



UPDATES FROM SHELD & FIBERSONIC

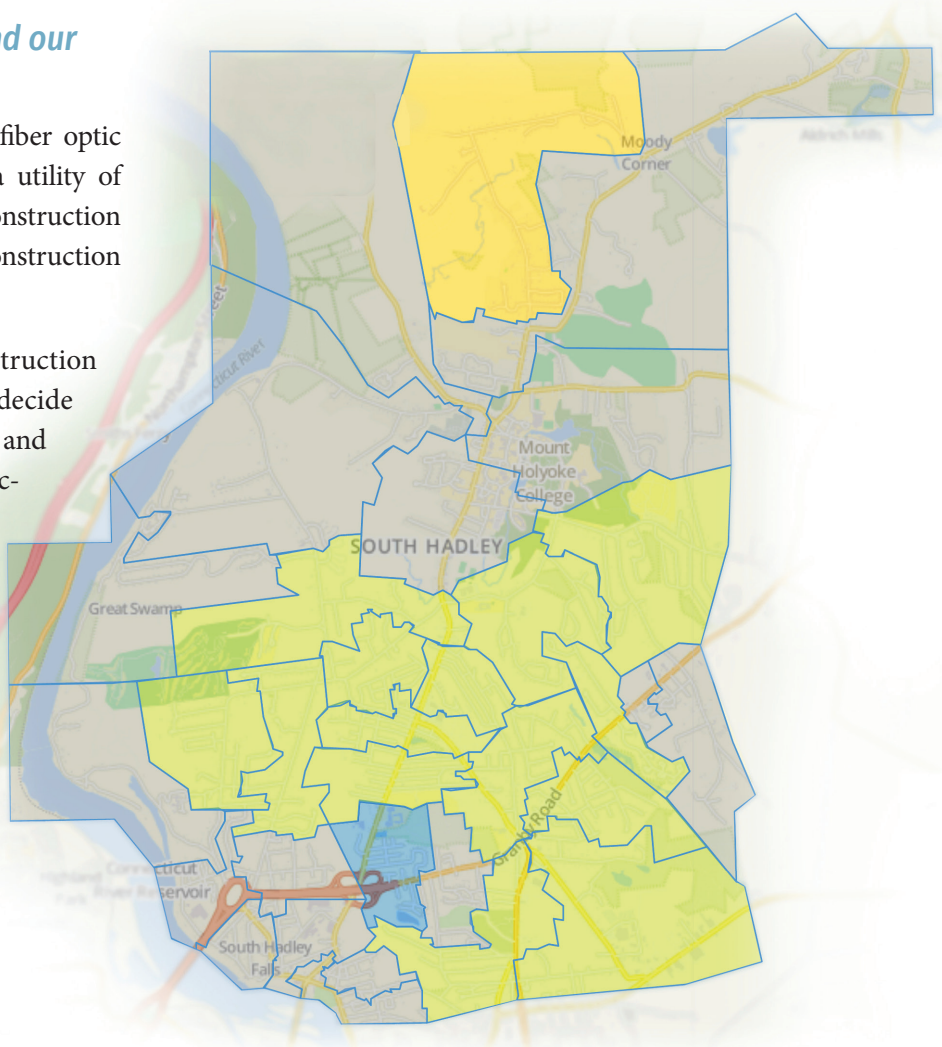
- Fibersonic Expansion Across Town
- Solar Power FAQs

Fibersonic Service: What’s Happening in Your “Fiberhood”

This spring, we will continue to build & expand our service areas throughout town

Constructing the entire town with a completely new fiber optic distribution system is a significant undertaking for a utility of SHELD’s size. Construction is based on interest and construction difficulties. In some areas interest is low, and in others construction is more difficult.

Using SHELD crews to complete much of the construction requires we follow a carefully planned time line. If we decide to increase our use of outside vendors, it will escalate – and likely double – our approved project budget. As a municipal utility, we must act within the budget approved by our entire Municipal Light Board.



STATUS OF “FIBERHOODS” APRIL 2021

Gathering Interest

- Hadley St.
- Spring Meadows
- Amherst Rd.
- Brock Way
- Upper River Rd.
- Lower River Rd.
- West Summit St.
- Summit St.
- School St.
- South St.
- Main St. West
- Hadley Village
- Miller Ave.

Connected

- Pheasant Run
- Pine St.
- Crystal Lane
- Falls Wood
- Berwyn St.
- Roosevelt Ave.
- Boynton Ave.
- Parkview Dr.
- Charon Terr.
- Pine Grove Dr.
- Pitroff Ave.
- Ridge Rd.
- Hollywood St.
- Old Lyman Rd.

Accepting Applications

- Pine Hill Rd.

2021 Construction

- Woodbridge St.
- Shadow Brook Est.
- Silver St.

Nearly 50% of town-wide construction is complete, keeping us ahead of our master schedule. Be sure to visit Fibersonic.com to indicate your interest or to apply for service!



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SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT • 536-1050 • www.SHELD.org

Shining The Light On Solar



Q. Doesn't SHELD need this source of power like Eversource and National Grid?

A. Unlike those companies, SHELD can own shares in generating plants, which allows us to have long-term power contracts, some until 2050. These contracts provide SHELD with stable, low energy rates well into the future. Often, SHELD has more power than we can consume. Eversource and National Grid must purchase 6-month contracts with energy suppliers, and these ever-increasing costs are just passed on to their customers.

Q. Can I install solar panels on my roof?

A. Yes! Since 2011, SHELD has allowed residential and commercial customers to install solar panels on roofs. There are at least 65 installations, including publicly known locations like Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley Public Library, and the town landfill.

Q. When I have contacted solar companies, some have declined because I live in a town with a municipal electric department. Does SHELD allow other companies to work in South Hadley?

A. Yes! SHELD allows any solar company to install systems in South Hadley. In the past three years, nine different solar companies have installed projects in town, so customers should be able to find an installer they can work with if they call around.

Q. If I have solar panels on my roof, will SHELD purchase any power I send back to the electric grid?

A. Yes, SHELD will purchase power sent back to us. The rate of compensation, known as the Distributed Generation Credit, is adjusted each quarter. Rate information can be found on the SHELD website following the "Residential" navigation tab.

Q. How is solar power part of SHELD's overall stance on the environmental impact of energy?

A. SHELD is among the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases of all utilities in Massachusetts. Annually, 90% of SHELD's energy sources are from non-fossil fuel sources. As it stands, SHELD currently exceeds the state proposed 2040 clean energy standard of 80% electricity sold from non-carbon emissions. Throughout the year, there are times when SHELD meets the proposed 2050 goal of net zero emissions. In short, SHELD is among the greenest municipal energy suppliers in the Commonwealth.

Q. Many towns have large solar farms, why doesn't SHELD build one?

A. SHELD strongly supports renewable energy as we have one of the lowest carbon footprints in the state with 90% of our energy sales from non-carbon emitting sources. Adding additional large-scale generation would result in power our customers cannot use; this increases rates. SHELD has focused on providing residential solar rebates which increases solar options without exceeding our energy requirements.