

CURRENT

Chicopee Electric Light Customer Newsletter

SPRING 2017

May rate changes will not increase bills

Starting in May 2017, CEL is modifying electric rates to better reflect the cost of serving our customers. **The change in rates will not result in any increase to your bill.**

As costs change over time, they need to be reflected in the proper category. Transmission costs continue to increase year after year due to upgrades on the electric grid by transmission companies. These costs have been recovered in the Purchase Power and Generation rates. You will notice that the Transmission rate has been increased, but the other charges have been decreased by the same amount.

Electric rate comparison for a typical CEL customer who uses 650 kWhs per month

	Old Rate	New Rate
Customer Charge	\$5.60 per month	\$5.60 per month
Distribution/Access Charge	2.970¢ per kWh	2.970¢ per kWh
Transmission Charge	1.408¢ per kWh	2.308¢ per kWh
Generation Charge	7.600¢ per kWh	7.300¢ per kWh
Purchase Power Adjustment	0.600¢ per kWh	0.000¢ per kWh
Hydro Credit	(0.663)¢ per kWh	(0.663)¢ per kWh
Total	11.915¢ per kWh	11.915¢ per kWh
Monthly Cost	\$83.05	\$83.05



Fiorentina Closser

Congratulations to our spring raffle winner

Congratulations to Fiorentina Closser, the lucky winner of our spring gardening basket raffle. CEL staff made the basket and held the raffle to benefit our Chicopee Community Caring Fund.

The fund aids local residents who cannot meet their monthly electric expenses due to financial difficulty. Each customer who visited our lobby and donated \$1 to the fund got a chance to win the basket.

Don't risk a digging disaster

If you're planning a project that includes digging a hole, no matter how small or large, don't start before calling Dig Safe at 811 to learn what's buried beneath your property.

Dig Safe will notify participating utilities to mark the locations of underground equipment – things like gas and electric lines, water pipes, cable connections and telephone wires.

This service is FREE to you and required by law. One quick call could save you from financial loss, injury, or even death.

Don't think a small hole won't matter. Even simple projects such as installing a mailbox, planting small trees or shrubs, or putting in a new fence could all result in digging disasters. Call 811 a few days before you want to start. It's smart. It's safe. And it's the law.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Rebate reminder

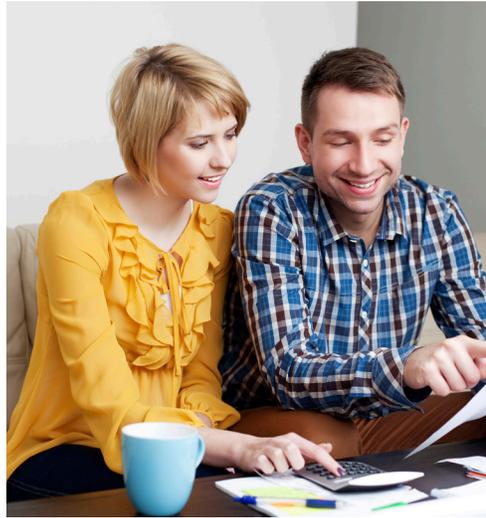
Don't miss the 2017 rebates available to CEL customers who buy certain energy-efficient appliances and/or take the most cost-effective home efficiency measures recommended by our FREE home energy audit. Take advantage of these energy- and money-saving offers. Call 888-333-7525 for details and restrictions.

Budget billing can smooth out your payments

If you'd like to avoid the sudden expense of high electric bills caused by summer air conditioning or winter heating, CEL's budget billing option might be the answer.

Available to our residential customers, budget billing lets you stretch out your total yearly electric costs by paying in 11 equal installments. Either after or during your budget plan, the payment schedule will be reassessed and an adjustment made to account for your actual electric usage.

For more information, or to set up a budget payment schedule, please call Customer Service at 413-594-2400.



Please be "Pole-ite"



Spring is here and with it comes tag, yard and garage sales as well as community events. Unfortunately, a favorite place to post signs is on utility poles.

Remember that posting signs on utility poles violates the local law.

Nails, tacks and staples commonly used to attach these signs create unsafe conditions for utility workers. Our line workers, attempting to repair power lines and equipment during outages, are especially at risk.

Please, be safe and "Pole-ite" – don't nail, tack or staple signs to utility poles. Thank you.

Holiday closing

Monday, May 29
Memorial Day

Tuesday, July 4
Independence Day

What to do if you see a downed line

Overhead lines are so familiar that it can be easy to forget that they can be dangerous. If you see a downed line:

✓ Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous. Stay at least 40 feet away, and call 911 or CEL immediately.

✓ Do NOT assume that all coated, weatherproof or insulated wire is just telephone, television or fiber-optic cable.

✓ While waiting for help, keep people and animals away. Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35-40 feet away. They can also energize nearby objects including fences, water pipes, bushes and trees, and buildings.

✓ Do not touch anything or anyone in contact with a downed power line.

✓ Never try to move a downed power line, even using items that typically do not conduct electricity.

If your vehicle contacts a power line:

✓ If you can safely drive away from the power source, do so. Drive at least three car lengths away (about 40 feet).

✓ If you can't drive, stay where you are. Unless there's a fire or other threat, you're safer inside the vehicle.

✓ Call 911 or honk your horn for help, but wait for professional rescue workers.

✓ Warn others to stay away. Anyone who touches the equipment or ground around the vehicle could be injured.

✓ If you must leave your vehicle, keep your hands at your sides and jump out and away so that you are not touching the vehicle when your feet hit the ground. Keep both feet close together and shuffle away with your feet touching and without picking them up.



General Manager
Jeffrey R. Cady

Commissioners
Robert L. Pajak
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Carl E. Sittard

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