

# LIGHT LINES

Newsletter of the Sterling Municipal Light Department

August 2019 Edition

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

## General Manager's Report August 2019

### 2 Leominster Road Operations Building Renovations

A renovation project at our Operations Building on 2 Leominster Road is scheduled to begin in mid-September. This project is a result of the continued water problems with the flat roof. Once again, we have an opportunity to work with the Montachusett Vocational Technical School (Monty Tech) to improve our facilities. This project will entail removing the old flat roof, adding a second floor with a pitched roof, adding dormers to expand the office and training spaces and updated bathroom facilities. The SMLD worked with Russ Philpot Corporation on the design and building renovations. Doug Best will be the Project Engineer, and Bill Stuessy, MT Instructor, will direct the interior work that will be completed by the Monty Tech Industrial Class. This project is expected to be fully completed by late spring 2020.

### Smart Energy Power Alliance (SEPA) Energy Storage Report

The *Sterling Municipal Light Department* placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Top 10 Energy Storage Watts-Hours Per Customer and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Top 10 Cumulative Energy Storage Watt-Hours Per Customer in the 2019 Utility Energy Storage Report from the Smart Energy Power Alliance (SEPA). This report represents over 82 million customers and accounts for 56% of all customer accounts throughout the U.S. See graphs below.

Table 2: Top 10 Utilities by Annual Energy Storage  
Watt-Hours Per Customer (Wh/C)

1	Kauai Island Utility Cooperative	Hawaii	3,037.6
2	Sterling Municipal Light Department	Massachusetts	523.1
3	City of Holyoke	Massachusetts	341.6
4	Braintree Electric Light Department	Massachusetts	240.5
5	Connexus Energy	Minnesota	226.8
6	United Power, Inc.	Colorado	218.9
7	Hawaii Electric Light Company	Hawaii	95.2
8	Hawaiian Electric Company	Hawaii	76.3
9	Green Mountain Power Corporation	Vermont	66.3
10	Randolph Electric Membership Corporation	North Carolina	44.0

Table 9: Top 10 Utilities by Cumulative Energy Storage  
Watt-Hours Per Customer (Wh/C)

1	Kauai Island Utility Cooperative	Hawaii	5,036.0
2	Village of Minster	Ohio	1,997.3
3	Sterling Municipal Light Department	Massachusetts	1,543.3
4	American Samoa Power Authority	American Samoa	576.3
5	City of Holyoke	Massachusetts	344.9
6	Glasgow Electric Plant Board	Kentucky	244.4
7	Braintree Electric Light Department	Massachusetts	240.5
8	Connexus Energy	Minnesota	226.8
9	United Power, Inc.	Colorado	221.1
10	San Diego Gas & Electric	California	164.4

### Solar Array and Battery Storage Projects Located in Sterling

**Energy Storage Project and Community Solar Plus Storage Project** - In June of 2019 the combined two (2) battery storage projects in Sterling reached over **\$1,100,000 in savings** for the rate payers of Sterling. This was accomplished by using the batteries to shed load during peak power periods, lowering our transmission costs and future power obligations. The batteries are operated by our joint action agency Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) based on peak load forecast and market conditions.

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

Telephone: 978-422-8267 Web: [www.energysterling.com](http://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.

**Power Portfolio** - In July we paid off our debt with the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. This will leave the SMLD with only the remaining debt for our part-ownership in the Berkshire I and II Wind Projects located on Brodie Mountain and our small percentage ownership of the Peabody Peaking Plant. The SMLD power portfolio is 72% carbon free (or non-emitting) that includes 32% of Seabrook (large part of our power supply), four (4) solar contracts in Sterling that have produced over 30 million kWhrs to date, three (3) wind contracts and seven (7) hydro contracts.

**From Our Operations Department** - Over the last few months the SMLD Line Crew completed the reconductoring project of Riverview Road and Stillwater Meadows. So far this year, our Line Crew has set 38 poles, removed 69 double poles, removed 14,949' of bare overhead primary copper cable and installed 15,975' of new covered overhead primary cable, removed 1,585' of primary underground cable and installed 4,415' of primary underground cable. We also installed six new capacitor banks to help with the town's load power factor and installed 21 new meters varying in types from Residential, Commercial and Industrial applications. The SMLD Line Crew responded to eight separate broken pole motor vehicle accidents in 2019.

**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.

**Rebate Programs**- If you are planning to install Mini-Split HVAC units please check out our new **Mitsubishi Rebate Program**. Effective September 1, 2019, for a single zone unit, the **SMLD Helps Program** will offer a **\$300.00 rebate** combined with **Mitsubishi's matching rebate of \$300.00** saving you up to **\$600.00**. For a **multi-zone unit**, you can receive a **\$500.00 rebate from the SMLD HELPS Program** and **\$500.00 from Mitsubishi** for a total of **\$1,000.00**. Please check out other appliances that qualify for rebates at [www.munihelps.org](http://www.munihelps.org) or stop by our office.

#### **Payment options and programs**

- **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 us for sign up)**

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

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.

**We always want to remind you that the SMLD will not call you to make a payment over the phone. PLEASE be aware of scammers. Hang up and call us at 978-422-8267 or after hours call Sterling Dispatch at 978-422-7331.**

**Sean Hamilton**  
**General Manager**

**Public Power**  
**“Owned by the People We Serve”**