

LIGHT READING **TMLP** Winter 2023



Be Ready For Winter Storms

Be Prepared ... With TMLP's Winter Storm Safety and Storm Preparations Booklet

When and if the TMLP service area is affected by a major winter storm this year, TMLP wants its customers to be prepared by having the necessary information and supplies on hand that will ensure they stay safe before, during, and after the storm.

TMLP has created "Your Guide to Storm Safety" to help customers get ready for any adverse weather conditions. This booklet provides information about what customers should do if the power goes out, including how to report an outage and how to safely use a generator. The booklet also contains information about the steps TMLP takes to restore power so that customers know what to expect if an outage does occur.

In addition, the booklet contains a checklist for essential items to have on hand regardless of whether it's a winter, spring, summer or fall storm, including emergency phone numbers and resources, and how to access local information outlets like cable tv and radio.

"Your Guide to Storm Safety" is available on the TMLP website <http://www.tmlp.com/pdf/StormSafetyBooklet.pdf>. Customers can download the booklet and are advised to keep it with other essential storm-related items in the home. Copies of the booklet can also be obtained by calling TMLP at 508-824-6976.

When the weather gets warmer and as the seasons change, we can encounter storm-related outages in every season, every year. Thinking ahead can give you peace of mind when weather turns threatening, regardless of the season. Make sure to keep it available so you can use it year-round!

Remember...TMLP Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Applications must be in by January 31st

TMLP customers who purchased a qualifying energy efficient ENERGY STAR appliance or other TMLP qualifying energy efficient item between January 1st and December 31st, 2022 must submit their rebate application and accompanying materials by January 31, 2023 to be eligible to receive a rebate. Applications and accompanying documentation received after January 31, 2023, will not be honored for 2022 purchases.

Among the energy efficient items that qualify under TMLP's 2022 appliance rebate program are ENERGY STAR push and walk behind battery lawn mower, rider battery lawn mower, clothes washer, dehumidifier, dishwasher, ductless mini-split heat pump, electric clothes dryer, electric heat pump water heater (i.e.: hybrid electric water heater), ground source heat pump, refrigerator, room air conditioner, programmable thermostat, and smart wi-fi enabled thermostat.

Only ENERGY STAR appliances are eligible for a rebate, and rebates are limited to one ENERGY STAR appliance purchase per household per calendar year, or a maximum of two thermostats. Appliances that may qualify will have the ENERGY STAR logo on the yellow Energy Guide label that is attached to the appliance. A list of qualifying appliances can be obtained at <http://www.energystar.gov/products>, or on the TMLP website www.tmlp.com.

A copy of all sales receipts is required to receive an incentive rebate. To take advantage of the TMLP rebate program, customers must have had an active residential electric account with TMLP for at least six months and have a zero balance (with no arrears) for at least six months. The appliance must be installed at the account location and TMLP reserves the right to inspect the installation on the premises.

Information about the new 2023 TMLP energy efficient appliance rebate program is available on www.tmlp.com under rebates.

Community News

AHS Taunton Early Intervention offers community playgroups for any child 18mos-3 years, and their parents. Your child will receive a Developmental Assessment (covered by insurance or the Department of Public Health) prior to enrollment. Group is FREE regardless of eligibility for Early Intervention services. Call 508-813-4695 if interested.

We're Here To Help

If you need help paying your heating bills this winter, there are many organizations that may be able to help:

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

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

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

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

Department of Transitional Assistance – Taunton Office
21 Spring St.
Taunton, MA 02780
Telephone (508) 884-5300

Salvation Army
25 Shawmut Road
Canton, MA
Telephone (617) 542-5420

Massachusetts also has a statewide information and referral line – Mass 2-1-1- that is available 24-hours a day in more than 140 languages. 2-1-1 connects callers with critical social service programs and organizations in their local community. The service can be reached by dialing 2-1-1 directly from any landline or cell phone in the state. For information about the resources available through Mass2-1-1 visit the website <https://mass211.org>.

Email sonjabritland@tmlp.com with comments or questions regarding this newsletter.



Conservation Is the Best Way To Keep Costs Low this Winter

Approximately 50% of New England's electric supply comes from natural gas, which means that even if you don't have natural gas in your home, you may be affected by the recent disruptions in the global fuel markets. New England's reliance on natural gas will unfortunately present challenges with both the availability and price of natural gas this winter.

Market prices have more than doubled in the past year and TMLP is projecting that they will continue to rise through this winter, even with the diverse mix of power TMLP purchases from suppliers to meet the electric needs of all customers.

Although you may pay more to heat your home this winter, you can keep costs as low as possible by taking a few steps to make sure you're comfortable and keep money in your wallet.

If everyone conserves energy, everyone benefits! Conserving energy means our total electric load is reduced, meaning reduced costs associated with generating and transmitting electricity into our service area.

Try to make the following adjustments:

Turn down the thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter and wear a sweater indoors. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that for every degree you lower the thermostat for a period of at least eight hours, you can cut your heating bill by 1%.

Buy a programmable thermostat to help. Once you set it, it will automatically turn down the heat while you're out for the day or if you're trying to save energy while working from home. Smart thermostats can send a monthly report that lets you see how much energy you're using. You may even be able to take advantage of a TMLP rebate if you upgrade to a programmable or wi-fi thermostat.

Make sure to make your house as tight as possible by sealing up areas where you feel cold air coming in. You can insulate your home with efficient rated insulation, seal drafty doors and windows, and buy energy efficient blinds or window treatments to keep the cold winds at bay.

If you haven't already done so, get a free residential energy audit. A certified auditor will come out to your home to identify energy inefficiencies and make recommendations. You'll get a full report with estimated costs and savings if you take suggested action. You can start by contacting ENE, our energy audit partner, at 888.772.4242.

If you qualify for our House n' Home weatherization program, you'll receive 50% of total material and installation costs, up to \$500, if you implement a qualifying measure such as insulation, air sealing and even energy efficient blinds! For more information about this program, visit www.tmlp.com and click on the Go Green tab at the top. While you're at it, you can check out the other energy saving programs we offer!

Every little bit helps and if we all make a small change in our behavior, together we can conserve energy!

More Winter Energy Tips

Making energy efficient improvements doesn't mean that you'll break your budget, or the bank. Sometimes simple, inexpensive improvements are all you need to keep money in your wallet!

Change your furnace filters ...

You should be changing your furnace filters monthly during the heating season to save energy and money. You can set a reminder each month on your calendar.

... or buy a reusable one

Although they cost more, reusable filters last longer and may even pay for themselves over time. You can just wash the filter at the beginning of each heating season without having to go to the store.

Insulate your pipes

If you live in an older home, check your pipes before the first deep freeze of the season. Pipes that are protected from the cold and wind by insulation are less likely to freeze. Buying and installing insulation around vulnerable pipes is much less expensive than repairing or replacing frozen pipes that have cracked.

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



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 24-Hour Internet Outage Support

508-880-TMLP (8657)

Commissioners

Mark Blackwell Sr.
Peter Corr
Timothy Hebert

General Manager

Kimberly Holmes