

MMWEC Awarded Two Energy and Efficiency Development Grants

The American Public Power Association (APPA) has recently awarded MMWEC two grants under its Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Development (DEED) program.

One of the grants will help MMWEC build the tools municipal light plants (MLPs) will require to focus decarbonization efforts on measures that provide the most carbon savings for their customer end-uses and help direct resources to where they can help the most. MMWEC is partnering with the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) to execute the study. The project will help MMWEC and its member MLPs adequately assess the decarbonization benefits of energy efficiency, building electrification, transportation electrification, renewable energy, demand response and energy storage, to shape the clean energy future.

This grant award is for \$25,050. The study is expected to be completed in 2022.

Bill Bullock, MMWEC's Sustainable Energy Policy and Program Senior Manager, said the study will help MMWEC assist its members in their efforts to decarbonize.

"This is an important step in assisting MLPs to help the state



achieve its goal to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050," Bullock said. "Through this study, and with the help of this grant funding, we will be able to develop the underlying assumptions, calculations and tools for quantifying carbon emissions for the light departments."

The second grant was awarded by DEED to MMWEC earlier this year to support a research initiative called Project Groundwork. The UMass Energy Transition Institute and Groundwork Data, a non-profit research initiative focused on public infrastructure, together are exploring innovating electric distribution solutions to enhance grid resilience and support an equitable energy transition.

With help from the \$123,198 DEED grant, Project Groundwork will evaluate the costs and benefits of undergrounding electric distribution infrastructure, with a specific look at the potential benefits to municipal utilities of deploying optical fiber broadband networks in combination with underground electric cabling. The team will develop an initial cost-benefit model, a tool that could ideally be accessed by municipal utilities across the country. ∞

Electrification, Decarbonization the Focus of 2021 Annual Conference

Following two COVID-related delays, MMWEC was finally able to hold its annual conference this November – the first in more than two years.

MMWEC's annual conference, which is typically held in May each year, took place November 4-5 at the Babson College Executive Conference Center. The conference, entitled

"Advancing Toward Decarbonization," focused on MMWEC's efforts and programs addressing electrification and decarbonization, and how municipal light plants (MLPs) can be proactive in meeting the needs of their various customers.

The event featured presentations from MMWEC staff as well as outside speakers from Ørsted Wind and Mitsubishi Power Aero, discussing everything from demand response and energy



MA State Representative Jeffrey Roy addresses attendees at the MMWEC annual conference

efficiency, to emerging technologies, to our future grid featuring offshore wind and green hydrogen resources. A technology showcase offered attendees the opportunity to check out potential new opportunities for their customers.

The conference's keynote speaker was State Representative Jeffrey N. Roy, Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. Chairman Roy addressed the Commonwealth's decarbonization roadmap, his legislative priorities and the clean energy accomplishments achieved by municipal utilities.

MMWEC recognized a municipal light department and an individual with awards at the conference. The West Boylston Municipal Light Plant received the Francis H. King Leadership Award, and longtime Hull Municipal Light Plant Commissioner Patrick Cannon received the Philip W. Sweeney Public Service Award. ∞

HMLD General Manager Jane Parenteau Retires

After more than 30 years of serving the public power field, Jane Parenteau, general manager of Holden Municipal Light Department (HMLD), has retired.

After earning her Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Western New England University, Parenteau began her public power career at MMWEC where she worked for more than four years as a power brokering analyst. In this role, she conducted economic studies and initiated problem solving for Member systems relating to power supply. During her time at MMWEC, she also earned her Masters of Business Administration from Western New England College (now University).

Following her role at MMWEC, Parenteau joined the Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD), where she served for 26 years in several different positions including senior energy analyst, energy services manager, and director of integrated resources. At RMLD, she oversaw a \$70 million purchase power portfolio, developed and implemented RMLD's strategic power supply plan, and ensured the continued enhancement of energy conservation and renewable energy programs for RMLD customers.

In 2018, Parenteau left RMLD to become the general manager at HMLD, a role in which she served until her retirement in September 2021. As general manager, she implemented a cost of service study and took steps to reduce the department's



Former HMLD General Manager Jane Parenteau

emissions in compliance with the Massachusetts 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap. The department has already reached its 2030 emissions reductions goal and is well positioned to meet its 2040 and 2050 emissions reductions goals on schedule. Parenteau also revamped HMLD's solar interconnection agreement, secured the financing and approval of a \$6.5 million substation replacement and a \$1.6 million advanced metering infrastructure upgrade.

Parenteau also served on the MMWEC Audit Committee from 2019 to 2021 and on the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA) Advocacy and Reporting Committee from 2018 to 2021.

Parenteau's successor, HMLD General Manager Barry Tupper, said Jane's strong leadership skills allowed the entire light department to work together seamlessly.

"Jane is very transparent," Tupper said. "She feels you should lead by example, believes strongly in public power, and the entire process that comes with it. She truly listens and cares about everyone and what they have to say."

Tupper added that he enjoyed working alongside Parenteau and that she left HMLD in a strong financial and operational state, making his transition to becoming the new general manager easier.

"Jane brought a completely new perspective and philosophy to Holden," Tupper said. "She worked diligently to improve our financial position and help prepare us for the future. Her passion for public power was infectious and the wonderful things she did while she was here will benefit the customers and employees of HMLD for years to come." ∞

Stony Brook Energy Center Completes Annual Outage

MMWEC's Stony Brook Energy Center (SBEC)'s annual maintenance and improvement outage has been completed successfully. The outage began on September 25, with all units back online by October 22. In total, nearly 175 maintenance, repair, inspection, and preventative tasks were performed.

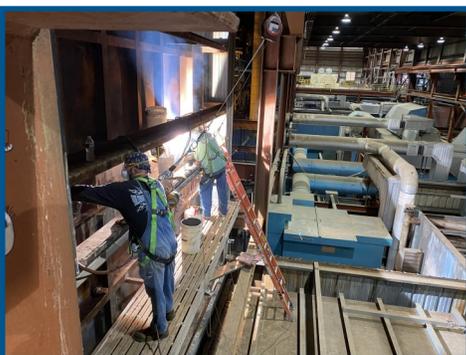
The outage crew worked with Eversource to apply protection to the 345kV transmission line. The replacement of 20 transmission line poles was the most complex task during this outage. It required crews to coordinate government entities while replacing

poles, building temporary roads to gain access to certain poles.

A borescope inspection was performed on all five gas turbine combustors, which resulted in no adverse findings.

After special inspections of two units were conducted to troubleshoot combustion issues, the purge air valves were removed and replaced. The bypass damper was repaired on one unit and the exhaust duct was repaired with new steel plates after extensive wear was found.

The CO2 fire suppression system was upgraded. New controls and actuating devices for the fire suppression system were also



SBEC crew works on a damper repair



SBEC crew replaces parts on an autotransformer

HG&E and WMGLD Earn APPA Smart Energy Provider Designation

Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E) and Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department (WMGLD) have both earned the Smart Energy Provider designation from the American Public Power Association.

Launched in 2019, the APPA Smart Energy Provider (SEP) program is a best practices designation that recognizes utilities for excelling in energy efficiency and sustainability while continuing to provide competitive electric rates. To be considered for the SEP designation, utilities must complete a rigorous application process which evaluates performance across four areas: smart energy information, energy efficiency and distributed energy resources (DERs), environmental and sustainability initiatives, and communication/education and customer experience.

Applications are submitted to an expert panel of public power representatives who review the utilities' practices and score their efforts in the four performance categories on a scale of one to 100. Utilities who receive at least a 70 earn the SEP designation, which lasts for two years. Utilities must re-apply for the SEP program every two years to maintain the designation.

HG&E and WMGLD were two of 70 public power utilities across the country which earned the SEP distinction in 2021. Currently, 97 public power utilities hold the SEP distinction, including Shrewsbury Electric & Cable Operations, which earned the distinction in 2020.

HG&E earned the SEP designation in its inaugural year in 2019 and again in 2021. HG&E General Manager James Lavelle said the department is proud of the recognition, which reinforces the hard work the department does to make Holyoke a better place to live and work.

"As a public power utility, HG&E is committed to providing

innovative and sustainable energy solutions to the community we serve through investments in a diverse power supply portfolio, energy storage, electrification, demand response, efficiency and conservation programs, as well as development of emerging clean energy technologies," Lavelle said. "The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has established a road map to net-zero by 2050 and HG&E is well positioned to meeting this target."

Lavelle said he is particularly proud of the department's power portfolio. Through energy production projects, such as solar and hydropower, more than 65% of electricity sold by HG&E is produced from local renewable resources and 82% of the electricity sold is carbon-free. HG&E also has eight megawatts of battery storage, with another 9.55 megawatts under contract.

This is the first year that WMGLD has earned the SEP recognition. WMGLD General Manager Peter Dion said the department is honored to be recognized for their reliability and sustainability efforts.

"WMGLD is very proud to be recognized as one of 97 public utilities nationwide who received the Smart Energy Provider designation," Dion said. "We are demonstrating how important it is to not only be a safe, reliable, and cost-effective service provider, but also one that is environmentally responsible."

The SEP designation for HG&E and WMGLD will last until 2023. ∞

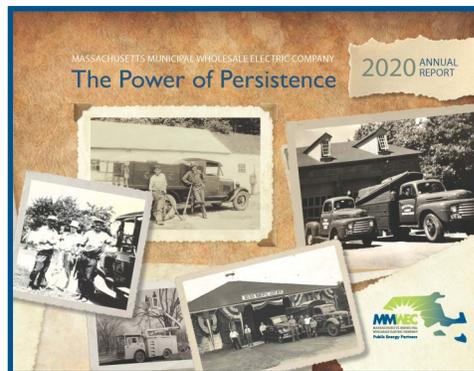


MMWEC Receives Award for 2020 Annual Report

MMWEC has been recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA) for outstanding work related to its annual report.

MMWEC was notified this fall that it has been awarded an Excellence in Public Power Communications Award by APPA for its 2020 annual report, entitled, "The Power of Persistence." It is MMWEC's third such award from APPA in the past five years.

"The Power of Persistence" showcased the many ways in which MMWEC and its member municipal utilities persevered during the unprecedented COVID pandemic, while continuing to provide reliable, low-cost power. The report tied together historic photos from MMWEC's 20 member utilities – some over 100 years old – to photos taken in 2020. The aim of the report was to demonstrate that no matter what is going on in the world, municipal utilities have provided dependable, superior service for decades. With COVID weaving a thread throughout the report's narrative, this year's annual report



"The Power of Persistence," MMWEC's 2020 annual report

highlights the innovative and unique ways that MMWEC and its member light departments ensured a continuous level of superior service without disruption.

Under MMWEC's enabling legislation under which it was established as the state's joint action agency for municipal

utilities, Chapter 775 of the Acts of 1975, it is required to submit an annual report concerning its operation each year to member cities and towns, the governor, and the state. ∞

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The replacement of a transmission line structure

purchased, installed, and tested. All annual testing on electrical relays and transformers were completed. Several electrical and mechanical preventative maintenance tasks were completed, including calibration of the hydrogen (H₂) analyzer on three units. Two bushings and a gasket were replaced on autotransformers.

According to John McDonald, plant manager at SBEC, all preventative maintenance and repair tasks were completed on time.

“The staff at Stony Brook Energy Center was able to complete all tasks in a timely and safe manner,”

McDonald said. “After six months of pre-planning, and with the assistance of multi-disciplined teams, the plant and transmission lines are prepared to provide power for years to come.”

Completing the annual outage ensures that SBEC remains a reliable asset to the ISO New England grid. ∞

High School Students Visit Berkshire Wind



This fall, 16 students and two teachers from the Buxton School in Williamstown visited the Berkshire Wind site on a field trip to learn more about the project and wind power technology. MMWEC’s Alex Vega and Jason Viadero led the tour, explained wind power, and answered questions.

MMWEC Members Celebrate Public Power, National Drive Electric Week

In honor of National Drive Electric Week and Public Power Week, two MMWEC Members held events dedicated to promoting awareness of electric vehicles and energy efficiency initiatives.



HG&E’s Public Power Week event

Holyoke Gas and Electric (HG&E) held an event in honor of Public Power and Public Natural Gas Week. Community members were able to learn about HG&E’s energy efficiency programs such as air source heat pumps and energy audits, and had the opportunity to learn about and test drive electric vehicles.

Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations (SELCO) celebrated Drive Electric Week with a booth at the Shrewsbury Farmer’s Market. Representatives from the Milford Nissan and Quirk Chevrolet dealerships were on site with electric vehicles for attendees to look at and ask questions. SELCO also included info and promoted their new electric lawn equipment rebates for SELCO customers. ∞



SELCO’s Drive Electric Week event



Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company

MMWEC

A non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth
Joint Action and economies of scale for Massachusetts municipal utilities

327 Moody Street, Ludlow, MA 01056

(413) 308-1392

mmwec@mmwec.org

www.mmwec.org