

# Watts & Drops

OCTOBER 2025



## Exploring the Source of Our Drinking Water

Do you know where Littleton Water sources the clean, reliable drinking water delivered on demand to its customers?

The source of the water and protecting it was the topic of a series of videos, a new web page, and social media posts during Source Water Protection Week, September 28 to October 4.

In the videos, Environmental Analyst Michael Grega explains how aquifers function and what steps LELWD takes to protect the aquifers from pollution. To watch the videos and learn more, visit <https://www.lelwd.com/-source-water-protection/>

## How Can You Help Protect Your Water?

You can help us protect drinking water sources:

- Properly dispose of all household hazardous substances, such as motor oil, batteries, paint, medications and more.
- Ensure septic systems are properly maintained, or consider connecting to the town sewer system, if it is available to you.
- Do not dump in stormwater drains.
- Do not overfertilize gardens and lawns. Use the SMART method from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.
- Strictly follow the instructions to avoid overusing herbicides and pesticides. Overapplication can cause leaching into the groundwater.

## LELWD Hosts Facility Security Seminar

A Littleton Electric substation was the site of mock attacks intended to damage the facility. The drills were part of a three-day physical security workshop in September hosted by LELWD and the Northeast Public Power Association.

NEPPA member utilities learned how to use threat assessment methods to improve security and applied them to the LELWD substation. A substation is a facility that transforms voltage levels and manages power flow within the electrical grid. Damage to a substation can result in power outages.

The workshop was led by the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center. E-ISAC is part of the North American Electric Reliability Commission, a non-profit with a mission to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid.

"The course combines teaching, discussion and practical application to ensure that participants understand how to apply the Electricity Sector Design Basis Threat to utility sites. It serves as an effective tool to assist in conducting vulnerability assessments, and in making informed risk-based and cost-effective decisions for the utility," said Michael Ball Sr., vice president and CEO of E-ISAC.

Representatives from municipal power operators across the Northeast measured how long each step would take during an attack and then went step by step suggesting upgrades to stop or delay an attack. At the end of the workshop, LELWD received a list of suggested security upgrades to enforce. The Littleton Police Department participated in the workshop to discuss law enforcement's response.

## How '60 Minutes' Arrived in Littleton

A "60 Minutes" story on Chinese-backed hacking of U.S. computer systems included LELWD. The segment aired on October 12.

As detailed in the last Watts & Drops newsletter, a "60 Minutes" crew and correspondent Scott Pelley were in Littleton in August to interview General Manager Nick Lawler, P.E. LELWD was one of 200 organizations where the FBI discovered hacked systems in 2023.

LELWD worked with federal authorities and new cybersecurity providers to secure its computer systems. No customer-sensitive data and no system operations were impacted by the incident.

Once able to speak publicly about the incident, LELWD has sought to warn fellow small-town utilities of the risks posed by foreign adversaries. Of 200 impacted organizations, LELWD is so far the only one to publicly acknowledge the system intrusion.

In March, LELWD's proactive response to the hacking was detailed in a case study by its cybersecurity providers, EvoLab and Dragos. The case study, available at [lelwd.com](http://lelwd.com), resulted in extensive news coverage leading to the "60 Minutes" segment.



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

Closed Fridays

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## Is Your Yard Safe for Birds and Fireflies?

Want to draw more birds, butterflies and fireflies to your yard? Start by turning off outdoor lights at night. Nocturnal insects exhaust themselves circling outdoor lights. Fewer moths means fewer moth larvae, and less food for songbirds. Any nighttime illumination, even those yellow bulbs, masks the flashing mating signals of fireflies. Migrating birds (which mostly migrate at night) are attracted and confused by bright lights. They waste energy investigating outdoor lights and can even crash into windows or walls.

- Put outdoor lights on a motion sensor.
- Do not leave lights on all night.
- Close your shades and curtains at night.
- Choose outdoor fixtures that direct light only downward, never upward nor to the side. For a list of thousands of approved light fixtures, go to <https://darksky.org/what-we-do/darksky-approved/darksky-approved-luminaires-program/luminaires/>
- Choose outdoor light bulbs in the red color spectrum (2200 Kelvin or lower), and the lowest lumen level that provides adequate illumination. 1000bulbs.com has a searchable product list of light bulbs.

Making these changes will reduce your electric consumption and your utility bill.

*This article from the Littleton Conservation Trust, written by Jo-Ann Dery.*



The LELWD staff planted 100 shade trees the week of October 5th, corresponding with Public Power Week, which recognizes the many benefits of municipal electric providers.

The annual Shade Tree Program has planted 1,310 trees since 2016 at no cost to the requesting homeowners. Trees provide natural cooling and consume carbon dioxide. A mature tree can lower energy use between 100-250 kilowatt-hours per year.

Online registration for the 2026 planting will open on Arbor Day, April 24, 2026.