

# LIGHT READING **TMLP** Winter 2018



## Cold Weather Is Coming

### Stay Warm This Winter

Many local residents may be faced with heating bills that are higher than they can afford, regardless of whether they heat their home with oil or natural gas.

While energy conservation is the first thing that should be addressed to help keep energy costs low, TMLP realizes that this may not be enough. As a result, some people may need additional help paying their heating bills this year.

There are several agencies and organizations that may be able to help income-eligible customers this year:

[Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) or fuel assistance, is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and assists low-income individuals and families with the cost of heating their homes during the winter season. The program is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development in conjunction with regional nonprofit and local government organizations, including Citizens For Citizens (CFC), One Taunton Green in Taunton. Households with annual household gross income less than or equal to 60% of the estimated state median income may be eligible.

Citizens For Citizens also administers the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) which is a year-round program designed to help low-income households reduce their heating bills by providing home energy efficiency services. The [Heating Emergency Assistance Retrofit Task Weatherization Assistance Program \(HEARTWAP\)](#), which provides emergency heating system repair and replacement services to homeowners is also administered by Citizens For Citizens. Both the Weatherization program and HEARTWAP are available to residents who qualify for LIHEAP.

For information and income guidelines, call (508) 823-6346 or go to <http://cfcinc.org/> or <https://www.mass.gov/home-energy-assistance-programs>.

TMLP customers who may be having difficulty paying their electric bills this winter, regardless of income, should contact TMLP at 508-824-6976 to discuss payment options.

Additional resources are also available through the following agencies:

TMLP Energy Fund  
c/o St. Vincent DePaul Society  
141 Washington St.  
Taunton, MA 02780  
Telephone (508) 823-6676

Taunton Welfare Office  
21 Spring St.  
Taunton, MA 02780  
Telephone (508) 884-5300

Human Services  
30 Olney St.  
Taunton, MA 02780  
Telephone (508) 821-1420

Salvation Army  
25 Shawmut Road  
Canton, MA  
Telephone (339) 502-5900

Self Help (Raynham Residents Only)  
1362 Main St.  
Brockton, MA  
Telephone (508) 588-5440  
Website: <http://selfhelpinc.org/site/programs-services/>

### TMLP Holiday Hours

TMLP wishes you and yours a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.  
Please note our Holiday Hour Schedule below:

Friday, December 22, 2017 – Offices and Customer Care Center Hours are 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Monday, December 25, 2017 – Offices and Customer Care Center **Closed**

Friday, December 29, 2017 – Offices and Customer Care Center Hours are 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
Wednesday, January 1, 2018 – Offices and Customer Care Center **Closed**

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Email [sonjabritland@tmlp.com](mailto:sonjabritland@tmlp.com) with comments or questions regarding this newsletter.



## Lower Your Energy Bill This Winter

Winter weather has arrived, and whether or not you have already taken steps to lower your cold-weather energy costs, there's still time to stay warm and save additional money. Simple weatherproofing, maintaining or upgrading your appliances, and making a few small lifestyle changes can help both you and the environment.

- Make sure that you bundle up this winter – both indoors and outside! Make it a habit to put on your sweater when you arrive home - you can save on heating costs for every degree you drop your thermostat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range. Unless you have elderly family members or young children in the home, try not to keep your heat above 68 degrees during the day when you're home and around 62 degrees when you're sleeping or away from home for an extended period of time.
- Consider a smart home system that will adjust the thermostat for you. A programmable thermostat can result in significant savings in heating and cooling costs because they lower your energy use by heating your home only when you're there or awake. Smart thermostats can automatically adjust the temperature after you manually set it for the first few days to establish usage patterns and preferences. It can take into account any draftiness or how long it takes your home to get warm. Newer technology will allow you to manage your energy usage and electric consumption from your phone app, too. Before you buy one, or ask for one for your holiday gift, make sure that your home heating system can accommodate the technology.
- If the winter winds reveal drafty windows, it may be too cold to replace them until the spring. You can keep cold air out by putting clear plastic sheeting and/or applying weatherstripping or caulk around drafty windows and doors. Weatherstripping windows and caulking air leaks take only a few hours and have very low material costs, and are among the best ways to lower your winter energy bills. You can also use insulated window coverings, too.
- A big percentage of the home electricity bill balance comes from appliances. If you're looking to buy a holiday gift or for a way to spend a gift card you receive, consider the gift that keeps on giving! Energy Star-qualified dishwashers, washing machines and refrigerators can reduce your consumption --- Energy Star refrigerators use up to 50% less energy than those manufactured just 15 years ago and 15% less than ones without the efficiency rating, and Energy Star washers are 40% more efficient than ones without the Energy Star label. They'll more than pay for themselves in the long run!

**Sign up for a Free Home Energy Audit!  
Call 1-888-772-4242**



[www.tmlp.com](http://www.tmlp.com)

55 Weir Street, P.O. Box 870  
Taunton, MA 02780

**Customer service for electric customers**  
(508) 824-6976

**Outage-related call**  
(508) 824-3111

**Administrative offices**  
(508) 824-5844

**Dig Safe issue**  
(888) 344-7233

**Office hours**  
Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

**Payment locations**  
33 Weir Street  
Our office is open  
Monday through Friday

**Drop boxes**  
33 and 55 Weir Street  
(to the left of the front door)

Trucchi's Supermarket  
53 Tremont Street  
534 County Street

**TMLP Online help desk**  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Commissioners**  
Mark Blackwell Sr., Chairman  
Joseph Martin, Secretary  
Peter Corr

**General Manager**  
Kenneth Goulart