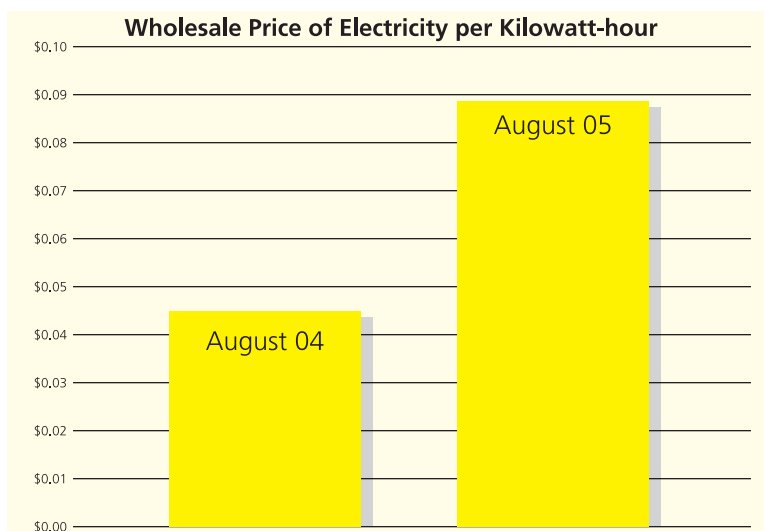


## Rate study is nearly complete

*Skyrocketing oil and natural gas costs have left consumers across the country reeling, and experts predict an expensive heating season ahead. Unfortunately, today's deregulated wholesale electricity marketplace has seen the same price volatility, making it more challenging than ever to plan for the future.*

Power supply costs account for more than 80% of Groton Electric's annual budget. Since power generation requires fuel, it's no surprise that rising fuel costs can significantly impact our operating budget. Here are some amazing facts:

- Adjusted for inflation, the price of oil is now approaching the record high levels of 1980 after two decades of stability at \$20 per barrel.
- Natural gas prices are at unheard-of levels, 30 times higher than three decades ago. In the early 1970s, excess natural gas was just burned because it was so cheap.
- From 1999 through 2002, the average price of wholesale electricity in New England varied from three to four cents per kilowatt-hour. Today it is double that.



To keep up with these breathtaking changes, Groton Electric is now conducting a rate study that is due for completion this fall. While the results are not yet in, it's

### Find out what's watt

If you think some of your appliances may be using too much energy, you should drop by our office to borrow one of our watt meters. Our watt meters measure how much energy an appliance is using, and tells you how much that energy is costing you. We have two available for use free of charge.

One customer recently found a dehumidifier that used more than \$7 worth of electricity in just three days. A new Energy Star-rated model uses much less energy. Another resident discovered an air conditioner that used more than \$100 in energy a month due to a faulty compressor switch. Don't waste energy and money on obsolete or faulty appliances. Borrow a watt meter and find out where your energy is going.

clear that an adjustment will be necessary to cover higher wholesale power costs.

Along with fuel prices, other factors are also pushing up power costs. Because New England's wholesale power markets are deregulated, they are far more volatile than ever before. In uncertain times such as today, this can result in prices that rapidly rise to whatever level the market will bear.

To compound our problems, one of our suppliers recently filed for bankruptcy, another supplier has just withdrawn from the wholesale electric business and we are in litigation with another supplier due to a failure to perform. The only power contracts that are continuing to perform as stipulated are our hydroelectric and nuclear power contracts.

To minimize the effects of these and other new market risks, we employ a number of strategies. One of our goals is to cover at least 75% of Groton's power needs with long term contracts. But no matter how power is acquired, right now there are no bargains.

The news is not all bad, however. Groton Electric has a proud history of delivering outstanding service at competitive rates. We remain committed to doing all we can to keep our rates among the most competitive in the state.

## TRUCKS FOR SALE!

### Get your toy truck here



Groton Electric Light TopKick bucket truck (1:24 scale model) would make a great holiday gift, and will be available at our office after Thanksgiving for \$25 plus tax.

Due to the immense popularity of our toy truck raffle at Grotonfest, we are making the same scale model of a Groton Electric Light GMC TopKick bucket truck available to all our customers at our cost of only \$25 each plus tax.

Each truck has a working bucket that rises to 20 inches, flashing lights, and a coin bank in the forward tool box. It would make a perfect holiday gift for the youngster in your household, or for anyone young at heart. After Thanksgiving you can pick one up at our 23 Station Avenue office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. while supplies last.

#### Have you visited our website yet?

The next time you're online, be sure to visit Groton Electric's website at [www.grotonelectric.org](http://www.grotonelectric.org). You'll find just about everything you need to know about your hometown utility, with information ranging from how to read your bill to the date of the next Board meeting.

## Our fall light bulb sale is October 3-7

*As the days grow shorter and the long nights of winter approach, now is the perfect time to improve your home's lighting. We're offering a great deal on compact fluorescent light bulbs this fall, so don't miss out!*

Switching from standard incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent (CF) bulbs is one of the simplest and most effective ways to cut your lighting costs. CF bulbs use much less energy than standard bulbs to produce the same amount of light, and last up to 10 times longer as well. This saves energy, saves money, and makes your life easier. CF bulbs also help preserve energy resources, which benefits the environment.

Drop by our office October 3-7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to pick up your bulbs for just \$3 each. Bring the coupon below, and we'll drop the price to just \$2 each! With prices this good, there's a limit of three bulbs per customer.

# \$1.00 OFF

### Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs

Bring this coupon to the Groton Electric Light Department office at 23 Station Ave. before October 7, 2005 to get \$1.00 off the cost of each energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulb. Maximum of three bulbs per customer of the Groton Electric Light Department.