



**JOIN OUR GOOGLE
GROUP TO CUT THE
SUMMER PEAK**

The summer peak demand season begins June 1, and you can help us hold it down by joining Concord Light's Google Group (CMLP-CAP). Join the group to get an e-mail so you can voluntarily reduce electric use when peak demand is predicted.

Membership increased last summer from 281 to 381, not including links from our members to others. Group members saved Concord more than \$80,000, reducing the 2011 peak by some 2,286 kilowatts – equal to about 4,115 small room air conditioners.

To join, send an e-mail with the subject and body blank to:

Cmlp-cap+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

Town Meeting approves two projects

As you are aware, Town Meeting voters recently authorized bonding for two Concord Light projects, both aimed at keeping our utility reliable and efficient.

The first project will increase the capacity of our Forest Ridge substation by 40% by replacing the substation's three transformers with higher capacity units. An engineering study concluded that replacing the transformers is the most feasible and cost effective way to meet Concord's growing demand for electricity.

The Forest Ridge substation is

particularly important because it is the point at which all electricity enters Concord from the regional power grid.

A separate project will add 7,500 sq. feet of secure storage space to the existing warehouse at our 1175 Elm St. Operations Center. The warehouse is now over capacity, and more secure space is also needed to protect against cable theft, an increasing problem in recent years.

Planning for both projects is now underway.

Keep air conditioner filters clean

Regularly replacing or cleaning your air conditioner filters is the most important maintenance task you can perform to keep your cooling system running efficiently.

Keeping the filter clean can lower an air conditioner's energy consumption by up to 15%, according to the U.S. Department of Energy at energysavers.gov.

Clogged, dirty filters block normal airflow and reduce a system's efficiency significantly. With normal airflow obstructed, air that bypasses the filter may carry dirt directly into the evaporator coil and impair the coil's heat-absorbing capacity.

During the cooling season, you should clean or replace your air conditioning system's filter or filters

every month or two. Filters may need more frequent attention if the air conditioner is in constant use, or is subjected to dirty or dusty conditions.

For central air conditioners, filters are generally located somewhere along the return duct's length. Common filter locations are in walls, ceilings, furnaces, or in the air conditioner itself.

Room air conditioners typically have a filter mounted in the grill that faces into the room. See your equipment manufacturer's guidelines for specific instructions.

For more details on ways to maintain your air conditioning system, as well as other energy-saving information, visit energysavers.gov.



briefs

Call 811 before you dig

Planning a project that includes digging? Before you begin, call Dig Safe at 811 to find out what's buried underground. Make sure any contractors you use call, too. It's smart, it's FREE, and it's the law.

Dig Safe will notify area utilities to mark the locations of underground lines you need to avoid.

Don't think a small project won't matter—buried lines can be located just a few inches below ground, often where you least expect them.

Damaging one could be very costly. Even worse, someone could be seriously hurt.

For more details on how the system works, visit digsafe.com.



UNDERGROUND CONVERSION UPDATE. As part of the ongoing Underground Conversion Project, Concord Light's digging crew is scheduled to work this year in the areas of Belknap, Grant and Elsinore Streets. Work in this area will continue into 2013.

WILLIAMS ROAD SUBSTATION UPGRADE. Plans are underway to convert the Williams Road substation from 4,000 volts to 13,800 volts. This upgrade project will take approximately two years to complete, and will involve a significant amount of overhead equipment replacement in the area from the substation to south of Route 2. Project start date, finalized design, and conversion schedule are pending.



UNDERGROUND WIRING ATTRACTS INTEREST

Concord Light shines at regional meeting



Christopher Roy

Concord's ongoing project to move all utilities in town underground was a key topic at a recent panel discussion on ways to practice environmental stewardship while improving electricity delivery and emergency response.

Christopher Roy, Concord Light's Engineering and Operations Manager, spoke at the event, which was hosted in Darien, CT by the Greenwich League of Women Voters and the Greenwich Tree Conservancy.

Discussion focused on the devastation caused last year by Hurricane Irene and the late October snowstorm that caused widespread damage and power outages throughout New England. As downed trees and branches caused most of the damage, the group explored ways to minimize tree damage during future storms.

Concord's system sparked interest because damage here was relatively limited compared to nearby areas. Trees did not cause problems in much of our community since half of the town's 107 miles of roads have been converted to underground utilities.

"The storms put our system to the test, and the underground areas did not have any problems," Roy said. "It definitely made a difference."

That difference extended to benefit the entire town, he explained. With half the town problem-free during the storms, Concord's crews could focus on the hard-hit overhead areas. This allowed faster response times, which resulted in much shorter outage times for customers who did experience problems.

Concord's enviable position comes after years of working to move utilities underground. The long-term project began in the 1960s with a Town Meeting vote that supported a Light Board initiative. Work is funded by a 2% surcharge on utility bills and will progress, as funds allow, until the entire town has underground wiring.



Concord Municipal
Light Plant
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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