



**LANSING BOARD OF WATER & LIGHT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
November 7, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.  
REO Town Depot - Board of Water & Light Headquarters  
1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48910**

BWL full meeting packets and public notices/agendas are located on the official web site at <https://www.lbwl.com/about-bwl/governance>.

**AGENDA**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comments on Agenda Items

- 1. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023 ..... **TAB 1**
- 2. Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) Programs ..... **TAB 2**
- 3. Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2024 ..... **TAB 3**
- 4. PA 95-How Does It Work for Our Customers ..... **TAB 4**
- 5. Commissioner Handbook for Roles and Responsibilities.....**DISCUSSION**

Other

Adjourn

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 12, 2023**

The Committee of the Whole of the Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL) met at the BWL Headquarters-REO Town Depot located at 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI, on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

Committee of the Whole Chairperson David Price called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked the Corporate Secretary to call the roll.

Present: Commissioners David Price, Beth Graham, Semone James (attending via phone), DeShon Leek, Tony Mullen, Dale Schrader, Tracy Thomas and Sandra Zerkle; Non-Voting Commissioners J.R. Beauboeuf (East Lansing), Brian Pillar (Meridian Township), Robert Worthy (Delta Township)

Absent: None.

The Corporate Secretary declared a quorum.

Chairperson Price welcomed Commissioner Dale Schrader, At Large Commissioner and Commissioner Robert Worthy, representing Delta Township.

**Public Comments**

Michelle McKnight, Lansing, MI, spoke regarding the utility rate increase and service fee coverage that is affecting her business.

Elaine Fischhoff, Lansing, MI, Lansing Mayor’s Advisory Commission on Sustainability spoke on the permit process for solar. She also spoke against BWL adding another gas plant and asked that there be consideration in that 90 credits are received from MISO for a gas plant and only 10 credits for renewables.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** by Commissioner Tracy Thomas, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham, to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of July 11, 2023.

**Action:** Motion carried. The minutes were approved.

**Storm Report**

General Manager (GM) Dick Peffley spoke about the August 2023 storm outages, the service territory impacts, restoration labor, restoration cost, restoration response, and estimating restoration during the outage. Close to 43,000 customers were affected, 45 tree crews and 57 line crews were utilized, the total restoration cost was \$8.7 million, and restoration for more than half of the customers was completed in two days and for most of the remaining customers in six days. The outage map accurately portrayed the service requests throughout the storm response period and restoration was completed in the order that would restore the most customers’ service at a time.

Commissioner Thomas thanked the leadership at BWL for the service during the storm outage.

Commissioner Mullen asked whether the extra weather forecasting service for which BWL is paying is worth it as there was no forecast for the type of storm that occurred. GM Peffley responded that the service is worth it. BWL was given a weather forecast about the storm but at two levels below what occurred and that did not include a tornado. BWL was able to increase their response actions and the request for additional crews. Commissioner Mullen added that he received notification from his cable company regarding cable outage during the storm and asked if BWL could provide that service for utility outages. GM Peffley responded that BWL would check for technology options that are available.

Commissioner Zerkle commented that the preparation for the outage was better than in 2013 and the response and restoration were quicker even though the August storm was worse.

### **Rate Increase Article in the Lansing State Journal**

GM Peffley spoke about the Rate Increase Article in the Lansing State Journal. BWL's first rate strategy was based on BWL providing service as a utility, without subsidization as is required. The first step was to set rates of return; the next step was to evaluate appropriate costs for rate classes; next, the rate strategy for three phases of customers was set. Leadership at BWL is checking into which customers aren't using the amount of energy being charged and a rate transition credit for larger customers.

Chairperson Price requested the timeline for implementing the rate transition credit. Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Shawa responded that after receiving all the data within the next two weeks, the rate transition credit is expected to be completed in 30 days.

Commissioner Mullen asked if there would be retroactive credits. GM Peffley responded that retroactive credits will be checked into.

In response to Commissioner Zerkle inquiring if there are 5,000 customers in phase three, CFO Shawa responded that there are approximately 2,300 customers reclassified from the single phase in the old phase three rate to the midsize phase. Based on the data, the short term solution is to extend the rate transition credit to about a third of those customers.

Commissioner Schrader asked whether it was costly to convert from three phase power in a building to single phase power. GM Peffley responded that it is part of the service for BWL but may cost \$5,000 for the business owner.

### **Resolution Honoring Dusty Horwitt**

Chairperson Price presented the Resolution Honoring Dusty Horwitt and requested the resolution be forwarded to the full Board for consideration.

**Motion** by Commissioner Tony Mullen, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham, to forward the Resolution Honoring Dusty Horwitt as presented to the full Board for consideration.

**Action:** Motion Carried.

### **Outgoing Commissioner Parting Gifts**

Chairperson Price requested input from GM Peffley regarding the requirements for outgoing Commissioners parting gifts. GM Peffley introduced BWL General Counsel, Mark Matus, who stated that there is a city ethics ordinance stating that there is a \$50 maximum and gifts are to be non-monetary.

Commissioner Thomas commented on the same gifts being provided to Commissioners although there were different lengths of service times. Chairperson Price responded that the city ethics ordinance states what can and can't be done no matter the length of service.

Commissioner Mullen asked whether the \$50 maximum applied to individual attendees at a celebratory dinner or to the whole group. Mr. Matus responded that the individual meals would be under the threshold.

### **Annual IT Report-Out**

Vern Myers, BWL Chief Information Officer (CIO) presented the annual IT Report Out. Mr. Myers provided the cyber, infrastructure, and optimization accomplishments from FY2023; and the IT project management office, technical infrastructure, cost optimization, customer satisfaction and employee engagement initiatives for FY2024.

Commissioner Zerkle asked if there is a program in place to safeguard the system following a hacking incident. Mr. Myers responded that there are several cyber security systems in place.

### **Commissioner Safety Training on September 26, 2023**

Ryan Cressman, Health, Safety and Security Manager, summarized the Commissioner Safety Training that will be presented after the September 26, 2023 Board Meeting.

### **Other**

Commissioner Price asked GM Peffley to provide information on the BWL watermain break and boil water advisory. GM Peffley reported that if the pressure drops in the 800 miles pipeline, the seals can allow groundwater to leak in which results in a boil water alert. There was a failure in the pipeline by the Grand River in Delta Township and nearly 20 feet of the pipeline were repaired resulting in the lowering of pressure further down the line.

Commissioner Price announced that the BWL Board of Commissioners will meet with the City of Lansing City Council Committee of the Whole on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 5:30p.m. at the REO Depot building.

Commissioner Mullen announced that a Human Resources Committee meeting will be scheduled for the first or second week in October to interview the Internal Auditor candidates.

### **Excused Absence**

**Motion** by Commissioner Tracy Thomas, **Seconded** by Commissioner Sandra Zerkle for an excused absence for Commissioner Semone James.

**Action:** Motion Carried.

**Adjourn**

Chairperson Price adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
David Price, Chairperson  
Committee of the Whole



# Carbon Neutrality Programs Annual Update

Committee of the Whole  
November 7, 2023

# Energy Waste Reduction Programs

- ▶ As of December 31, 2021, Municipal electric utilities are no longer required to offer Energy Efficiency Programs
- ▶ BWL continues to manage and grow its portfolio of energy waste reduction programs to support our customers, BWL strategy, and carbon reductions
- ▶ In fact, BWL is **increasing its** targets for energy efficiency:
  - 1.25% in 2022; 1.35% in 2023 and 1.5% for 2024-26
- ▶ Program design in place for 2022-26
  - ▶ Currently expanding this plan to include 2027
  - ▶ Current contractor in place through 2024

# Energy Waste Reduction Summary - Calendar Year 2022

2022 Program	Goal - Savings (kwh)	Final Results - Savings (kwh)	Goal - Budget (\$)	Final Results - Budget (\$)
Low Income		440,521		\$353,089
Residential		5,078,396		\$532,593
Business		18,237,832		\$2,082,629
Total Portfolio	22,632,207	23,756,749	\$3,517,822	\$2,968,311
Administration			\$ 300,000	\$ 255,236
Evaluation			\$ 200,000	\$ 220,704
<b>TOTAL</b>	22,632,207	23,756,749	<b>\$4,017,822</b>	<b>\$3,444,251</b>



# Energy Waste Reduction- Residential Programs

- Hometown Help
  - Services for Income Qualified Customers
- High Efficiency/ ENERGY STAR™ Products
  - Lighting
  - Appliances
  - Heating and Cooling (HVAC)
- Appliance Recycling
- Multifamily Services
- Education and Pilot Programs



# Hometown Help Success Stories

*“I want to thank you very much for providing me with the AC unit. Your timing couldn't have been better with this heat wave and high humidity. It works fantastic!*

*I couldn't say enough good things about your program. It makes up for the rising costs of energy.”*

*- Carolyn S., Lansing resident*

*“Your technician was very genuine and went above and beyond to help me save energy.”*

*Beth H., Energy Audit participant*

# Energy Waste Reduction - Business Programs

## ▶ Small Business

- ▶ Enhanced incentives for businesses that meet criteria (number of employees, square footage)
- ▶ For 2023, program exceeded targets by June!

## ▶ Prescriptive Program

- ▶ Lighting, Heating and Cooling incentives

## ▶ Custom Program

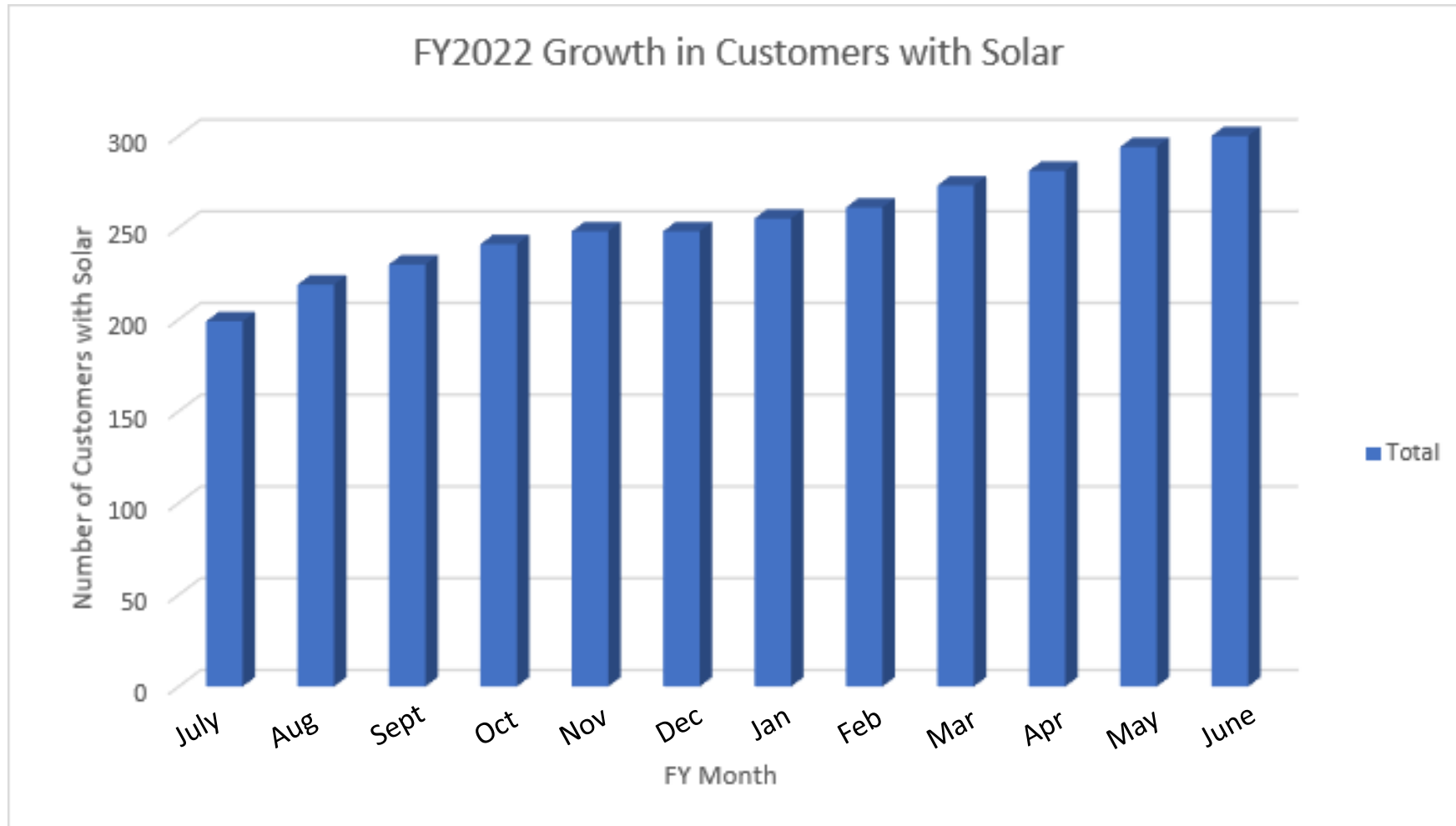
- ▶ Work with the business directly to identify the best options

## ▶ Indoor Agricultural

## ▶ Education and Pilots

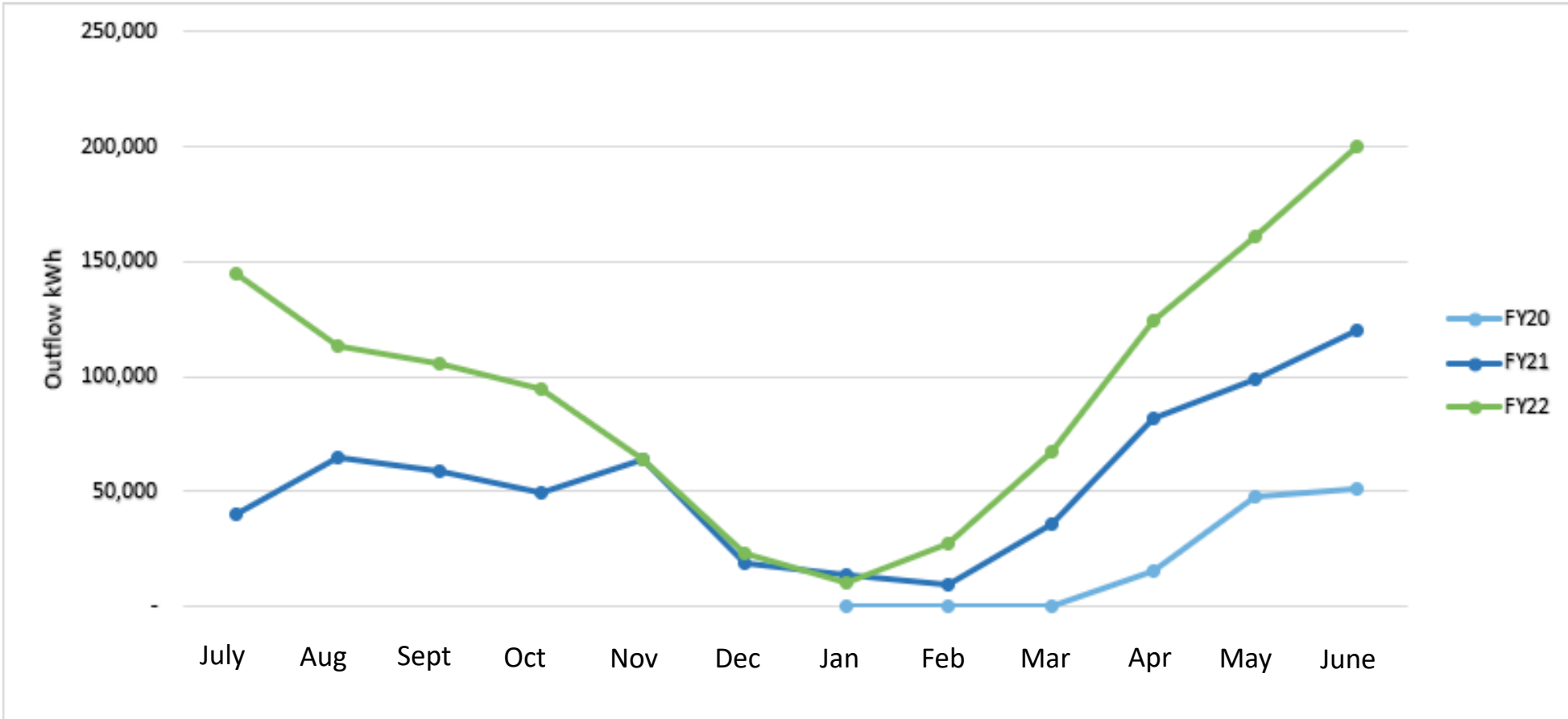


# Install Your Own Solar - Distributed Generation Program



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# Customer Solar Contribution - FY20 - FY22 (kWh)



FY2020 Total: 114,113 kWh  
FY2021 Total kWh: 656,466 kWh  
FY2022 Total kWh: 1,135,815 kWh

# Electric Vehicle Programs

## \$1,000 Rebate Level - Residential

- ▶ Installation of separate meter
- ▶ Meter enrolled in Rate RES22 - Time of Use Rate
- ▶ Hardwired EV chargers

## \$500 Rebate Level - Residential

- ▶ No separate meter required
- ▶ Account enrolled in RESTOU Time of Use Rate
- ▶ Hardwired or portable EV charger

## \$4,500 Rebate Level - Commercial

- ▶ Public or employee charging
- ▶ Rebate available for up to 3 chargers per location
- ▶ Level 2 charging only, no DC fast charging rebates





# Other Carbon Neutrality Program Areas/Focus

- Greenwise Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)
  - BWL will continue to help residential and commercial customers match up to 100% of their energy with a \$0.013/kWh premium
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reporting and Accounting
  - In partnership with Environmental Services, BWL began measuring its Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions across external and internal operations
- Clean Energy Targets
  - BWL achieved its 30% clean energy target by 2020
  - Next target is 50% clean energy (renewables and energy waste reduction) by 2030 - on target
- Upcoming New Programs
  - Community Solar Programs and Demand Response Programs as part of Clean Energy Projects
  - Real Time Energy Use Pilot and Electrification Programs

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Thank you for your time!

Questions?



**RESOLUTION 2023-11-XX**  
**Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2024**

In accordance with the Lansing Board of Water & Light’s Rules of Administrative Procedure, a schedule of dates, places, and times for each regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the calendar year shall be adopted in November.

RESOLVED, that regular meetings of the Lansing Board of Water & Light’s Board of Commissioners are hereby set for calendar year 2024 as follows, unless otherwise notified or as a result of date conflicts with rescheduled City Council meetings:

**2024**  
**Lansing Board of Water & Light Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Board Meeting Schedule**

Tuesday	January 23
Tuesday	March 26
Tuesday	May 28
Tuesday	July 23
Tuesday	September 24
Tuesday	November 19

Meetings will be held in the Lansing Board of Water & Light REO Town Depot located at 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI at 5:30 p.m.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a notice of the meeting schedule shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Ingham County the week of January 1, 2024.

**Motion** by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, **Seconded** by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, to approve the 2024 Regular Board Meeting Schedule at a Board meeting held on November 14, 2023.

**Action:**

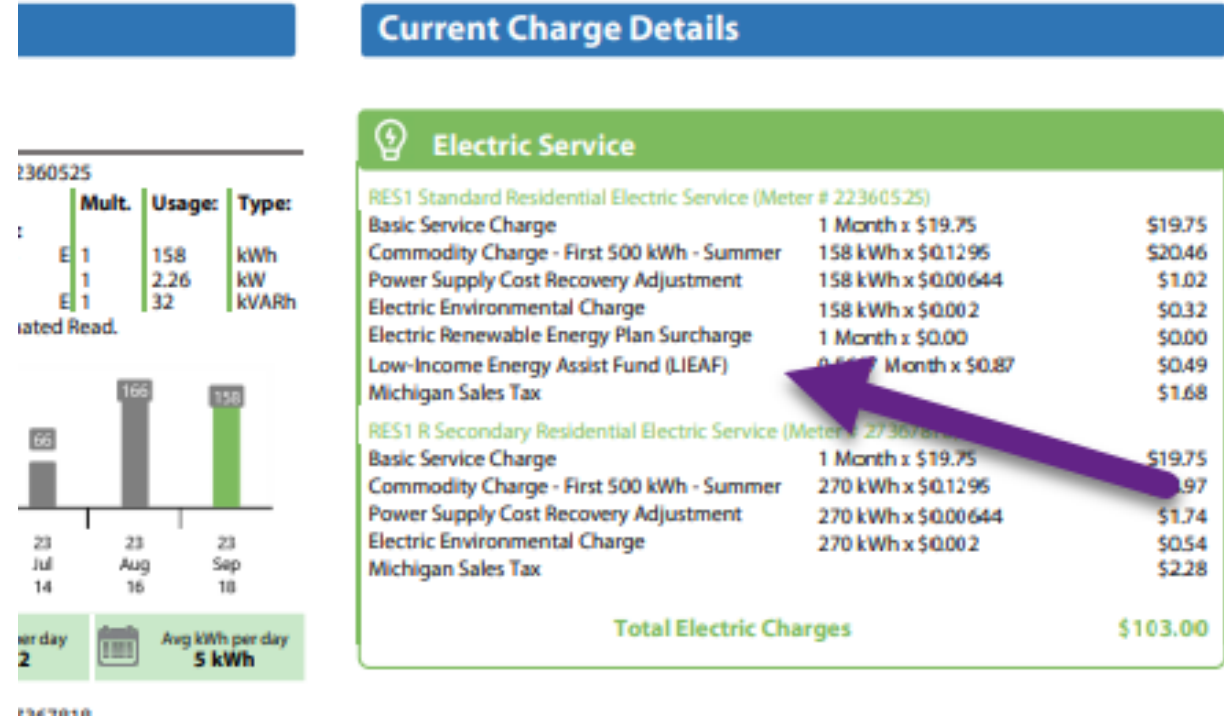


# Committee of the Whole

November 2023

# PA 95 Opt-In

- Opted into PA 95 effective September 1
- LIEAF surcharge of 88 cents on customers bills
- Program helps customers who struggle to pay their bill with up to \$1.1 million in available assistance



# Assistance Programs

Customers are eligible for:

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)



# Reconnection Fees

# BWL Collection Cycle



**Once a Final Notice is sent, the customer may be disconnected 14 days later. A payment of the past due amount or other arrangement should be made before this earliest shut off date.**

Customers have nearly **50 days** from bill print date before they are shut off.

# FY24 Fees and Charges

## Electric

- Reconnection Fee \$60
- Same Day Service Fee (After Hours) \$165

## Water

- Reconnection Fee \$105
- Same Day Service Fee (After Hours) \$200

# Time of Use

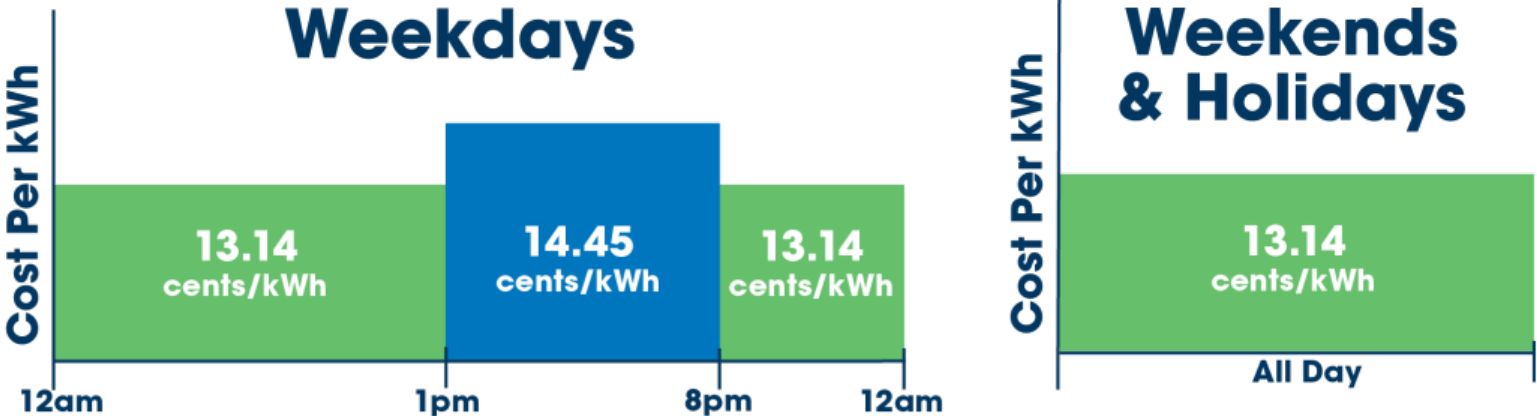


# Standard Residential Electric Service

## Rate - RES1

Valid beginning November 1, 2023

 = Off-Peak RES1     = On-Peak RES1



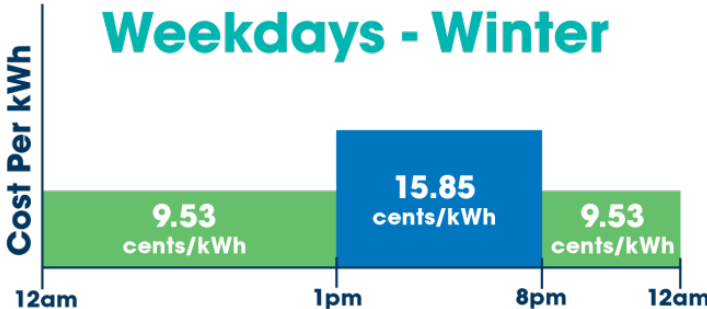
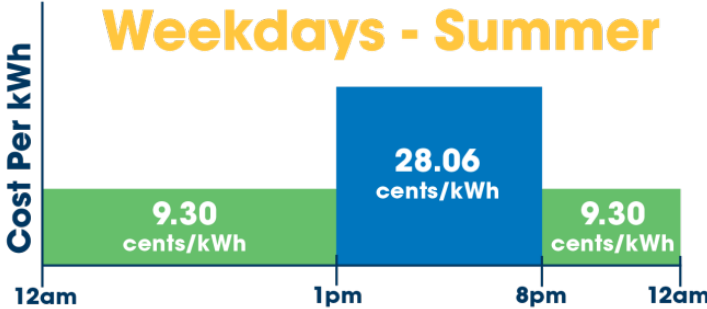
RES1 rates are the same in summer & winter.

# Off-Peak Savers Rate

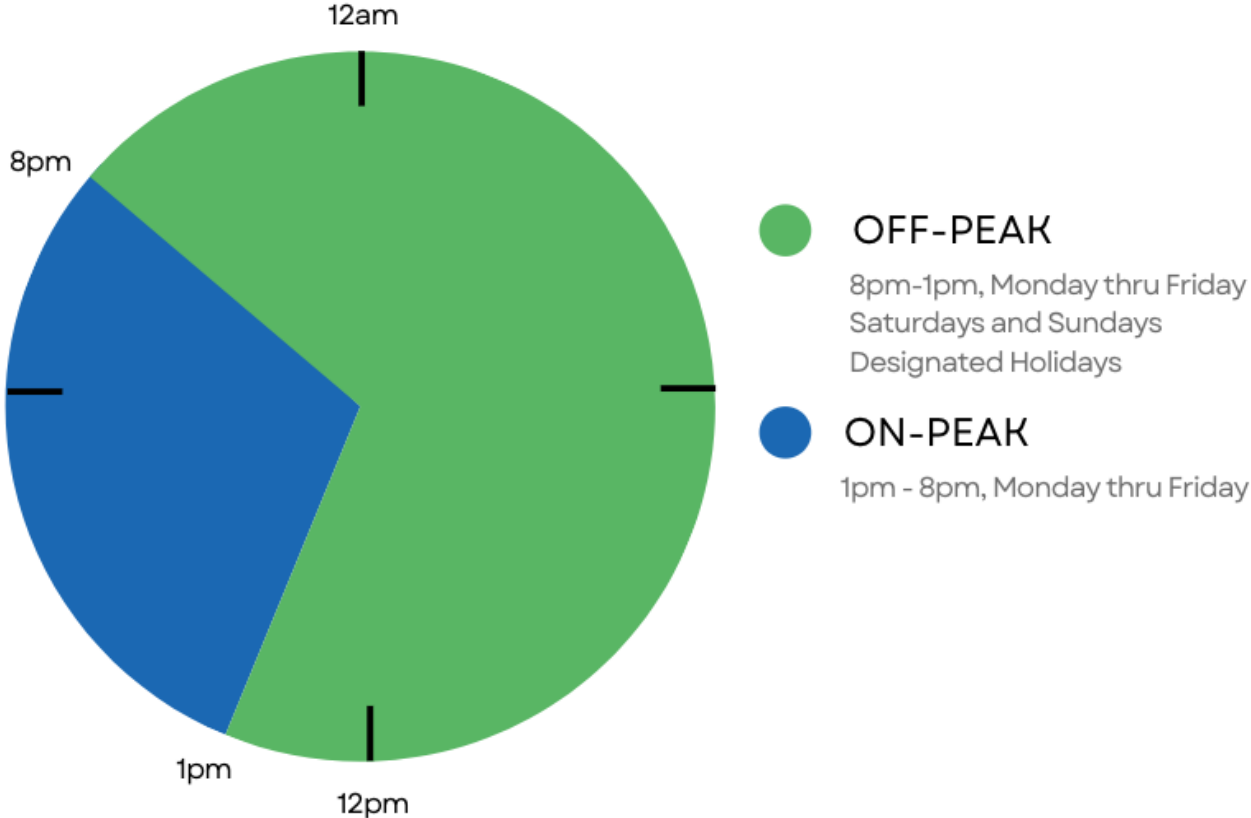
## Rate - RESTOU

Valid beginning November 1, 2023

 = Off-Peak RESTOU  = On-Peak RESTOU



# Time of Use





**Thank You**

**Questions?**