



## LELWD Employees Carry On Traditions of Giving



Keeping with annual traditions, LELWD employees contributed to food and toy drives this holiday season. Employees donated food and delivered three complete Thanksgiving dinners to two low-income families in Littleton and one in Boxborough. Then employees donated unwrapped toys for the annual toy drive organized by state Rep. Jim Arciero and held at the Littleton Police Department. Going above and beyond, LELWD employee Haleigh Dufour hosted a toy drive earlier in December that added to the total delivery by LELWD.



## Littleton & Boxborough to See Lower Electric-Rate Increases Than Nearby Towns

Residential electric rates in Littleton and Boxborough will increase about 3% in 2023 due to the higher cost of generating power. While an unwelcomed change, LELWD's electric rates and increase remain far below those of National Grid, Eversource and Unitil.

The residential electric rate will increase from 13.3 cents per kilowatt-hour to 13.7 cents per kWh and customers will see it reflected in their January bills. Electric rates did not increase in 2022.

The average LELWD residential customer, using 840 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, will see the price increase by \$3.36 to \$115.28 per month. An average National Grid residential customer pays \$387 per month.

Recently, National Grid increased residential rates by 64%. Unitil by 26%, and Eversource by 21%. Locally, National Grid serves Ayer, Harvard and Westford, and Eversource powers Acton.

To help customers reduce their electricity use and lower their bills, LELWD's Green Rewards program offers a variety of discounted LED bulbs and rebates on energy-saving appliances, including washing machines, tankless water heaters and smart thermostats. For more information, visit [lelwd.com](http://lelwd.com).

Several programs are available to help qualifying residents pay their heating bills, including those who heat with electricity. As a service, LELWD has posted links to the

programs on [lelwd.com](http://lelwd.com).

LELWD historically sets low rates compared to investor-owned utilities and other municipally owned electric light departments have seen similar rate increases, including Concord, Groton, and Shrewsbury.

In Massachusetts, 41 cities and towns offer municipal electric light. Unlike investor-owned utilities, municipal light departments are not driven to generate a profit for stockholders. Instead, "munis" charge rates that cover the cost of power and operations, as well as investments in reliable systems and payments in lieu of taxes to their communities.

LELWD has a track record of low rates by hedging energy prices. It secures long-term, purchased power contracts that keep rates stable during times of market volatility. LELWD works to project future fuel prices and strategically plans purchases of future power. However, LELWD is not immune to market forces.

The rise in electric rates is driven by the increase in the cost of natural gas, with supplies disrupted by the war in Ukraine. In line with the state-wide average, nearly 55% of LELWD's power supply is generated by natural gas.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities has announced that natural gas rates would rise this winter between 11% and 27% compared to last year. The LELWD commercial and industrial rates will also see increases up to about 10% depending on the rate categories.

**Office Hours:**

Mon. - Thurs. 6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed Fridays

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## LELWD Lights the Common for Annual Festival

Children and adults alike welcomed Santa Claus to the Littleton Common for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 4th. The popular event is organized annually by the Littleton Rotary Club, and as co-sponsor, LELWD is responsible for stringing more than 2,000 bulbs on the trees. Our thanks to Kirby Dolak and Littleton Community Television for providing photos of the event for LELWD to share.

Photos courtesy of  Littleton Community Television

