



Connections

The Newsletter of Easton Utilities

Winter 2017



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Office Hours

Monday-Friday,
8:00am-4:30pm

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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Easton Utilities Continues Tradition: Branching Out



In keeping with a tradition started in 2008, the employees at Easton Utilities participated in the annual tree planting initiative known as "Branching Out". This year, the team planted 24 trees along Bay Street using a variety of cherry, crepe myrtle and pin oak trees.

The "Branching Out" program is part of Easton Utilities' commitment to environmental stewardship. "Planting trees in our community is an effective way to add natural beauty, prevent pollution and directly benefit our environment," said Hugh E. Grunden, President and CEO of Easton Utilities. Following the initial planting of trees, Easton Utilities maintains them until they take root and can thrive.

Trees offer a variety of benefits in addition to their beauty. Trees are natural air filters as they consume carbon dioxide and provide shade in the summer reducing the need to use air conditioning. Tree roots help to anchor soil in place and prevent erosion. Soil erosion into storm drains contributes to sedimentation in rivers, creeks and the Chesapeake Bay that clouds waters and kills aquatic plant and animal life. Easton Utilities is a member of the Maryland Green Registry, which recognizes sustainable practices aimed at solid waste reduction, recycling, energy efficiency, and renewable energy utilization.

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Life. Made better.™



Did you know?

The cost to produce, transmit, and distribute electricity changes based on how much of the electric system is used in order to keep up with demand. As more people use energy at the same time, additional infrastructure is put to use, which can increase the cost.

Excellent Results for Water

The Lead and Copper Rule was established in 1991 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to minimize lead and copper in drinking water. The rule determined a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) of zero for lead in drinking water and a treatment technique to reduce corrosion of lead and copper within the distribution system. The Safe Drinking Water Act established an Action Level (AL) of 0.015 ppm (parts per million) for lead and 1.3 ppm for copper based on 90th percentile level of required compliance monitoring values.

Easton Utilities recently tested 30 random locations selected and approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The water samples were measured at the customer's taps. The water provided by Easton Utilities achieved the following scores:

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT | MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)

	Amount Allowed	Amount Detected
Lead	0.015 ppm	<0.005 ppm
Copper	1.3 ppm	0.2270 ppm

What do you want in an internet provider?

Customer Service

We are local professionals dedicated to quality service and exceptional tech support.

No Contracts

We give our customers freedom with no contracts, time commitments or early termination fees.

Speed

We offer impressive speeds customized to meet your needs.



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L to R: Paul Moffett, Steve Ochse, Hugh Grunden, Buck Duncan, Bill Stagg, John Horner, Rodanthe Hanrahan, and Angelo Fontanazza.

Easton Utilities Completes Solar Array

Easton Utilities officially commissioned a 2-megawatt solar array, which is now generating clean energy. The solar array is the second source of renewable energy being generated at the Easton Sustainability Campus. The majority of the array was grant funded through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The project began construction in late June and was completed on time and within budget. "The overwhelming support of this project solidifies Easton Utilities' continued movement toward focus on initiatives and programs targeted to resource conservation and protecting the environment," stated Hugh E. Grunden, President and CEO of Easton Utilities.



The solar array will provide 100% of the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Wastewater Treatment Facility's annual electrical consumption and will generate renewable energy credits. Since 2004, standards for Maryland energy companies have been changing and now require their overall portfolio to have a significant percentage of energy from renewable energy sources. "Sourcing the alternative forms of energy locally reduces the amount of energy we purchase off the grid and ultimately saves our customers money," added Grunden. The solar array project allows all Easton residents to benefit from shared renewable energy regardless of housing situation, location and whether a homeowner or renter.

Earlier this year, Easton Utilities completed the installation of a generator to convert methane gas from the Mid-Shore Regional Landfill to electricity. By capturing methane gas and converting it to electricity, Easton Utilities is removing this greenhouse gas which is estimated to have a global warming impact 25 times greater than CO₂.

The Easton Sustainability Campus is an innovative facility comprised of multiple, diverse, renewable energy sources helping to improve both air and water quality through state-of-the-art technology within the local community.

Quick & Easy Winter Energy Tips

Seal up the drafts.

Weatherstripping can save you up to 10% on your total energy bill.

Use electric space heaters sparingly.

They are expensive to run and should be closely monitored.

Heat only the rooms you need.

Close off unused rooms.

Get with the program!

Try a programmable thermostat this heating season.

Keep it cool.

Set your thermostat at the lowest comfortable setting. Try 68° or lower.

Get some sun.

Keep drapes open during the day to allow the sun in and closed at night to keep the warmth in.

Don't forget your "shoes."

Install door "shoes" or "sweeps" to stop air from sneaking under doors.

Employees Mark Career Milestones

Easton Utilities recently celebrated ten, twenty and thirty year service milestones achieved by ten staff members. "These dedicated individuals have talent and experience which makes them an invaluable asset to our organization and our customers," said Hugh E. Grunden, President and CEO of Easton Utilities.



30 Years of Service

Allan Blessing
Ron Haun
Lynn Kline

20 Years of Service

Ted Book

10 Years of Service

Samantha Jeter
Kenneth Marks
Paul Moffett
Larry Smith
Jeff Starkey
Bryan Wilkins

Don't Fall For SCAMS!

Please be aware of scams by phone and online. Easton Utilities does not give away rewards or gift cards. Also, some calls are being made from an Easton Utilities number. Please use caution if anything seems suspicious.

Enroll in the Budget Billing Plan

Spread energy costs out evenly throughout the year by enrolling in the Budget Billing Plan. To learn more, call **410-822-6110** or visit www.eastonutilities.com.

GET CONNECTED!

Follow Easton Utilities to get the latest news and information!

- Outage alerts
- Project updates
- Community news
- Energy tips



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:

YMCA of the Chesapeake
Habitat for Humanity Choptank
American Cancer Society
Junior Achievement
Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center
Academy Art Museum