

the power OUTLET

The Newsletter for the Groton Electric Light Community

February, 2019

Congratulations to the winners of

the *Let There Be Light* challenge

Groton Electric would like to thank all of the participants in the holiday lighting contest. The winners will receive a credit applied to their January 31, 2019 electric bill. It was a great experience and we received positive feedback from everyone involved.

A very special thank you to our Board members who braved the elements to judge the contest:

Commissioners Bruce Easom, Rodney Hersh and Kevin Lindemer. Also thank you to Manager Kevin Kelly who acted as chauffeur for judging night.

Honorable mention (as determined by management) goes to 366 West Main Street and 7 Little Hollow Lane.

And the winners of the “let there be light challenge” are...

See more winners on next page



BEST OVERALL—258 Riverbend Drive—**\$100 prize**



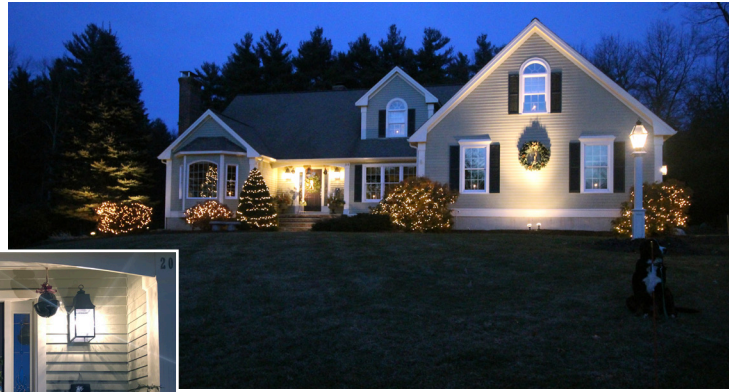
MOST CREATIVE (again)

—16 Lawrence Drive (Eloise's Christmas Playground by Bill Gavazzi)—
\$50 prize





MOST ORIGINAL
—178 Townsend Road—
\$50 prize



MOST TRADITIONAL
—204 Duck Pond Drive—
\$50 prize



The Power Cost Adjustment has been Reinstated

Beginning with the December 31, 2018 bill, there is a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) of \$0.01 added as a separate line item on your GELD electric bill.

The Power Cost Adjustment is a way for Groton Electric to recoup the increased generation costs associated with higher fuel prices and power costs.

We slightly increased the PCA this winter over last winter. Last winter, the PCA was .5 cent (\$.005) per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for January 2018 and one cent (\$0.01) per kWh for February and March 2018. For the winter of 2019, the PCA will be one cent (\$0.01) per kilowatt-hour on the December 2018 bill & January, February and March 2019 bills. In total, this change in the PCA will increase revenue approximately \$241,000 over our base rates while last year it brought in an additional \$146,941.

Please read the “Update on New England Electric Rates” article for additional information about electric rates.

Update on New England Electric Rates

Your electric bill is broken up into three major cost buckets—generation, transmission & distribution. The generation portion of your bill is the largest at about 60% of your bill and that is where we are seeing large swings in costs. The generation portion of your bill has two primary components—the cost of the generation of electricity AND the capacity cost GELD pays to make sure there is adequate capacity to meet our peak electric demand. Market cost for peak generation on the day-ahead market increased 33% from 2017 to 2018. The capacity costs this winter are 36% higher than last winter. Fortunately, the capacity costs next year are going to drop back to the same level they were last year. This year’s capacity increase is a one-time bump that will cost GELD approximately \$500,000 more than both last year and next year. As we were preparing for this year’s winter, we had a crazy November. Temperatures were slightly cooler than normal, and one of New England’s nuclear power generators was off-line for most of the

month. These two issues combined, drove up power costs for November 2018—68.7% higher than November 2017.

The news isn’t all bleak—here is some good news about our rates compared to our neighbors. For the most recent 12-month period, let’s look at customers who average 750 kilowatt-hours per month (kWh/month) on their electric bills. Our neighbors who have National Grid for their electric provider pay 86.2% more than GELD and our neighbors who have Until pay 104.1% more than GELD. Yes, it’s true that if your electric bill was \$100/month in Groton it would be \$204.10/month in Townsend.

Behind the scenes, many conditions affect your electric bill that you may not be aware of. Luckily for GELD ratepayers, the management team constantly monitors these power markets and purchases power in advance—months and years before it is needed to help with these variable energy markets.