

LIGHT READING **TMLP** Summer 2021



Fuel The Future

TMLP Drives Electric

TMLP's Drive Electric program offers rebates to encourage off-peak charging and the purchase of Level 2 fast chargers, as well as incentives to purchase a new or used electric vehicles (EVs).

TMLP customers who are looking to purchase or have already purchased an EV may be eligible for the following EV and/or charger rebates:

- \$450 customer rebate for the purchase of a new or used Electric Vehicle (BEV or PHEV). Rebates applicable only to purchases after March 5, 2019. (Maximum of two rebates per household.) Customers must provide a copy of EV purchase invoice showing payment prior to receiving the new or used car rebate and must provide a copy of registration and TMLP invoice.
- \$10 monthly credit per vehicle when participating in TMLP's off-peak charging program. (Maximum of two EV vehicles per household.)
- \$300 Level 2 Charger purchase and/or installation. (Maximum one Level 2 charger rebate per household.) Projects involving a Level 2 Charger installation must also be completed by licensed electricians and professional licensed contractors.

Rebates are in the form of a credit issued to the customer's active TMLP account and are available until funding has ended. Allow up to eight weeks for processing. TMLP customers may also be eligible for federal and state incentives when available.

2nd Drive Program

TMLP customers looking to purchase a used plug-in EV may be eligible to qualify for an instant \$900 "cash on the hood" rebate on the purchase of an affordable used EV from participating local used car dealers through December 31, 2021. For information about available models of used EVs, visit <https://2nddrive-ev.ene.org/buying-guide/compare-cars>.

For information about the 2nd Drive program and qualification guidelines, visit <https://2nddrive-ev.ene.org/buying-guide/rebates-incentives-vehicles>

For program information, details and qualifications, as well as rebate applications for TMLP Drives Electric rebates and incentives visit www.TMLPdriveselectric.org

How Much Energy Do Your Appliances and Devices Use?

According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), nearly a third of all residential electricity consumption is used for space heating and cooling followed by water heating, lighting and refrigeration.

While these areas account for the majority of residential energy consumption, smaller appliances and devices consume energy throughout the day which also impact monthly electric bills. For example, hair dryers have a high electric load but are used for short periods of time, while ceiling fans have a small electric load but stay on for longer periods of time, yet both have an impact on your electric bill.

Today's electronics and appliances also consume energy when they're turned off because of the small amount of electrical load required to power on the device when you do turn them on. Phone and laptop chargers also use energy when plugged in, even if they're not charging any devices or appliances. This standby power or "phantom load" can add up quickly and can sometimes add more than \$150 each year to the average residential electric bill. Chances are, you'll see phantom load at work when you turn off your lights at night.

To see how much your appliances use, check out our appliance use calculator on our website: www.tmlp.com/electric/resources/appliance-use-calculator.

You'll be able to see how many kilowatt-hours you use to run individual appliances and if it's time to invest in an upgraded, more energy-efficient appliance.

Are Your TMLP Bills Higher Than You Expected?

During the past 15-plus months, TMLP customers have been home more often than in previous years; kids attended school remotely, workers who were able worked from home, and hours were reduced at many retail businesses and restaurants, with many temporarily closed. Now that restrictions have been relaxed and life is slowly returning to normal, some TMLP customers may have noticed their electric bills have remained higher than usual.

There can be a number of factors that are in play.

Days in the billing cycle - Each month, the number of days in the billing cycle changes and can range from 28 to 34 and anywhere in between. The number of days in TMLP's billing cycle is listed on the bill each month. As an example, if your bill was higher in March, as compared to February, it may be because there were 34 days in the March cycle as compared to 28 in February. You may find that the daily average is the same but the bill is higher because of the number of days.

Older and failing appliances - Older appliances, especially hot water heaters and pumps at the end of their life cycle can sometimes fail without the homeowner knowing it. The appliance will continue to draw electricity even though the equipment is not working or working properly. Older refrigerators and washers are usually not energy efficient and can use significant amounts of electricity to keep them running.

Severe weather or temperatures - The weather can also affect electric consumption. An extended cold snap or prolonged summer heat can cause your heating equipment to cycle on and off more frequently using more energy to keep you comfortable.

Lifestyle changes - When you were home, did you do any renovations or upgrade your appliances? Something as small as adding a bread maker to your kitchen or buying new tablets or laptops for the family can make a difference. Even having a college student home during the pandemic rather than away at school can add to the energy usage in your home.

Consider a Virtual Energy Audit - If you want to find the reasons why your bill has risen or remained the same, or where you may be losing energy in your home after you've determined which appliances and devices use the most electricity, consider a virtual energy audit! During the pandemic, TMLP is offering virtual home energy assessments via smartphones and android platforms to residential customers through Energy New England (ENE), in place of a traditional energy assessment performed in the home.

ENE captures the information about the home from the video feature on the smartphone or android phone and energy advisors use the information to help find ways to identify heating, lighting, and weatherization opportunities that can lead to energy savings.

To schedule a virtual energy assessment, complete the online intake form on the ENE website ee.ene.org/energy-assessment, sign up by calling 888-772-4242, or email solutions@ene.org.

Paperless Billing

Looking to reduce the amount of paper that clutters your house each month? TMLP's paperless billing may be the solution you're looking for.

Paperless billing not only lets you review you bill online, but it also gives you an electronic record-keeping system which lets you retrieve your records any time on the TMLP website.

To sign up, visit the bill pay site

<https://ipn2.paymentus.com/cp/tmlp>.

On the main "Accounts" page, you'll see the TMLP accounts associated with your payment site login and a section button associated with each entitled "Paperless?". Simply slide the paperless billing option to "Yes" or "No" to turn paperless billing on or off.

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



Summer Energy Tips

Always keep windows and doors tightly shut when running the air conditioner.

Close air vents in unused rooms if you have central air conditioning, to avoid cooling or heating your unused spaces.

Turn off kitchen or bath exhaust fans when you are done using them.

Use ceiling fans to cool a room instead of the air conditioner.

Set your thermostat to slightly higher temperatures if you have ceiling fans.

Turn your ceiling fan's blades to a counterclockwise direction. This will direct the air downward into the room and create a cooling wind chill effect.

Keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and outside temperatures to a minimum. The bigger the difference, the more energy you'll use.

Increase temperature settings on your air conditioner thermostat when you leave the house to avoid cooling when no one is home.

Better still, turn your air conditioner off entirely every time you leave your house or apartment.

Clean your air conditioner and heater air filters every month.

Check ducts to your heating or cooling equipment for any leaks.

Keep plants at least 12-inches away from our outdoor air conditioning unit to allow sufficient airflow.

To keep your central air conditioner unit working efficiently, clean the outside compressor on a regular basis.

Make an appointment during the summer to have your entire heating system inspected by a professional.

Think about an energy-efficient heat pump to save on heating costs.

Become An E-Smart Kid!

Electrical safety education shouldn't end in June when schools close for the summer! Outdoor activities, especially when electricity is involved, can pose potential hazards during the summer months. That's why TMLP wants all kids to become an e-SMART kid!

Becoming e-SMART means learning about electricity and how to use it safely and wisely on the Kids Corner section of the TMLP website:

<https://e-smartonline.net/tmlp/index.php>.

Kids can play games, watch videos and learn how to stay safe and conserve energy. The site also offers information for educators and parents.

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



www.tmlp.com



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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 am - 4:30 pm

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)

General Manager
Kenneth Goulart

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