



Connections

WINTER 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR EASTON UTILITIES CUSTOMERS

Important telephone numbers:

Main switchboard
(410) 822-6110
(Customer service)

Emergencies
(410) 822-6110
(24 hours a day,
7 days a week)

Easton Cable Velocity
(410) 763-9400
(Customer service and technical support)



Easton Utilities
201 N. Washington St.
Easton, MD 21601

www.eastonutilities.com

Energy rates below average to finish out year

The average natural gas energy prices in Easton finished 2015 better than 10% lower than last year and at the lowest level in 13 years. Electric energy prices finished the year averaging 1.2% less than 2014 levels.

“The continued decline in natural gas and electric energy prices is providing a tangible benefit to consumers,” said Hugh E. Grunden, President and CEO of Easton Utilities.

These prices include only the cost of electric and natural gas energy, not the price of their local distribution; the cost of which has not changed. As a not-for-profit utility and communications company, Easton Utilities purchases the electric and natural gas energy and sells it to our customers without any markup.

Mr. Grunden added that Easton Utilities uses an energy hedging policy to purchase a reliable supply of energy that has the added benefit of locking in some of the low prices we are enjoying into the future.

Easton Sustainable Maryland certified

Easton was one of three Mid-Shore municipalities recently certified under Sustainable Maryland for their efforts to make their communities more environmentally friendly. Easton, Cambridge, and Centreville were awarded their certificates at the Maryland Municipal League conference in October.



Tree lighting and holiday parade

Crowds gathered in Thompson Park on December 5 for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. After Mayor Willey and Town Council members lit the tree, Santa arrived in an Easton Utilities bucket truck to pose for pictures with the children. The record crowd enjoyed some caroling until the Easton Holiday parade came by.

Easton Utilities launches Android app

Easton Utilities has launched a free Android app that allows customers to manage their accounts on the go. With the Easton Utilities My Account app, customers can access their accounts, pay bills, view consumption history, report outages and view the outage map. The app is available on Google Play.

“Today’s utility customer wants the flexibility of real-time account management,” said Fred Christie, CIO of Easton Utilities. “Our new Android app and existing iPhone app, gives our customers that ability.”

Winter Tips for Energy Efficiency

The winter months are a peak utility season in this region of the country. The longer colder days mean more heating and lighting loads on your system. To keep costs under control, consider the following:

- * Heat only the rooms you are using. Close off unused rooms.
- * Set your thermostat at the lowest comfortable setting. Try 68°F or lower in the winter.
- * Clean or replace heating filters monthly.
- * Have your heating equipment serviced or checked at least once a year.
- * Be sure that drapes are not blocking vents.
- * Keep drapes open during the day to allow sun in and closed at night to lower your heating costs.
- * Insulate your home and caulk/weather-strip around doors and windows to reduce heating costs. These openings can consume up to 40 percent of your home's heating energy.
- * Seal leaks around wall outlets and switches. Install door "shoes" or "sweeps" to stop air from sneaking in or out under outside doors.
- * Insulate your attic.
- * Make sure your wood burning fireplace damper is closed when not in use to prevent heated air from escaping up the chimney.
- * Wash full loads in your dishwasher and let the dishes air dry, reducing usage by 40 percent.
- * When using the electric range, plan ahead and cook a number of dishes or meals for later use. Open oven doors only when necessary.
- * When buying new appliances, look at the yellow Energy Guide label and buy only energy-efficient appliances.
- * Invest in storm windows or use clear plastic window insulation to help stop cold air from leaking into your house in the winter.
- * Use electric space heaters sparingly – they are expensive to run.

For more information, visit www.eastonutilities.com

Easton Utilities staff plants trees in RTC Park

As part of Easton Utilities' ongoing environmental stewardship efforts, and to demonstrate energy conservation measures, the entire staff of Easton Utilities, along with Easton Utilities Commissioner Rodanthe Hanrahan and Director of Parks and Recreation Lorraine Gould, planted 25 trees in RTC Park in Easton November 2. The trees are a variety of oak, elm, sycamore and cherry.



"Easton Utilities has a long, and proud tradition of environmental stewardship," said Hugh E. Grunden, President and CEO for Easton Utilities. "These trees provide immediate environmental benefits and a legacy for future generations."

Easton Utilities employees mark career milestones

Easton Utilities recently celebrated 10-, 20-, and 30- year service milestones achieved by 15 of its staff members. Bill Heisterhagen, Supervisor of Cable Distribution, reached his 30-year anniversary during the past year. Bo Bryan, Assistant Superintendent of the WWTF, Carl Callahan, Power Plant Mechanic, Lee Dennis, Electrical Designer, Donnie Jones, Power Plant Mechanic, and Pete Welty, Jr., Superintendent of Plant & Interconnection Operations marked 20-year anniversaries. Alan Chance, Operator, Fred Christie, Chief Information Officer, Kevin Colborn, Meter Tech, Marshawn Frazier (not pictured), General Maintenance, Solomon James, Installer Technician, Yvonne Nagel, Credit and Collections Assistant, Aaron Saulsbury, Apprentice Lineman, Jill Sherwood, Staff Accountant, and Rick Wilson (not pictured), Superintendent of Gas marked 10-year anniversaries.



Easton Utilities and Habitat Choptank launch Power Up Easton

Easton Utilities and Habitat for Humanity Choptank have teamed up to help low- and moderate-income homeowners improve energy efficiency and lower their monthly utility bills. Funded by the Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) 2015 EmPower Clean Energy Communities Low to Moderate Income (LMI) grant, the "Power Up Easton" initiative is deploying up to \$170,000 in cost-effective energy efficiency measures that may include air duct sealing, appliance replacement, insulation, HVAC replacement and window replacement. The grant stipulates funds on what may be spent for each home. Currently eight home weatherizations have been completed.

Committed to our Community

In keeping with our mission to enhance the quality of life in our community, Easton Utilities is proud to support many local organizations and events including...

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Talbot Hospice Foundation
Easton Rotary Youth & Community

Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy
UM Shore Regional Health
Talbot Historical Society