

LIGHT LINES

Newsletter of the Sterling Municipal Light Department

June 2018 Edition

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

General Manager's Report June 2018

My Apologies. I must first apologize to everyone for the timing issue we encountered with the announcement for the Community Solar Plus Storage Open House that was held on April 17th.

I chose to do a special mailing utilizing our billing software database to generate a notice to all our customers. This was discussed and set up with our bill print processing company two months in advance of the Community Solar event. About a week prior to the announcement going out I learned that there was a misunderstanding with the processing company, as they assumed that this mailing was going to be inserted with the monthly electric bills as we normally do with other correspondence. I made the decision to immediately send out the Community Solar Package in anticipation that everyone would receive it in time for the event. Unfortunately, some customers did not. In retrospect, I probably should have postponed the event, but many of the attendees were from our partner company in this project, Origis Energy, and flying in from California.

This event was held outdoors and exposed the attendees to a very cold spring day with temperatures in the low 30's and a brisk northeast wind. So, for a couple of reasons, including the weather conditions and lack of notice for the April 17th event, I would like to offer everyone another opportunity to visit the Community Solar Project at the RockBreakers Building. In addition to this project we will include a tour of our award-winning Battery Storage Project at our Substation. Both projects are located on Chocksett Road. These tours will be scheduled during our Open House on June 28th between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in taking part in a tour of these projects, please contact our office at 978-422-8267 to sign up in advance.



Solar Array and Battery Storage at the RockBreakers Building on Chocksett Road



Battery Storage at the Substation on Chocksett Road

Please visit our website for more information on these projects and be sure to watch a video at <http://bit.ly/CEG-Sterling> on Sterling's Battery Storage Project.

Community Solar Plus Storage Project - In April, we commissioned our 1 MW Solar with 1MW/2 MWhrs of storage. This project was developed with no environmental impact by utilizing the roof top of the LKQ building located on Chocksett Road. The solar project was formed in partnership under a purchase power agreement with Origis Energy and RockBreakers, LLC that is owned by Vincent Campobasso of Sterling. This solar venture gives residents the opportunity to share in solar power that is produced right here in Sterling. Only customers in Residential Rate 235 will qualify to sign up for up for the **Community Solar Rate**. This rate will allow you to receive up to 25% of solar based on the energy portion on your bill and the rate will be locked in at \$0.082/kwhr for 25 years. Should the energy cost on the Residential Rate be reduced the Community Solar Rate may also decrease, but not to exceed the floor of \$0.052 per kwhr. Please note that this program is limited by the annual output of the solar array and will be subscribed on a first come, first serve basis. We currently have about 125 subscribers in the program and estimate the capacity to be an additional 275 to 300 customers. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up for the Community Solar Program, please visit our website at www.energysterling.com, email us at customerservice@energysterling.com or simply call our office at 978-422-8267.

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

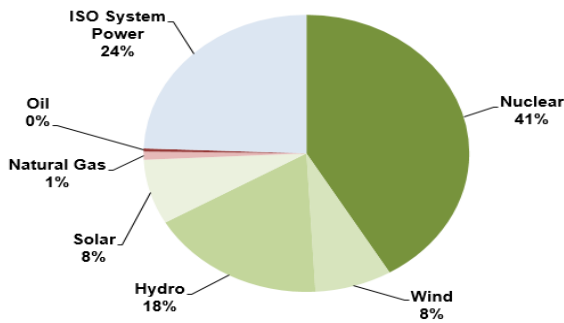
Telephone: 978-422-8267 Web: www.energysterling.com

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

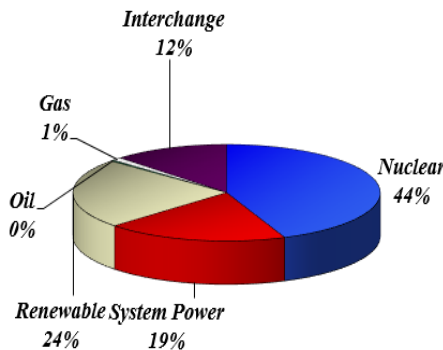
Please call 978-422-8267. After normal business hours Sterling Police Dispatch at 978-422-7331.

SMLD 2017 Historical Energy Portfolio

*Historical Energy Mix
January - December 2017*



*Historical Energy Mix
January - December 2017*



SMLD and ISO System Mix

Nuclear	49%
Hydro	20%
Natural Gas	13%
Solar	8%
Wind	8%
Other Renewables	2%

Our power supply portfolio is 86% carbon free and averages 28.8% from renewable sources. We have contracts with eight hydro, three wind and three solar projects. The three solar facilities located in Sterling total about 4.5mw. They are Davis Farmland on Wiles Road, E.H. Perkins on Jewett Road and MA Solar I, LLC, the new Community Solar Project with Energy Storage on Chocksett Road.

Our Board of Commissioners - On behalf of all of us at the SMLD I would like to take this opportunity to thank Matt Stelmach for his nine years that he served on our Light Board. His leadership and dedication provided a definite impact on our daily operations and special projects. I am pleased to announce that Eric Darlington is a new member on our Board. We look forward to working with him in the future.

RP3 Award - We are proud to display our RP3 Awards in the offices and on the SMLD vehicles. The RP3 logo demonstrates that the SMLD has been recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA) as a diamond member of the organization. This award is exceptional and up from our Platinum award in 2017.

This award is given to Public Power Utilities that demonstrate high proficiency in four key areas:

- **Reliability:** Includes collecting and analyzing reliability data, having a mutual aid agreement, devising and using a system-wide disaster management or emergency response plan, and implementing cyber and physical security.
- **Safety:** Commitment to safety must begin with top management and be included in all aspects of operations from generation to line work. Benchmarking safety metrics, focusing on frontline workers, and implementing rigorous safety training is crucial to the delivery of safe and reliable electricity.
- **Workforce Development:** Discuss how you provide opportunities for staff to network with public power colleagues from across the nation and encourage them to expand their perspective through membership in state, regional, and national committees.
- **System Improvement:** Show participation in research and development programs, procedures to maintain distribution system and financial health with the growth of distributed energy resources, and system planning and improvement projects.

The SMLD is now part of only 254 utilities in the United States that are currently recognized by the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) Program. Many thanks to the SMLD Board of Commissioners for their continued funding and support during the implementation of important programs and to the Operations and Office staff who assisted in the development of the necessary systems that took us to the next platform permitting us to achieve this remarkable reward.

Safety Award - The American Public Power Association (APPA) has recognized the SMLD for a perfect safety record for the sixth year in a row!

Electric Vehicles - Check our website for the latest rebate, tax incentives and off-peak charging rate information for the new Chevy Bolt or Nissan Leaf.

Utility Scam - Scammers continue to make calls to our customers at any time of the day or night, weekday or on weekends identifying themselves as an SMLD employee or from another "utility" and demanding that a payment be made over the phone or the service will be disconnected. **Do not respond or make a payment to this request.** Hang up and call our office at 978-422-8267 (Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 7:30 to 11:30 am) or after hours call the Sterling Police Department at 978-422-7331. Be aware that if anyone stops by your home claiming to be an SMLD employee and you do not have a pre-arranged appointment, **DO NOT LET THEM IN.** All SMLD employees have photo I.D.'s and will only be at your home for a scheduled appointment. Again, call our office or the Sterling Police Department if these incidents occur.

Enjoy your Summer,

Sean Hamilton
General Manager