

The Power Cost Adjustment has been Reinstated

Beginning with the December 31, 2020 bill, there is a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) of \$0.0025 added as a separate line item on your GELD electric bill.

The PCA is a way for Groton Electric to recoup the increased generation costs associated with higher fuel prices and power costs. For the winter of 2021, the PCA will be 1/4 cent (\$0.0025) per kilowatt-hour on the December 2020 and March 2021 bills and 3/4 cent (\$0.0075) per kilowatt-hour on the January and February 2021 bills. Compared to last year, this charge has been reduced by half for the December and March bills and reduced by 25% for the January and February bills. The Light Board has also committed to reviewing this charge at the January 2021 Board meeting. If there is a mild winter occurring at that point, the February and March charges may be reduced.

One of the reasons for this cost increase is that New England has inadequate natural gas pipeline infrastructure. By law, natural gas must be reserved for residential heating before it can be used for electric generation. This is a good thing because nobody wants to see residential customers who rely on natural gas for heating to have to deal with frozen pipes in the winter. However, when it is cold, there is not an adequate supply of natural gas in New England so the electric generators in New England must switch to diesel fuel to generate electricity. This is substantially more expensive (and more carbon emitting) than burning natural gas to generate electricity.



Some of you may have read that natural gas is plentiful and inexpensive in the United States which confuses you about our winter PCA. Outside of New England it is true that natural gas is plentiful and inexpensive, but for about 10 weeks out of the year, the two pipelines that enter New England from the west are at full capacity and cannot transport the additional gas supplies that are needed to fuel the electric generating plants.

When these two pipelines are full, New England pays a substantial premium for natural gas. While at the same time, natural gas is extracted in western Pennsylvania, shipped to Louisiana where it is liquefied and loaded on to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tankers and exported to other countries. Due to some convoluted politics and laws, it is actually less expensive to bring LNG to New England from outside the United States than it is to ship it directly from

American LNG export terminals. When the temperature drops, natural gas in New England, becomes the most expensive natural gas in the world—averaging four times the cost in the rest of the United States.

GELD management monitors power prices closely and discusses this topic at their monthly board meetings. You can be assured that GELD ratepayers' best interest is always their top priority.

GELD 2020 Holiday Schedule

December

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve Day: 7:30–11:30 a.m.

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day: closed

Thursday, December 31, New Year's Eve Day: 7:30–11:30 a.m.

January

Friday, January 1, 2021, New Year's Day: closed





It's that time of year again...

GELD trims trees for the safety and reliability of your electric service

The natural beauty in Groton includes the large number of lush trees that line the country roads and cover the landscape. Unfortunately, trees and power lines do not mix. Trees are an important part of our environment. That is why Groton Electric is committed to balancing the importance of trees with the equally important need to provide safe and reliable electricity to the ratepayers of Groton.

To do this, we must control the growth of vegetation around power lines and other energized equipment. Tree limbs that come into contact with power lines are one of the most common causes of both brief and prolonged power outages, especially during storms. When trimming and cutting, we (and GELD's tree-trimming contractor, Northern Tree Service Inc.) follow best recognized and accepted forestry standards; however, we do trim aggressively since we may not return to each area of town for several years.

Our main priority is to eliminate trees or branches that are potential safety hazards. We employ tree-trimming contractors who are also certified arborists—they only remove trees that are or will become a direct threat to our distribution system.

Also, important to note: the trees we remove are within the public utility easement—this easement was specifically designed to allow utilities to mow, trim, or remove branches and trees that may affect the reliability of the electric system.

We set our standards high and we believe it is in the best interest of all customers when we can avoid unnecessary power outages caused by downed trees and overgrowth in the electric lines.

Thank you for your understanding as we work to balance responsible vegetation management and reliable electric service.

Be prepared for emergencies and power outages

Even with the best planning, occasional power outages do occur. Prepare now so you will be ready in a hurry if the unexpected happens.

Make a storm kit with things you will need if the power goes out. Keep enough supplies for at least three days. Include a battery-powered radio and a flashlight, along with a supply of batteries to run them. Also gather non-perishable food, a manual can-opener, bottled water, matches and candles, personal medications, and a first-aid kit. Do not forget baby formula and pet food, if needed.



Also, if you have a SMART HOME, please make sure you have keys to get in (or hidden somewhere) because during outages, electric garage door openers do not work.

You can find detailed information about preparing for the unexpected online at <https://www.fema.gov/> Click on Search on the home page and enter "How to Prepare for Power Outages" to find an in-depth guide to citizen preparedness.