



A newsletter for customers of the South Hadley Electric Light Department



LOCAL CONNECTIONS



Fall 2008



FROM THE MANAGER

Saving the earth during tough times

Saving the earth may not be at the top of everyone's priority list during today's tough economic times. After all, many of us are struggling just to pay the bills and cope with the rising cost of groceries.

But the good news is, a lot of the things you can do to reduce global warming will save money, too. That's because using less energy not only minimizes your carbon footprint on the planet – it also cuts your energy bills.

Even better, you do not need to make substantial investments in exotic technology to make a real difference. You might simply add some attic insulation, choose an Energy Star appliance, or replace a few lights with compact fluorescent bulbs. Small changes add up.

We've dedicated this issue of *Local Connections* to ideas and resources you can use right now to save energy, cut your energy and fuel bills, and help protect the planet. Be sure to take advantage of the special programs for SHELD customers such as free home energy audits. Now, more than ever, it makes sense to get started.

Wayne D. Doerpholz, *SHELD Manager*

Call for free advice and in-home audits

How much insulation does your attic need? SHELD customers can call 888-333-7525 to find out. The number is staffed weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by expert advisors from the Home Energy Loss Prevention Service who can answer all your energy questions.

You can also call the same number to schedule a free home energy audit. Make an appointment, and a professional energy advisor will perform an in-home analysis of your home's energy use, make recommendations, and help you determine which changes make the most sense for you.

SHELD customers may also qualify for incentives to make certain energy-efficient improvements recommended during the audit. You can get more details about the HELPS program at the toll-free number above or online at munihelps.org.



Rebates make it easier to save

If you're in the market for a new appliance, be sure to consider an energy-efficient model with an Energy Star rating. That means your new purchase will use less energy over its lifetime, saving you money and helping the planet.

To make it easier for you to make the efficient choice, SHELD offers rebates of \$25 to \$50 to our residential customers who buy Energy Star-rated clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, room air conditioners and programmable thermostats.

A rebate application form with complete program requirements is available at the SHELD office and online at munihelps.org.



South Hadley Town Hall Connection



Shred and recycle your paper. The South Hadley DPW will host a paper-shredding event on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the DPW yard, 10 Industrial Drive. ProShred Security is generously donating their time and truck for the event, which is open to all residents. All papers will be shredded on-site, and you can even watch your papers destroyed in real time by viewing a monitor inside the truck. All paper from this event will be recycled. Now's the time to clean out all those old cartons and files, protect your identity, and help the environment!

Bigger isn't necessarily better

Many of your most important energy-saving decisions take place at the mall, not at your home. Here are some tips to make smart consumer choices:

- Try to buy products that will last. Durable products save the energy required to make replacements.
- Buy equipment on the basis of initial cost plus operating costs rather than on purchase price alone.
- Don't buy a larger or more powerful piece of equipment than you need. Whether it's a furnace, air conditioner or water heater, make sure its size and power are right for your home.
- When you buy fabrics or garments, choose those that can be washed in cold water and/or require little or no ironing.

Compact bulbs are an easy switch

One of the easiest changes to make around the house that will save energy and help the planet is to replace traditional incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, if every American home replaced just one light bulb with an Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, save more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

CFLs may cost more, but you will definitely save money with them in the long run, and the environmental benefits are significant. You can find them for sale where most bulbs are sold.



Quick Tips

Simple things that make a difference

- Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is going. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter.
- Have your heating system professionally cleaned and serviced at the beginning of the heating season so it operates at peak efficiency.
- Use cold water for laundry instead of hot or warm. It has been estimated that if all the households in the U.S. switched from hot-hot laundry cycles to warm-cold, we could save 100,000 barrels of oil a day.
- Visit our website at sheld.org for more energy-saving ideas and resources.



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413-536-1050
www.sheld.org

Municipal Light Board

Cheryl Scott Nickl, Chair
Rita M. Lawler
Jeffrey Labrecque

Office hours are Monday through Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**In case of a power outage or
other electrical emergency,
call 413-536-1050 anytime.**

Wayne D. Doerpholz, P.E., Manager