

Rate Changes

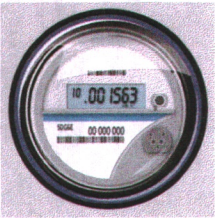
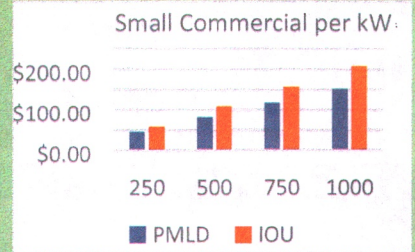
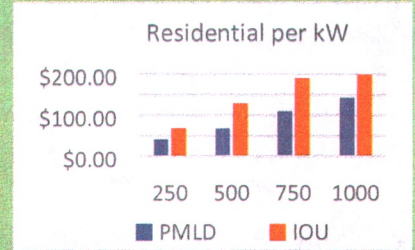
On Tuesday, February 9, 2021, the Paxton Municipal Light Board approved by a vote of 3-0, to implement changes for all customers based on the results of a 2020 cost of service study and rate analysis. Changes will take effect on June 1, 2021 and be rendered in billings on July 1, 2021. The current rates have been in effect since 2008.

The studies found that PMLD's current rate structure no longer supports our actual incurred costs for power, system improvements and updates. Over the past few years, energy costs have steadily declined while capacity and transmission costs have continued to increase on the New England wholesale market. An increasing trend over the last 4 years for electric conservation and solar installations have depressed PMLD's sales creating a significant disparity in our revenue base, which is 95% sales driven. PMLD needs to shift away from a sales driven revenue base in order to better insulate itself from fluctuations in sales.

Key changes to the rate structure:

- Each rate class will receive a \$.01 decrease in its overall per kW charge.
- The customer charge for residential (A & D), residential farm, small business, small business farm, and municipal customers will increase by \$2.50.
- The customer charge for large commercial and industrial customers will increase by \$10.
- Customers with a separate meter for their hot water heater, will be charged a monthly meter fee of \$3.75.
- To better reflect their use and dependence upon our system, residential net metering customers will be charged a monthly Distribution Standby Charge of \$2.50 per kW multiplied by the capacity of the net metering facility.
- For changes to the monthly lease light rate, see the attached flier.

PMLD New Rates vs Major IOU



Important Customer Notice: AMI Meters

This spring, PMLD employees will be in your neighborhood replacing our old electric meters with Automated Meter Infrastructure or AMI meters. Utilizing AMI meters, PMLD will be better able to track and manage customer energy usage, improve data quality, detect power outages, theft and tampering, and improve business operations. Advancing our technology will provide us the flexibility needed to move into the future.

Beware of Scammers

Some types of utility scams:

1. Offers to lower your utility bill. Scammers call to offer a plan to help lower the consumer's electric bill. This will usually include asking the homeowner for account information and/or billing information to "review" the account.
2. Threats to shut off electricity. Scammers will call to threaten that electricity will be shut off unless an overdue payment is made immediately. Consumers will also be directed to call an 800 number to avoid a service interruption. Watch out for messages that urge consumers to act fast, "This is an urgent public service announcement regarding your electricity bill."
3. Federal program assistance. The call will usually say the consumer is eligible for a reduced rate due to a federal program.
4. Report you have overpaid on your bill and owed a refund. To obtain the refund, you must give the caller certain bank account information.



What to do:

1. If you are threatened with immediate disconnection of electric service, hang up the phone or close the door. PMLD sends out disconnection notices in advance. We will never call or send a representative to your door with threats of immediate termination.
2. If you suspect an electric utility scam, call PMLD at 508-756-9508. Do not use any numbers provided by the caller.

Residential Solar

Many people have been receiving solicitations from solar companies. A few things to consider:

- ❖ You first need permission from PMLD to connect to our system. Before putting a down payment on a solar system, please check with us first to see if you would qualify and if so, what would be the maximum size system allowable per your annual usage.
- ❖ PMLD does not allow anyone to install a system that would be larger than their actual usage. The maximum size allowable is 10 kW.
- ❖ PMLD is close to its maximum cap (150 kw) for residential solar installations in town. After reaching the maximum limit, the cap will be reviewed to gauge the effects on the PMLD distribution system.
- ❖ PMLD has 14 customers with solar.

PMLD News:

Retirement: I am both delighted and disheartened to announce the retirement of Matthew Stone. His last working day as a first-class lineman was March 19, 2021.

Matt has been an integral part of our company for the last 25 years. His hard work, commitment, dedication, and strong work ethic are admirable. Matt's knowledge and experience is invaluable and, as such, will make him hard to replace.

As Matt's manager, I have dreaded this day coming, which is why I am happy to announce that Matt will be staying on at PMLD as a part-time consultant.

New Employee: PMLD would like to welcome Derek Peto. Derek was previously employed as a 1st first-class lineman at Holden Municipal Light Department.

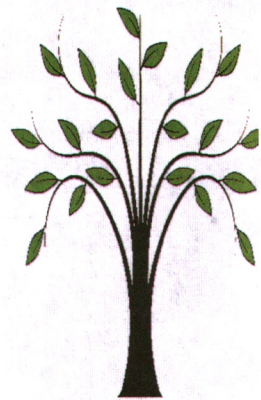
Tree Trimming

Trees enhance the quality of life in our community through aesthetics and keeping the air clean by converting carbon dioxide to oxygen. However, trees and power lines do not mix. Contact between them can cause power outages, fires, and downed lines, while also creating safety hazards for people, wildlife, and the trees themselves. To help keep you safe and to continue to provide reliable service, PMLD carefully prunes trees throughout the town to create minimum safe distance between electric lines and trees.

Private Property

If a tree on private property is identified as a threat to power lines, PMLD employees will either call you, speak with you in person, or provide you with written notification. PMLD is not responsible for trimming or removing trees located on private property. If you are doing tree work on private property near electric service wires, please contact PMLD before starting any work. For your safety, a power line may need to be de-energized, dropped, and/or covered for a period of time.

For questions about tree trimming or for assistance, please contact customer service at 508-756-9508.



PMLD General Information

Customer Service Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:00 am - 4 pm
cs@paxtonlight.com

Payment Options:

- ❖ Online: www.paxtonlight.com
- ❖ By Phone (508) 756-9508
- ❖ Mail: PO Box 812
Reading, MA 01867
- ❖ Dropboxes:
 - Outside PMLD along driveway
 - Carlos Marketplace

Commissioners:

Yvette M. Orell, Chair
Emerson Wheeler, III, Vice Chair
Michael Benoit, Clerk

General Manager:

Tara Rondeau



Energy audits & appliance rebates are available through Munihelps.org or by calling (888) 333-7525 or direct at (413) 308-1311.