Climate Action Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes - 2/11/26

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a public meeting of the CAC was held on February 11th 2026 at 7:00 pm in person at the Select Board Meeting Room and via Zoom (hybrid). A recording of this meeting is available on YouTube.

Committee members attending: Brad Dye (BradD, chair), Brad Hubbard-Nelson (BradHN, clerk), Shelly Karlin, Paul Kirshen, Kathryn Hopkins, Bob Shatten
Other attendees: Wendy Rovelli (Select Board liaison), Megan Zammuto (via zoom), Shannon McAndrew, Mary Steele (zoom), Laura Scott (CMLP), Mark Gailus, Cassidy Yates and William (Bill) Lefebvre (Weston & Sampson).

High level summary (AI): The meeting focused on updates from CMLP regarding their upcoming time-of-day electricity rate rollout in April, and the ongoing climate action plan update, with consultants Cassidy and Bill presenting their approach to reviewing past actions and developing new ones. The group explored ways to engage various community stakeholders and town departments in the planning process, with Mark from TAC offering to bring transportation-related input to future discussions. The conversation ended with approval of January meeting minutes, including the decision to maintain AI-generated high-level summaries in future minutes.

Action items:

- Committee members: Re-read the 2020 Climate Action Plan, and send new “parking lot” ideas to Shannon
- Committee members: List potential stakeholders, their details, and contacts, and send to Shannon
- BradHN: Review and update the Excel tracking document to ensure it's current, incorporating any new information.
- BradD: Reach out to Rebecca Woodward to collect and integrate her mobility research into the tracking spreadsheet
- BradD or Shannon to send out detail input from the 1/6/26 brainstorming meeting
- Cassidy/Bill (consultants): Rework the brainstorming form to incorporate additional ideas from separate documents and add relevant columns, then send to committee for review
- Cassidy/Bill: Send digital version of the sector worksheets to committee members (and Mark/TAC for mobility), with assignment of sectors for review
- Cassidy/Bill: Start developing climate change projections and scenarios for Concord as input for the planning process (timing to be determined)
- Mark (TAC): Bring up the mobility section and related documentation at the next TAC meeting and coordinate TAC feedback

The meeting opened at 7:03 pm.

1. Welcome – comments and announcements
    a. BradHN mentioned a talk by William Moomaw planned by First Parish Environmental Team for early May. He is planning to talk with Moomaw this week about making the talk relevant to the Climate Action Plan.
2. Megan Zammuto - staff report
    a. Excited about $100K MVP Grant awarded by DOER for a seed project to be determined.
    b. Last week Megan, facility manager Russ Karlstad and the procurement team met with asst. Superintendent Bob Conry on ESCO with the schools gas usage and working together with Power Options. Gas prices currently high so not an ideal time to enter a contract.

c. Met with school sustainability coordinator Rebecca Meeks. Productive conversation about how Sunrise group and the Green Team could contribute to Climate Action Planning.
d. SuAsCo climate cooperative, working towards March 25th community meeting, Working on flyers and translation.
    i. MAPC is a leader in the effort
    ii. Kathryn asked about student involvement. One CCHS student is on the steering committee which is meeting tomorrow.

3. CMLP Presentation on Time of Day rates transition. - Laura Scott (Attachment 1).
    a. Starting on 4/1/26, working on this for 10 years.
    b. Current customer rates are based on the usage volumes, which is a disincentive for electrification. However the price CMLP pays varies by time of day, lower cost at night.
    c. Demands at ISO peaks determine transmission and distribution costs.
    d. New rates have higher rates during peak hours (weekdays 3-7pm), lower at off peak and super off peak. Different rates for shoulder months and standard months.
    e. Time of day rates default option, which are designed to be revenue neutral, with an option to Opt out with 4% higher rates than current.
    f. Communication to customers through website, bill insert and special mailings. Refrigerator magnets to remind the times to avoid. Developed rate calculator on website.
    g. BradD asked about why not a higher rate in early morning. Laura explained that the rates balance simplicity with precision.
    h. BradD asked about the process for tracking how it is going and what changes to make.: Laura says they will analyze whether people reduce during the peak, and amount of customer call service needed.
    i. Paul asked about the current special rates for water heating and ETS rate. ETS rate to increase 2% per year to 20 years ETS rate ends. Controlled water heater credit wlll stay. EV miles program ending in March 31.
    j. Bob asked about vehicle to grid. Not part of this effort. Laura also mentioned batteries which currently can't discharge to grid. Other initiatives will make this possible, using SCADA real time monitoring.
    k. Battery payback calculations (estimated 20 years) were made using next years rates, but not letting battery push back. Solar pay back 13 years assuming average size and cost.
    l. Laura said CAC could help as ambassadors, to remind people about how to use TOD, programmable dryers and dishwashers. Not heat pumps or medical devices.
    m. This year CMLP will review what is spent on rebates to align with Climate Aciton Plan

4. Climate Action Plan update: Cassidy and Bill from Weston & SampsonUpdate on actions so far:
    a. Project timeline over 12 months. Community engagement throughout the process, with public meetings in May and September. 4 meetings planned to be with the CAC
    b. Task 1 - they have started going through the 2020 plan and other documents. BradHN's excel summary file was useful.
    c. Discussion of how to engage as a group following open meeting law (OML)
    d. They have taken notes from the Jan 6 brainstorming session to make handouts for different sectors (Attachment 2) of suggested actions and how they would be integrated into the new plan. The committee can help to fill in, with each committee member assigned one or two sectors to focus on.
    e. Paul asked about whether they would consider a range of scenarios (high and low emissions) on future climates, temperature and precipitation. Helpful both for adaptation planning and how strong mitigation efforts should be. Paul said the scenario data is available already to do this.

f. Paul asked about how to balance public meetings together with town departments vs small focused meetings. BradD commented that you need both, that stakeholders may be more candid in some cases in small meetings about what the challenges are, though they also need to be public about what they are committing to.
g. Bob would be interested to see what high and cold temps we have encountered and what CMLP purchase impacts were.
h. BradHN asked about the greenhouse gas inventory, whether a new one was needed for 2025 or 2024. He is currently updating the 2022 inventory using the MAPC tool. Cassidy responded that a new inventory was not needed.
i. BradHN commented that the 2020 plan really was a 5 year plan and the new plan should give visibility through the 25 years to 2050.
j. Shelly asked whether the plan includes demographic projections. They would consider population growth.
k. BradD mentioned the discussions we've had about looking farther into the future and where vulnerabilities are.
l. BradHN commented that the longer term than 5 years can help us plan how to for example retire the gas system, while if we only look at 5 years we dont' get to the longer term planning.
m. BradD suggested including Mark Gailus or Rebecca Woodward on the transportation sector items. Mark said they would discuss it at the next TAC meeting, WIth Stantec a comprehensive transportation plan being developed. Also Public Works together with Stantec is evaluating conditions of roads, sidewalks and a process for taking public input on safety concerns. BradD said he would reach out to Rebecca on the research she had done. A future TAC meeting would be focused on the climate plan update.
n. BradHN asked about whether a Sharepoint drive had been set up yet for viewing shared documents. A process is needed, downloading, marking up and sending to Shannon.
o. Cassidy spoke about stakeholder mapping, who needs to be included. Megan suggested committee members should provide a list stakeholders they are aware of to Shannon.
p. Kathryn asked about frameworks for climate solutions (mentioning Project Drawdown, and En-ROADS). They have used En-ROADS previously.

5. Approval of minutes from January 21. BradD asked about how people felt about the AI summary. Generally that was helpful. Action bullet points should be useful for committee members to know what actions to take. No changes were suggested. Kathryn motion, Paul second, unanimously approved.
6. Public comments
    a. Mark thanked the committee and wants to keep him in the loop.
7. Next meeting on March 18th 7pm.
8. Meeting adjourned at 8:42ppm

Attachments:

1. CMLP Presentation on Time of Day Rates (Laura Scott)
2. Climate Action Plan Sector sheets.

Transitioning to Time-of-Day Electric Rates

A customer-focused update from
your Municipal Light Plant

Current Rate Structure

- Rate increases as total monthly use increases
- Same price regardless of time of day
- Does not reflect modern grid costs

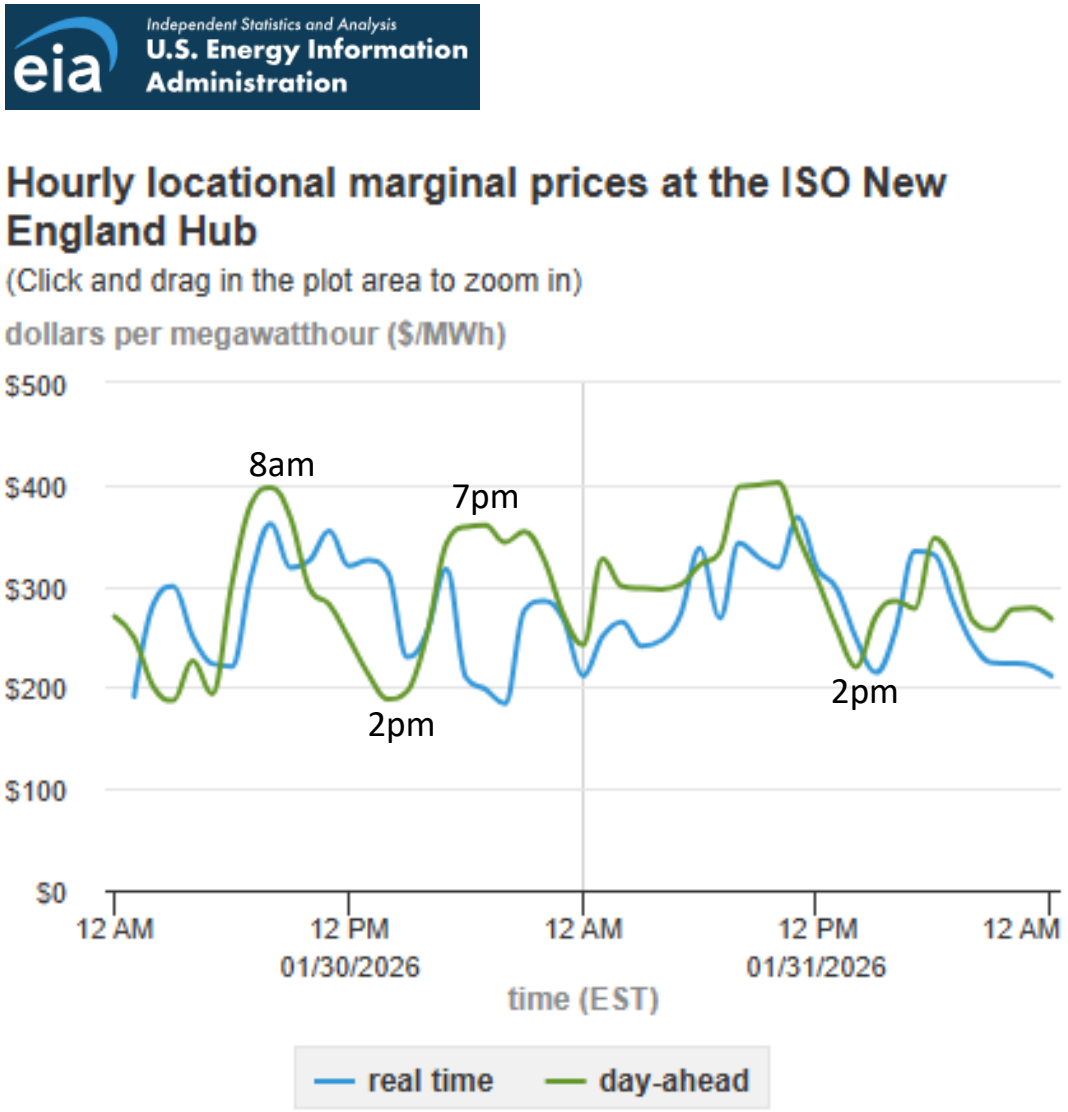
Description: ELE

Readings		Meter	kWh
Previous	Present	Multiplier	Usage
18339	19339	1.0	1,000

st Factor	1,000 kWh @ -0.004	-$4.00
harge		$20.00
Credit PHEV		-$5.00
und Surcharge		$3.43
y And Transmission	657 kWh @ 0.05619	$36.92
	178 kWh @ 0.06928	$12.33
	165 kWh @ 0.09445	$15.58
oution Charge	1,000 kWh @ 0.06561	$65.61
rgy Charge	1,000 kWh @ 0.08393	$83.93
PA Power Cost Adjustment	75 kWh @ -0.025	-$1.88
	925 kWh @ 0.00	$0.00
Electric Service Subtotal		$226.92

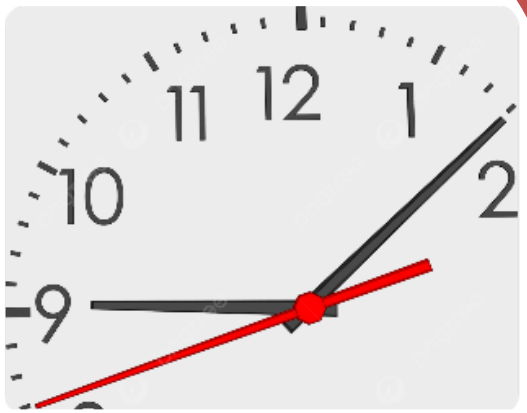
Why Rates Are Changing

- Electricity costs vary by time of day
- Peak demand drives system costs
- Solar, EVs, and heat pumps change usage patterns

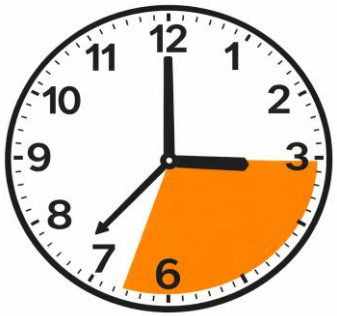


Time of Day 4/1/2026

New Structure: Time-of-Day Rates

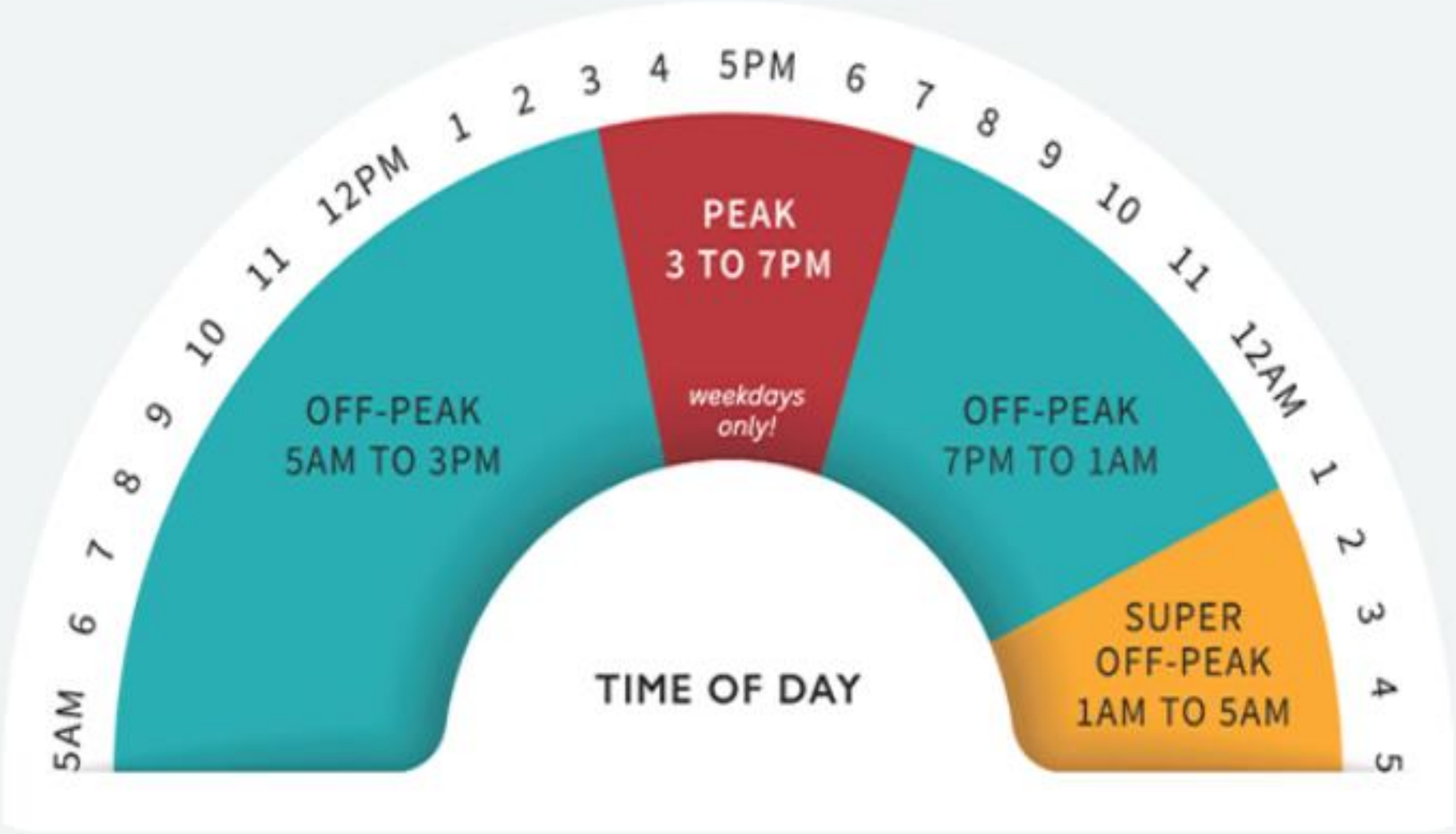


Prices vary by time of day



Higher-cost during peak demand hours

Lower-cost periods overnight



Peak Hours: Weekdays 3–7 PM → higher rate

Super Off-Peak Hours: Every day 1–5 AM → lowest rate

Off-Peak Hours: All other hours → lower rate

Residential Rate Transition April 2026

R-1 → TOD

- $0.20573/kWh first 657 kWh/month
- $0.21882/kWh next 178 kWh/month
- $0.24399/kWh usage > 835 kWh/month

Standard Months: Jan, Feb, May–Sep, Dec

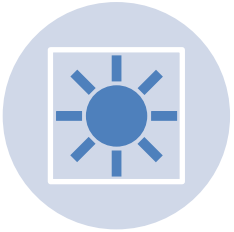
- Super Off-Peak (1–5 a.m.): $0.20117/kWh
- Off-Peak: $0.20432/kWh
- On-Peak (3–7 p.m. weekdays): $0.30315/kWh

Shoulder Months: Mar, Apr, Oct, Nov

- Super Off-Peak (1–5 a.m.): $0.19644/kWh
- Off-Peak: $0.20230/kWh
- On-Peak (3–7 p.m. weekdays): $0.25379/kWh

What This Means for Customers

Opportunities to save by shifting flexible usage



Support programs for EVs, heat pumps, and solar

Contributing to a lower carbon future

Fairer allocation of costs

Communication & Education Initiatives

- Bill inserts (“TOD is Coming”)
- Website updates and new web pages
- Social Media and Town News & Notices
- In-person customer sessions and coffee Q&A
- Direct mail, brochures, swag, and postcards
- FAQs

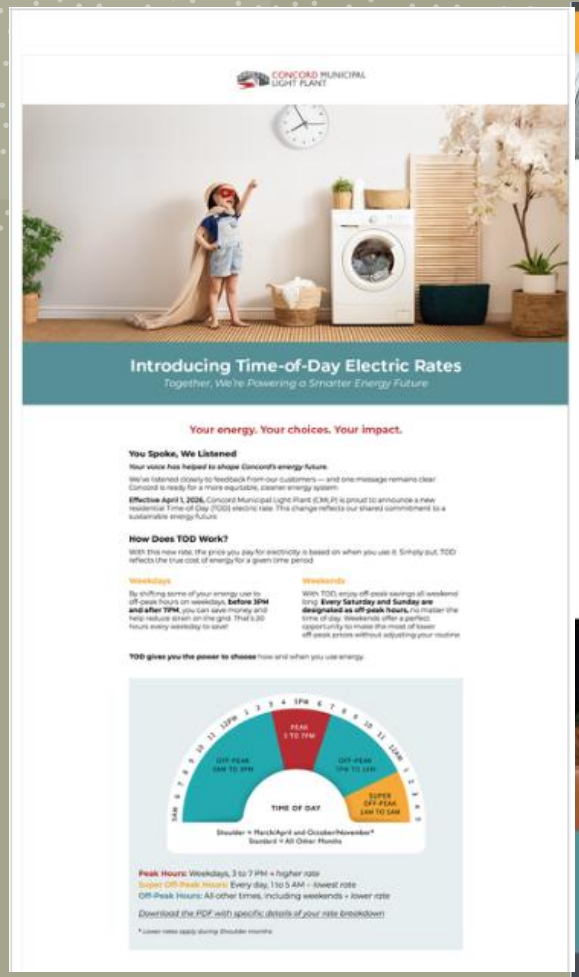
New TOD Landing Page

https://concordma.gov/464/Municipal-Light-Plant

CMLP's TOD Webpage

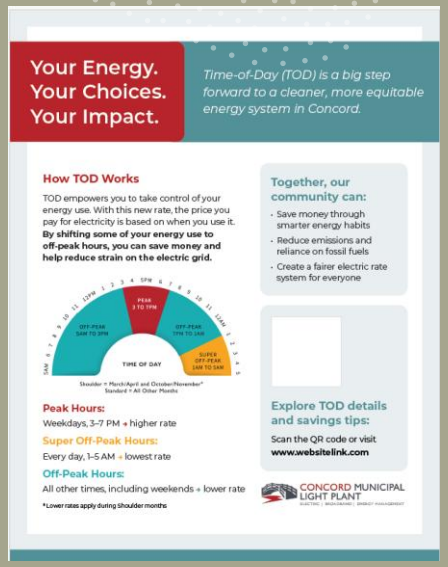
Customer Outreach and Education

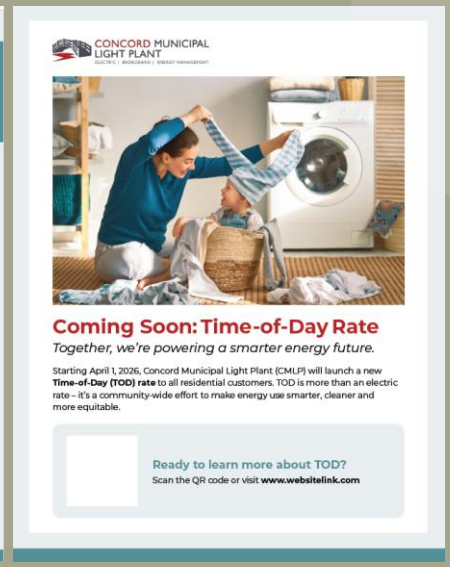
Enhanced landing pages with easy-to-understand videos and information to guide customers through upcoming rate changes.



Customer Outreach and Education

Leading up to April 1, customers will find important updates included in their monthly bills and information within the SmartHub.





Customer Outreach and Education

Winter Peak Period:	7-9 AM M-F
Winter Mid-Peak Periods:	5 AM-7 AM, 9 AM-10 PM M-F

Select your average kWh/month: 1000

Check the boxes below to see how using certain high-wattage appliances during the peak and mid-peak time-of-use periods above will affect your monthly bill. You can also adjust the "baseline" kW usage based on your home's baseline average load during peak and mid-peak periods.

Customers will have access to a calculator to easily estimate their monthly charges

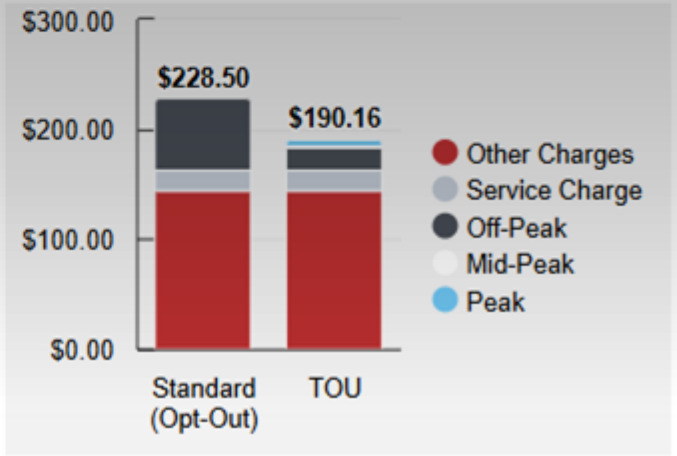
APPLIANCE	LOAD (kW)	PEAK	MID-PEAK
Air Conditioning	2.00	☐	☐
Dishwasher	2.40	☐	☐
Dryer	2.75	☐	☐
Electric Oven	1.75	☐	☐
Electric Range	1.00	☐	☐
Electric Water Heater	4.50	☐	☐
EV Charger (Level 2)	7.20	☐	☐
Hair Dryer	0.38	☐	☐
Heat Pump	2.00	☐	☐
Microwave	0.38	☐	☐
Pool Pump (1.5HP)	0.60	☐	☐
Space Heater	0.75	☐	☐
Strip Heater	5.50	☐	☐
Washing Machine	0.60	☐	☐
Window AC Unit	0.50	☐	☐
Baseline	(specify kW→)	1.50	1.50
	Daily kWh	**1.50**	**1.50**
	Monthly kWh	**32.62**	**32.62**

Note: This calculator is for illustrative purposes only. Monthly kWh total is based on 1 hour of usage per day per appliance, multiplied by an average of 21.75 weekdays per month.

Your Estimated TOU Savings

Standard (Opt-out) residential plan:		
	service charge	$20.00
	usage charge	$64.83
	other charges	$143.67
	total monthly cost	**$228.50**
Time of Use plan:		
	service charge	$20.00
	off-peak usage charge	$19.65
	mid-peak usage charge	$1.96
	peak usage charge	$4.89
	other charges	$143.67
	total monthly cost	**$190.16**
Time of Use savings:		**$38.33**

How your savings stack up:



Powered by NExS

How the Transition Will Work

Education and bill comparisons first

Default Time-of-Day rate with opt-out option

Limited rate changes to once per 12 months


QUESTIONS?

Committee Member Name:

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Shift	To what degree do you feel this should be included in the updated plan?	Ideas for Integration	Justification & Notes	Barriers
	Select from the drop down menu	Select from the drop down menu	Why do you feel that is the best way to integrate?	What challenges may need to be addressed for sucessful implementation?
More specific commercial sector effort				
Increase priority of retrofits				
Ensure/increase equity of electrification to ensure affordability. Work with affordable housing community to use Energy Saver Home Loan program for solar and heat pumps into affordable units				
Encourage smaller dwellings and more natural				
Contractor training and expand incentives				
Promote reuse programs, library of things				
More heat pump campaigns with CMLP				
Missing	**To what degree do you feel this should be included in the updated plan?**	**Ideas for Integration**	**Justification**	**Barriers**
Residential neighborhood electrification project retires gas lines in one or more locations (2030), providing a model for further neighborhood projects				
If geothermal network is installed for the MCI Concord redevelopment (2030), providing heat and cooling to all buildings				
A smaller network geothermal pilot in a neighborhood or housing complex (2028)				
If the geothermal network proves to be viable, replicate throughout Residence C zoning by 2040. Alternatively, managed electrification campaigns to cover these neighborhoods				
Group buying for building measures (solarize for all techs)				
Multi-family housing				
Priority for "green"/low-carbon materials				
Develop anaerobic digestion for WWTP sludge/food waste/farm waste				
Consider a "Skip the Stuff" Bylaw				
Decrease number of homes using outside trash haulers				
Track the Town of Concord's Financed Emissions 1. Look at impacts such as the town's investments in companies that contribute to deforestation, and investments in weapons manufacturing, fossil fuels and other polluting industries. 2. Provide education materials for the citizenry and engage with financial stakeholders for ongoing monitoring				
Townwide curbside compost pickup and better waste management 1. Partner with Acton or another town for swap offs and composting - even waste management 2. How might we leverage incentives and the existing political will to launch composting? Have a position within DPW that manages the entire wastestream and create reporting structures around waste management. We need life cycle analysis?				
Embodied carbon reduction plan				
Additional Ideas		**Ideas for Integration**	**Justification**	**Barriers**

MOBILITY

Shift	To what degree do you feel this should be included in the updated plan?	Ideas for Integration	Justification	Barriers
	Select from the drop down menu	Select from the drop down menu	Why do you feel that is the best way to integrate?	What challenges may need to be addressed for sucessful implementation?
Better indicators of improved accessibility				
Do more to electrify municipal and school fleets				
Public transportation, Acton has reached out for bus connection				
Greater safety for pedestrians				
Lower barriers for EVs and public options				
Biking continues to be more widely used for getting around town:				
Bike connection between Concord Center and West Concord				
Ensure that appropriate Town Staff have expertise in Mobility Planning to prioritize active transportation infrastructure goals				
CMS Bike Connector from BFRT (2027)				

Missing	To what degree do you feel this should be included in the updated plan?	Ideas for Integration	Justification	Barriers
Road safety features (speed bumps, bike lanes, etc.)				
Ensure all metrics are measurable				
MBTA rail electrification and service improved by 2035 (as proposed by CLF): actively support this effort				
Transport hubs outside of Town centers and intra-town transportation option for riders getting to/from MBTA				
Adopt a Vision Zero policy to fully integrate current active transportation goals and plans—from Envision Concord, the CARP, and Complete Streets—into standard practice for all transportation infrastructure projects				
School bus electrification faster or by earlier date (commitment)				

Additional Ideas		Ideas for Integration	Justification	Barriers

ENERGY

Shift	To what degree do you feel this should be included in the updated plan?	Ideas for Integration	Justification	Barriers
	Select from the drop down menu	Select from the drop down menu	Why do you feel that is the best way to integrate?	What challenges may need to be addressed for sucessful implementation?
Clarify reasons to install more PV (despite CMLP's carbon-free supply)				
Calculate impact of RECs and energy purchases to ensure impacts are maximized				
Lay more groundwork for energy storage				
Set goals for CMLP battery storage for 2030 to 2050				
Focus on transmission				
Missing	**To what degree do you feel this should be included in the updated plan?**	**Ideas for Integration**	**Justification**	**Barriers**
Ability for Concord to issue policy statements about federal actions				
More PV for commercial/industrial/institutional				
Expand mission of CMLP to explicitly state GHG goals inclusive of customers (electrification) and build geo districts				
Municipal Solar Policy				
Electrify all municipal facilities by 2035				
Home battery storage: not common or even allowed in most homes; change this and promote battery + solar to work with TOD rates				
Incentivize contractors to install emissions-free heating systems in homes				
Incentivize landlords to install EV chargers at residential properties				
Create a Green GIS property map layer to indicate annual GHG emissions from municipal properties				
Solar at CMS and CCHS (?)				
Commercial solar: Set targets: ? MW by 2030-2050				
Residential solar: Set targets: ? MW by 2030-2050				
Additional Ideas		**Ideas for Integration**	**Justification**	**Barriers**

NATURAL RESOURCES

Shift	To what degree do you feel this should be included in the updated plan?	Ideas for Integration	Justification	Barriers
	Select from the drop down menu	Select from the drop down menu	Why do you feel that is the best way to integrate?	What challenges may need to be addressed for sucessful implementation?
Plan says to maximize biodiversity and resilience resources – needs to be implemented				
Forest management plan – also needs to be implemented 1. Use drone technology to measure acreage and do calculations of carbon storage and sequestration as is piloted in Waltham 2. Measure biodiversity loss and consider solutions such as the deer mitigation efforts, pollinator plants and community and invasive removal. 3. Partner with surrounding towns that connect to our forests and include NRC, audubon or other entities with minimum acreage to propose a comprehensive forest management plan (possibly model after SuAsCo effort?)				
Sustainable landscaping				
Vulnerable resources identification				
Tree canopy				
Water use across full town (wells and town), grey water programs				
Missing	**To what degree do you feel this should be included in the updated plan?**	**Ideas for Integration**	**Justification**	**Justification**
Fund partnerships with nonprofits and others to provide projects like river cleanups and educate broader community				
Focus on issues of long-term – forest health, reducing fires (by 2050) – regional collaboration?				
Deer populations				
Pine dominant forests				
Lack of burns - and safety from wildfires				
Require GHG reductions before cutting trees				
Create seed bank				
Enhance river/wetland habitats				
Additional Ideas		**Ideas for Integration**	**Justification**	**Barriers**

PREPAREDNESS

Shift	To what degree do you feel this should be included in the updated plan?	Ideas for Integration	Justification	Barriers
	Select from the drop down menu	Select from the drop down menu	Why do you feel that is the best way to integrate?	What challenges may need to be addressed for sucessful implementation?
Stormwater – Phase II				
Zoning changes to support tree preservation to reduce flooding				
Elaborate firefighting strategies for wildfires?				
Regional collaboration, such as MVP SuAsCo Project				
Missing	**To what degree do you feel this should be included in the updated plan?**	**Ideas for Integration**	**Justification**	**Justification**
Population projections – future of community				
Where does education of public fit into preparedness? Classes held at COA and/or Library for residents annually. Should be tracked and add initiatives as needed to address areas needing more information shared with community				
Green building materials				
New adaptation and design process that explicitly considers climate uncertainty and risk. Adaptive management – not fixed design standards.				
More underground utilities				
Seed bank creation				
Better understand floor danger from increased precipitation and prepare for it				
Chief Climate Officer position				
Additional Ideas		**Ideas for Integration**	**Justification**	**Barriers**