABOUT SOLAR
POWER THIS FALL**

We are now planning an evening in September when you will be invited to come to Concord Light to find out more about the costs and benefits of solar energy. Our solar project participants will be there to talk about their experiences, answer questions, and give you an idea of how solar energy works in real life. You'll also have a chance to ask experts from Concord Light all your energy questions and learn the most cost-effective ways to be carbon-conscious. Watch for details in the local paper and at concordma.gov/cmlp.

SOLAR DHW PROJECT UPDATE

Initial data shows modest savings

The first few months of data for Concord Light's domestic solar hot water demonstration project shows an annual savings of about \$300, or \$25 a month, compared to gas at today's prices.

The project was launched last year when we asked for volunteers to determine the pros and cons of real-life, local solar installations. Among those volunteers randomly selected as possible participants, John and Maureen Cownie of 263 Power Mill Road were the first to have an excellent solar site.

The system was installed last fall and data collection began in December. However, some early equipment problems meant that the system was not working at peak efficiency until the end of February, so only about three months of real data is now available.

"This is what a demonstration project is all about," said John Odell, Concord Light's Energy Services/Communications Administrator. "We're taking a close look at the entire process, and learning from the experience."

The savings figures will be adjusted as more data is collected and the comparison cost of natural gas changes from the

current \$1.72 per therm. Odell added that other benefits of the new solar system, such as an increased hot water capacity, don't show up in the numbers.

"The Cownies no longer run out of hot water, which had been an occasional problem with two daughters showering every day," Odell said. The new system includes a 108-gallon solar storage tank that feeds heated water into a traditional gas-fired tank.

The Cownies' system, which included some upgrades selected by the customer, cost a little over \$9,000. As part of the project, Concord Light contributed just under \$4,000.

Solar photovoltaic project

Along with solar domestic hot water, we are also working on a solar photovoltaic (PV) demonstration. PV equipment, which converts solar energy to electricity, was installed this spring at the home of Joel and Sally Hughes of 38 Bartlett Hill Road. To date, the 1.2-kilowatt solar PV system has produced 128 kilowatt-hours of electricity in 21 days. Watch for more details on costs and savings in upcoming issues of *LightLines*.



Local homeowner John Cownie had this solar hot water tank installed in his basement with Concord Light's help.

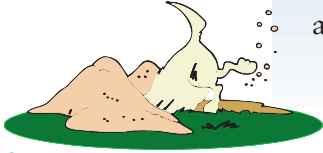


These panels on the roof of the Cownie home collect solar energy for hot water.

briefs

Tenants: call us before you move. If you are moving out of a rental property in Concord, be sure to call Concord Light before you move so that we can transfer the electric service out of your name. Please let us know at least three days in advance so that we can make the change.

Save on air conditioning. Lowering the thermostat only causes your air conditioner to run longer, not to cool faster. To save, set the thermostat at 78 degrees and leave it there, or select a medium setting on a room air conditioner. Remember to clean or replace filters at least once a month. When filters get clogged, your unit has to work harder to cool the house.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Planning an outdoor project that includes digging? Call Dig Safe first at 1-888-344-7233 to learn the locations of underground utilities. Make sure your contractors call first, too. It's smart and it's the law.

Hitting a utility line could cut service for electricity, gas, water, telephone and more. Worse, someone could be seriously injured. Call first, and Dig Safe will notify area utilities to mark the locations of underground lines. You can also make Dig Safe requests online at digsafe.com.

Cut next winter's heating costs in half

Worried about the rising cost of home heating? Concord Light can help you cut next winter's oil bills in half—or even more—with electric thermal storage (ETS) heating.

Dozens of Concord Light customers are already staying warm for less with ETS. **One local resident heated his new, 4,000 square-foot home for under \$200 a month this winter with ETS.**

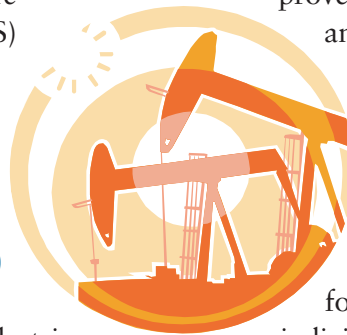
How does it work? ETS uses electricity during off-peak times to heat high-density ceramic bricks. The stored heat can then be used to warm spaces any time. Because ETS energy is used off-peak, it qualifies for a lower electric rate that is now well below the cost of

oil and natural gas.

In addition to being efficient and well proven, ETS technology is clean and safe, and it's installed by local electricians.

Added benefits include no chimney or exhaust concerns since no fuel is burned, and no inconvenient fuel deliveries or storage tank liabilities to worry about. You also have a variety of system choices—forced-hot-water, forced-hot-air, and individual room units.

For more details, call John Odell at 978-318-3151 or you can e-mail him at jodell@concordma.gov. You are also welcome to drop by our office to get a close-up look at the ETS heaters installed there.



We have worlds of fun on our website

Our website has two places for kids to have fun while learning about electricity and energy—Electrical Safety World and Energy Efficiency World. To visit them, go to concordma.gov/cmlp and follow the Games link.

Both sections feature online games and fun facts for kids in grades 3 through 7, along with guidance for adults

to reinforce the lessons. It's a great way to spend some fun and educational time with the kids this summer.

While you're online, you might want to look around our site for news and information about your electric service and other energy matters. You can do every-

thing from paying your bill to researching way to save energy.



Concord Municipal Light Plant

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

1175 Elm St., P.O. Box 1029, Concord, MA 01742
www.concordma.gov/cmlp • Tel (978) 318-3101 • Fax (978) 318-3105

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