

## OPERATIONS

2011 encompassed some wild weather including a hurricane (Irene) and the Halloween snow storm of October 31st. Rest assured, CMLP is operating at peak efficiency to upgrade and maintain our electrical infrastructure to prevent outages and limit those that are inevitable. In addition to ongoing efforts including underground conversions and tree trimming, past upgrades have included steel supported cable and tree resistant wire. Evidence for the effectiveness of these measures can be derived from Concord's storm response numbers to Irene and the Halloween storm.



While many neighboring communities were without power for several days and in some cases weeks, CMLP restored all affected customers within 12 and 24 hours respectively. During Irene, about 8.5% of our customers lost power and during the severe October snow storm that number jumped to 21.5%. CMLP's investments in tree resistant wire and steel supported cable certainly proved their worth. Only the heaviest trees and broken branches impacted the system, which is what was observed during the storms.

Moving into 2012, CMLP will continue to invest in reliability improvements. We are currently planning infrastructure upgrades to the oldest equipment in Town, primarily located south of Route 2. This will include new poles, transformer replacements, new tree resistant wire, and steady conversion of our 4 kilovolt system to our more reliable 14 kilovolt system. Simultaneously, we will continue to underground areas of Town that have conduit installed from previous years. This includes Whittemore Street, Walden Terrace, Willow Street, Union Street and Fielding Street to name a few.

Furthermore, CMLP is currently evaluating options to upgrade our Forest Ridge substation to meet the future peak electrical demands of the Town. Once all choices have been considered, the most favorable route will be presented at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

## CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Construction achievements for 2011 include:

Designed and installed new underground electrical facilities on Elsinore Street, Grant Street, Belknap Street, Brook Street and Whittemore Street.



- Completed the upgrade of the underground electrical distribution system in the West Concord Business District.
- Completed the installation of approximately 500 street lights per the Town Meeting vote.
- Designed and relocated the electrical distribution system at the Fowler Library as part of the renovation project.

## SOLAR SITING COMMITTEE

Hugh Lauer, Chair  
Dan Gainsboro  
Coleman Hoyt  
Mark Myles  
Emily Wheeler

The Solar Siting Committee was appointed in the winter of 2011 and charged with evaluating municipally-owned land within Concord for the purpose of hosting utility-scale solar installations, with attention to balancing the competing land use needs in the Town, and providing a forum for the discussion of criteria for siting utility-scale solar installations on municipally-owned land in Concord. The Committee specifically decided not to attempt to create a definitive plan but

rather to present its findings for broader discussion within the Town, so that other solar planning efforts can go forward with full information about the alternatives.

The Committee met twice per month from March through September. After brainstorming a comprehensive list of site prioritization and evaluation criteria – physical site characteristics, human and environmental interaction characteristics, and municipal or infrastructure considerations – the Committee established an initial ranking for each Town-owned, non-conservation parcel of five (5) acres or more. In May, the Committee conducted site visits to many of the sites and made revisions to some of the rankings accordingly. In order to simplify the scoring methodology for the parcels, the Committee distilled the detailed list of evaluation criteria into a 5-point scale (A through E) and reassigned each parcel under this system. The A and B rankings identify the most viable parcels for hosting a utility-scale solar array, worthy of further discussion and debate by the Town.

In July, the Committee circulated a draft of its findings, and in September it hosted a “solar open house” at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center during which members of the public were invited to comment. An estimated 70 people attended and provided feedback; all feedback was incorporated into the final report.



*Citizens provide feedback to Solar Siting Committee at September public information meeting at Harvey Wheeler*

The Committee noted that, for various reasons, all of the sites are likely to be controversial. Most of the sites are forested; some have other uses currently or are the subject of other planning efforts in Town; others have stakeholders who prefer that those sites remain as they are. The Committee also found that the suitable municipally-owned parcels are insufficient to meet the Concord Municipal Light Board’s goal of generating 25 MW of power within the Town’s boundaries. The

Committee recommended, in addition to pursuing solar generation on the A and B ranked parcels, that the Town consider purchasing or leasing additional land and that the Planning Board prepare a Solar Bylaw to regulate setbacks, landscaping, lighting and signage for utility-scale solar arrays.

The Committee documented their work, findings and recommendations in a report to the Board of Selectmen dated October 2011. The report is available on the Town’s website: <http://www.concordma.gov>

## COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE



*William Carlezon Gayle Chatlosh, Charlie Parker, Dan Gainsboro, Peter Nobile, Chair; Jill Appel, Anthony Butler, Gordon Brockway, . not pictured: Nick Pappas*

The Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee continues to advance efforts to conserve energy in Town buildings, to understand the Town’s overall energy use patterns both within the government and the community, and to coordinate with Town departments and environmental groups to initiate broad-reaching efforts to reduce energy consumption, promote energy conservation and support renewable energy technology.

### *Sawyer Trust Fund Projects*

Pursuant to its responsibility to advise the Town on energy efficiency projects afforded through the Sawyer Trust Fund, the Committee worked directly with the Town’s Facilities Managers to help facilitate the application process and the implementation of many different projects in 2011. Working with the Facilities Managers, the Committee developed and reviewed sixteen Sawyer Trust Fund applications; all of which were approved, for a total distribution of \$520,341. One noteworthy project includes the design and installation of the