

Groton hits a new peak demand for electricity

On Friday, July 22 when the temperature nearly reached 100 degrees for the third day in a row, Groton Electric's demand for electricity hit 18.58 megawatts (MW)—a record peak. The previous peak set in August 2006 was 18.35 MW.

Why do peaks matter?

Peaks matter because the rules that govern wholesale power pricing make electricity used during high-use periods extremely expensive. Not only is the energy itself very costly—sometimes 20 to 30 cents per kilowatt-hour versus the 11 to 13 cents we charge customers—but there are also other significant costs.

In addition to charges for the actual energy used by customers, all utilities must pay to use the regional transmission system and to help assure the reliability of the regional power grid. Groton's share of these costs is determined by the Town's peak power use.

For example, a single annual hour of peak demand sets the capacity charge Groton Electric must pay for an entire year as its share of New England's peak hour. In addition, each monthly peak hour determines the RNS—regional network service—charge, which is part of the transmission portion of your bill.

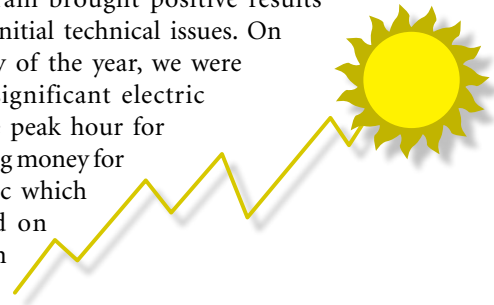
These charges are substantial. In 2010, Groton Electric paid more than \$600,000 in capacity payments and more than \$1 million in transmission payments. When demand is high, we all pay the price. But by working together to hold down peak demand, we can hold down costs for everyone.

How you can help?

By shifting energy use away from peak hours, Groton Electric can lower its capacity and transmission payments and keep rates low for all ratepayers. Customers can help by reducing or shifting energy use away from Groton's peak use times—typically from 3 to 7 p.m. Every little bit helps!

A Groton Electric program introduced this summer has also helped hold down the Town's peak demand with the help of large air conditioning users. The new program automatically raised thermostats at the homes of volunteers during peak periods to hold down demand. When activated, the change was just three degrees over a three-hour period.

Called Home Area Network (HAN) Demand Response, the new program brought positive results despite some initial technical issues. On the hottest day of the year, we were able to shed significant electric use during the peak hour for the year—saving money for Groton Electric which will be passed on to the program participants.



Please cut along dotted line and return with your bill payment



Help us update our records—Please complete and return with bill payment

We would like to update our records to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on all customers. We are working on a new outage management system that will help our linemen to pinpoint outages and we would like to have current phone and cell numbers on file to contact customers in the event of an electrical emergency.

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Account #: _____

BEST number to reach you in an emergency: (please indicate if home or cell#) _____

Rates drop for residential customers

The customer charge on all residential bills has dropped from \$6.25 to \$5.25, as rates here remain among the lowest in the state.

All residential customers saw a reduction in the customer charge of \$1 effective with the August 31 bills, a change made possible due to Groton Electric's sound financial position.

Although the reduction may be modest, it demonstrates Groton Electric's commitment to keeping rates as low as possible for our customers in these times when every dollar counts.

"It is important to be conscious of our customers' needs," said Light Board Chairman Kevin Lindemer. "Since we may have an unexpected slight increase in our net income for the year, we believe it makes sense to give as much as we can back to the ratepayers."

While all residential customers will benefit from the decrease, it should be especially noticed by those with smaller electric bills, particularly those struggling to make ends meet or those on a fixed income.

GELD currently has the sixth lowest rate out of all 48 electric utilities in the state of Massachusetts for a 750 kilowatt-hour typical monthly bill.

See what you're saving

The following chart shows a typical 750 kilowatt-hour bill for Groton Electric compared to two local investor-owned utilities. National Grid's rates are 19% higher than Groton Electric's rates and Unitil's rates are 57% higher. That's money in your pocket!

Groton Electric	\$89.98
National grid	\$106.91
Unitil	\$140.85

Note: data represents the most recent 12-month average



Commissioner Hersh is honored with NEPPA's Distinguished Service Award

At the NEPPA (Northeast Public Power Association) annual conference, Commissioner Rodney Hersh was honored for his outstanding service and his exceptional leadership of the Groton Electric Light Department.

Each year, NEPPA seeks to recognize individuals who have made contributions to their utilities, communities and to public power. Mr. Hersh has served on the Board of Light Commissioners for 19 consecutive years and is the second longest running commissioner in the history of GELD, which began in 1909. When his term expires in 2013, he will be the longest running commissioner in GELD's history. His unwavering commitment to the ratepayers is apparent in his length of service, his willingness to stand firm in his beliefs, and his fiscal conservatism. Mr. Hersh has made some difficult decisions throughout the years—none of which were made lightly—and always made with the ratepayers' best interest in mind. Groton Electric is proud and privileged to have such a fine, distinguished gentleman representing and leading our locally owned and operated light department.



Thank you, Mr. Hersh!

Groton Electric's power is 57.1 % carbon-free!

As a member of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), Groton Electric receives power from many different sources. The purpose of using carbon-free sources to generate electricity is to combat the increase in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our impact on the environment as a whole. In addition to these energy sources, Groton Electric is part owner of the largest wind farm in Massachusetts and is receiving just over 5.5% of the project's output—wind power is both "green" and carbon-free.