

LIGHT LINES

Newsletter of the Sterling Municipal Light Department

April 2019 Edition

General Manager: Sean Hamilton Light Board: Chairman: Joe Curtin; Vice Chairman: Brian Pierce; Clerk: Eric Darlington

General Manager's Report April 2019

Solar Array and Battery Storage Projects Located in Sterling

Energy Storage Project and Community Solar Plus Storage Project Reach Milestone - In March of 2019 the combined savings of the two Battery Storage Projects in Sterling reached over ***\$1,000,000.00*** in savings for the rate payers of Sterling.

In April 2017 we commissioned a ***2mw/3.9mwhr Battery Storage Project***. This project was one of the first in New England. This project gave Sterling the opportunity to become the ***first*** in the country for the most storage watts per customer and is used primarily to lower our transmission costs and provides resiliency to our Police and Dispatch Center.

In April 2018 we commissioned a ***1mw/2mwhrs Battery Storage Project***. This was the ***first*** Community Solar with Battery Storage Project in Massachusetts.

We were able to achieve this milestone by using both ***Battery Storage Projects*** to shed load during peak power periods which lowers our transmission costs and future power obligations. The batteries store power during opportune times when power is more abundant (such as when solar is producing or when market prices are low or even negative), and then discharging the energy during evening hours when the demand is higher and power is more expensive.

Only with the support of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) who operates the batteries daily for us were we able to accomplish this significant milestone.

Solar KWHs - In 2011 we partnered with E.H Perkins and installed our first solar project on Jewett Road and since then an additional three more projects were added in Sterling. These projects combined have produced over ***28,922,724 in kwhrs***. This is enough energy to provide service to all average residential homes in Sterling for a year and half. By producing this solar energy we not only receive low cost energy, but also saved an additional ***\$549,531.00*** in avoided transmission costs.

Navajo Nation Electrification Project - On Saturday April 20th, SMLD Linemen ***Brian Foley*** and ***Ross Peterson*** joined over 150 Linemen from across the country to begin a two-week ***Mutual Aid Program*** in New Mexico. This program will require installation of poles and wires to provide electric service to the over 15,000 homes and over 60,000 residents of the Navajo Nation that have no access to electricity. This program is coordinated through the ***American Public Power Association (APPA)*** and the ***Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA)***. The first phase of this project is expected to take six weeks. Linemen ***Tim Gray*** and ***Brian Provonsil*** will begin their two-week participation in early May. Upon completion, this project will improve the quality of life for the Navajo Nation by providing access to lights, running water and refrigeration. We are proud to participate in this remarkable opportunity.

LED Floodlight Program - In October 2018 we initiated a program to change all of our floodlight fixtures to LED. We expect to complete the project by the end of this year.

Sterling Municipal Light Department, 50 Main Street, Sterling, MA 01564-2129

Telephone: 978-422-8267 Web: www.energysterling.com

Normal Business Hours: Mon– Thurs 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Friday 7:30-11:30a.m. Full 24-hour coverage for power emergencies
Please call 978-422-8267. After normal business hours Sterling Police Dispatch at 978-422-7331.

THE SMLD ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE - Will be held on **Thursday, June 27th, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** at 2 Leominster Road. We hope you can join us for a tour of the Battery Storage Projects, bucket rides, outage demonstrations, hot dogs, snacks and more.

SMLD Annual Senior Safety Program - On April 25th we held our annual Senior Safety Seminar followed by a pizza luncheon at the Sterling Senior Center. Our safety specialist Ray Gouley gave a presentation on many electrical issues including electrical safety, identification of overloaded circuits and extension cords, safety around overhead wires and the importance of calling Dig Safe and phone scams. Ray's demonstration included artifacts from actual electrical fires or accidents. We also offer an Electrical Safety Program to the elementary students at the Chocksett School. These programs offer safety awareness and are well received by our seniors, students and community.

From Our Operations Department - Over the last few months the SMLD Line Crew has completed the Reconductor Project along Route 140 from North Oakdale Cutoff to Four Sons Way, Woodside Drive and Glendale Avenue. The newly covered conductor in these areas will help in the efforts of reducing wildlife and vegetation contact outages. We also reconducted many other small sections of bare copper for new cover tree-wire cable. Since January, we set 11 poles and removed 35 double poles. We also removed 10,349 feet of bare overhead primary copper cable and installed 11,770 feet of new covered overhead primary cable. We are currently working on upgrading the overhead primary cable and infrastructure for Riverview Road and are eliminating the current bare copper primary for covered aluminum cable. This cable helps reduce the amount of wildlife and vegetation contact outages in this area. We will also be adding in two (2) more primary conductors to help with the resiliency for the 3-phase underground infrastructure for Still Water Meadows (Jill Lane). Adding the additional conductors will help in the restoration and repair efforts in this area and the surrounding neighborhoods should there be any issues in this underground system loop.

From Our Customer Service Department - As our Customer Service Department continues to provide you with the best possible service, we would like to make you aware of some services that the SMLD offers.

- **Customer Payment and Usage Portals**
- **Budget Plan Options**
- **Several Payment Options Including Free ACH Payments**
- **Paperless Billing**
- **Free Home Energy Audits – Call 888-333-7525 to schedule an appointment**
- **REBATES: Energy Star Appliances / Wi-Fi Thermostats / Pool Pump / Central Air / Ductless Mini Split Heat Pump / Air Sources Heat Pump**
- **Vehicle Rebates on the Chevy Bolt and the Nissan Leaf**
- **Sponsor of the Neighbor-To-Neighbor Fund (Call or email us for sign up)**

Visit the customer portal at www.energysterling.com or call our office at **978-422-8267** to update contact information on your account such as phone numbers, email address or other.

For your safety before you dig call **Dig Safe at 811** to make sure you avoid damaging utility lines.

Residents who rely on **life supporting medical equipment** should contact our office to be put on our Power Priority List. This list is shared with our Police and Fire Departments for follow up in emergency situations.

Important Reminder: The SMLD will not call you to make a payment over the phone. Be aware of scammers. Hang up and call us at 978-422-8267 or after hours call Sterling Dispatch at 978-422-7331.

Wishing you a happy and safe Spring!



Sean Hamilton
General Manager

Public Power
“Owned by the People We Serve”