



BELD *Business* **POWER**

Vol. 7 Issue 1

Braintree Electric Light Department

Spring 2009

BELD Broadband is offering LOWER rates and FASTER speeds this spring

We here at BELD Broadband understand the challenges of managing a business in this difficult economy. So we are pleased to announce that we are LOWERING the rates for our commercial customers.

First, we will eliminate tier pricing on our Internet service and instead offer just one 15 megabit-per-second downstream package for \$69 a month. In addition to providing faster speeds for most customers, this change will save some of you more than \$100 a month!

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BELD announces a reduction in our Power Cost Adjustment as of June 1, 2009

Braintree Electric Light Department (BELD) is pleased to announce a reduction in our Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) of 0.75 cents/kWh, commencing June 1. With moderating energy prices and the new Thomas A. Watson Generating Station coming on line, BELD is now positioned to pass these benefits on to our customers.

The PCA is analyzed regularly and designed to cover our costs—not to create a profit for BELD. It is tied directly to energy costs, which in New England are driven by natural gas and oil prices. Energy costs represent BELD's largest monthly expense.

With the escalating cost of fuel over the last few years, our energy costs have increased dramatically. The average price for electricity in New England during 2008 was \$82.46/MWh, **an increase of more than 21% over 2007 prices.** We are still recovering our energy costs from 2007 and 2008.

Even with the recent decrease in fuel prices, **energy costs may never return to the levels seen several years ago,** when prices were in the \$30/MWh range. **To help stabilize our electric rates going forward, we continue to look for and purchase long-term energy contracts that will help us avoid fuel fluctuations.**

Another outside factor affecting electric rates is BELD's participation in the regional transmission organization—ISO New England—which is responsible for the reliable operation of our bulk electric system, the dispatching of generating units throughout the region, and the administration of our wholesale electricity market.

As a member of ISO New England, BELD—along with every other utility in New England—must bear the cost of regional transmission upgrades and associated charges

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Also, the rates BELD Broadband is charged for cable programming in bars and restaurants have changed, so we're passing the savings on to you.

We'll expand the Tavern cable channel lineups to include 43 more digital channels—including a variety of programming for news hounds, health nuts, sports fans, movie buffs, music lovers, and kids—while drastically lowering monthly subscription rates.

Watch your mail for details on these great offers from BELD Broadband!



Mike Ford
Key Accounts Representative

Questions about your electric or Broadband service? Call Mike at 781.348.2370 or e-mail him at mford@beld.com

BELD

Braintree Electric Light Department
and BELD Broadband
150 Potter Road
Braintree, MA 02184-1364
781.348.BELD • www.beld.com

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Editor/Designer: Joan Marson

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throughout the region. There were two examples during 2008 of how these charges affect our rates. The first became effective June 1, when the **regional transmission charge increased by 50%**, thereby costing BELD an additional \$1 million/year. This charge is expected to increase significantly again in 2009.

A second example is the **tariff imposed on Southeastern Massachusetts ratepayers to keep the Canal Generating Plant in Sandwich running continuously—costing BELD over \$4 million in 2008 alone and \$8 million total over the last several years.** BELD has joined five other municipal utilities in filing a complaint with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Braintree Electric Light Department is always looking for ways to reduce the PCA (and all of our rates) in order to pass on more savings to our customers.

BELD introduces BGREEN!

Braintree Electric Light Department is pleased to introduce BGREEN, a participatory program designed to promote energy conservation and renewable forms of energy.

We have begun implementation of our pilot project—the installation of a **10.6 KW photovoltaic (solar) array** on the roof of BELD's Operations garage on Potter Road. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is in the works, and we expect the project to be operational by the end of this summer.

BELD is looking at other sources of renewable energy as well, including the **construction of wind turbines.** We have already completed a number of wind studies and looked at several potential sites—and we expect to **install a meteorological station (met tower)** at one of these sites early this summer.

The met tower will provide detailed data on wind speeds and direction for one full year—the final step in the process of siting the turbines. We will then be ready to present our proposal to the Town of Braintree for approval.

Expansion of the BGREEN program will depend on the voluntary support of BELD's business and residential customers. **Participants will be given the opportunity to subscribe to a renewable energy rate of \$2 per unit per month** which will be applied to their monthly bills. There is no limit to the number of units that may be purchased.

Call Mike Ford, BELD's Key Accounts Representative, at 781.348.2370 for additional information and to sign up for this timely opportunity to make an investment in Braintree's future energy projects!