

Watts&Drops

FEBRUARY 2023

NEWSLETTER OF THE LITTLETON
ELECTRIC LIGHT & WATER DEPARTMENTS



WBUR Report: Communities Carry Burden for Cleaning Water

WBUR Radio toured the state-of-the-art water treatment plant on Whitcomb Avenue, which is nearing completion, for a report on the cost of removing the PFAS pollutant from drinking water. Littleton is one of 170 communities in Massachusetts to tackle the issue, reports WBUR.

The piece examines the cost to communities to install filtration systems. LELWD's \$16 million plant houses four, 24-foot-tall steel tanks, each to be filled with 20 tons of activated carbon, to filter iron, manganese and PFAS from the water.

Visit lelwd.com to find the link to the WBUR article and audio report.



Lineman Completes Four-Year Certification

Michael Dutcher graduated from lineman apprentice to lineman after completing a four-year certification program offered by the Northeast Public Power Association. Dutcher was joined by his family when he was recently recognized by the Board of Light Commissioners for his accomplishment.

Littleton Could Deliver Clean, Safe Water to Boxborough

LELWD supplies electricity to Boxborough, and a public health crisis along the western edge of that town has created a need to expand Littleton's public water service to about 1,100 Boxborough residents.

Most of the impacted residents reside in condominiums on Swanson Road, Codman Hill Road and at 1740 Massachusetts Avenue that operate small, public water systems to serve their residents. Testing has detected sodium, chloride and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at levels exceeding the Massachusetts Drinking Water Standards. Long-term consumption of the pollutants poses significant health risks for residents.

With a median household income of about \$30,000 per year, residents face a significant financial burden to obtain clean water. The impacted Boxborough properties can either install, operate, and maintain costly individual treatment plants or agree to hook up to the Littleton water system.

The availability of federal infrastructure funding offers an economically feasible fix through a low-interest loan to expand the Littleton water system. LELWD could run 4.5 miles of water main from the new Whitcomb Avenue water treatment plant to serve the impacted properties for an estimated \$14 million paid by the Boxborough residents through betterment fees.

The annual cost of the project will be about \$383 to \$719 per year per residential unit in Boxborough.



LELWD has requested \$6.9 million from the Mass. Department of Transportation to lower the betterment fees. MassDOT has identified responsibility for about 50% of the contamination from storage of highway salt.

As part of the project, LELWD will develop a new drinking water well on Taylor Street in Littleton and pipe the raw water to the Whitcomb Ave. treatment plant. The new well will increase the supplies for the entire water system by about a half-million gallons per day (with only 15% of that to be delivered to Boxborough) and is estimated at \$5.2 million, which will be funded through water rates. No Littleton or Boxborough tax funds will be used for the project.

Because the entire \$19.2 million project would help to solve a PFAS contamination problem, it is eligible for a MassDEP zero-interest, 30-year loan with the potential for 20% principal forgiveness. The deadline to appropriate funding for the MassDEP loan is June 30. LELWD plans to seek the May 1st Town Meeting's authorization to borrow the project costs.



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Office Hours:

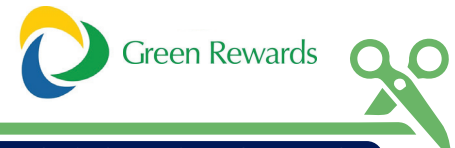
Mon. - Thurs. 6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays

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Visit www.LELWD.com to learn more about us. Find LELWD on

Communities Save with Green Rewards

In 2022, LELWD residential customers conserved energy and saved money by taking advantage of the Green Rewards program.



81,000

KILOWATT-HOURS

GREEN REWARDS CONSERVED
ENOUGH ELECTRICITY TO POWER
EIGHT HOMES FOR A YEAR.



\$45,000

7 CUSTOMERS ADDED HOME
SOLAR AND COLLECTED
REBATES WORTH \$45,000.

70 EVs

70 ELECTRIC VEHICLE DRIVERS
JOINED THE EV PROGRAM
TO FUEL UP ON INCENTIVES.



330 REBATES WENT TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS, INCLUDING:



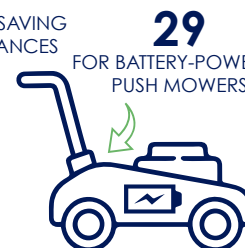
40
FOR SMART
THERMOSTATS



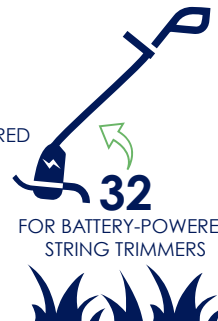
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FOR MINI-SPLIT
HVAC SYSTEMS



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FOR ENERGY-SAVING
HOME APPLIANCES



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FOR BATTERY-POWERED
PUSH MOWERS



32
FOR BATTERY-POWERED
STRING TRIMMERS

Learn more at lelwd.com/greenrewards. Offering a variety of rebates on electricity-saving products and weatherization, the Green Rewards program is a Residential Conservation Services program created by state law and overseen by the Mass. Division of Energy Resources.

Residential Rate Comparisons

This chart shows the increase in the average residential electric bills for 1000 kilowatt-hours in Littleton and surrounding communities in 2022. LELD's average bill in December was the second lowest in the state, at \$7.45 higher than Hudson Light & Power.

UTILITY	JAN. 2022 AVERAGE BILL	DEC. 2022 AVERAGE BILL	PERCENT CHANGE	UTILITY	JAN. 2022 AVERAGE BILL	DEC. 2022 AVERAGE BILL	PERCENT CHANGE
LELD*	\$ 136.39	\$ 136.73	0.25%	Acton (Eversource)	\$ 301.52	\$ 328.90	9.08%
Groton*	\$ 159.62	\$ 179.62	12.53%	Ayer (National Grid)	\$ 294.67	\$ 483.33	64.02%
Concord*	\$ 195.43	\$ 235.90	20.71%	Unitil	\$ 324.88	\$ 379.35	16.77%

*Municipally owned. Source: Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Co.