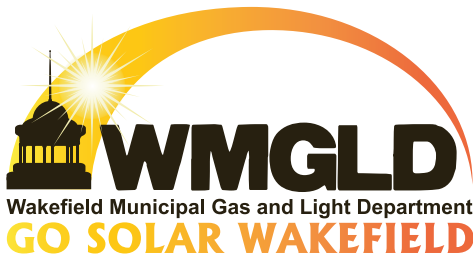


# Highlights

WINTER/SPRING 2024

## Construction on the WMGLD's Kenneth Chase Community Solar Array at 480 North Avenue is Underway



System Engineer, the 225kW system has two components; one half will help power the WMGLD headquarters, while

The solar array at 480 North Avenue is currently under construction and will go live in Spring 2024. According to Vinnie McMahon, WMGLD Senior

the other half will be available to WMGLD customers as part of Kenneth Chase Community Solar Program. Customers without a roof suitable for solar will be able to buy into the program and receive credit on their electric bills.

The WMGLD held an informational session for its customers in January to introduce the project and to provide information about how residents can become part of the WMGLD's efforts to meet its non-carbon goals. Information about the Kenneth Chase Community Solar Program will be available on the website [www.wmgl.com](http://www.wmgl.com).

## General Manager Dion Receives Distinguished Service Award



WMGLD General Manager Pete Dion received a 2023 Distinguished Service Award from the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA) in recognition of his exceptional service to the WMGLD. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals or organizations who have gone above and beyond in providing service to a NEPPA member utility.

*NEPPA Executive Director Mike Hyland, right, presented the 2023 Distinguished Service Award to General Manager Pete Dion.*



## WMGLD 2024 Historical Calendars are Available

The 2024 Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department historical calendar is available, while supplies last, at the WMGLD business office, 480 North Avenue, Wakefield. This is the 37th year that WMGLD has produced the popular calendar for its customers.

This year's calendar contains historical photographs from the past, including Curley Grain and Fuel, Wakefield Grange parade float in 1919, and the Jenney cars at Pleasure Island, among other points and events of interest. The calendar also provides tips on how to save energy throughout the year.

# WMGLD Informational Webinars

In addition to the recent solar array and Kenneth Chase Community Solar informational session, the WMGLD recently held two online sessions for its customers.

## New Electric Vehicle (EV) Time-of-Use Rate

The WMGLD held an informational online seminar which focused on the department's EV program, including its new time-of-use (TOU) rate. Customers who joined in the online seminar learned about the optional residential rate structure that encourages off-peak charging through a separate meter installed specifically for EV charging. The program offers customers discounted rates when they charge their EV during specified hours of the day. Current peak times are 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.; however, peak times may be subject to annual changes.

The informational session discussed the requirements necessary to receive the EVM-TOU rate, including the installation of the separate meter socket in their home for the Level-2 EV charger, applying for the EVM-TOU rate, and the installation of the TOU meter by the WMGLD once the application is accepted. The online seminar also provided information about the opportunity to apply for the WMGLD's EV Meter incentive program, which helps pay for the costs associated with the installation of a separate meter and upgrades to the electric service

after the installation of the TOU meter. The session also provided information about the EV programs and rebates offered through the WMGLD as well as state and federal governments.

Customers who are interested in learning more about the EV time-of-use rate can watch the online seminar on the website [www.wmgld.com](http://www.wmgld.com).

## Heat Pump Installation Webinar

The WMGLD and Abode Energy Management held an informative online seminar to help heat pump buyers navigate the installation process. The WMGLD has partnered with Abode to help customers make informed decisions when selecting the right system for their home and help guide them through the installation process.

The online seminar included information about buying a heat pump, installing a heat pump, and the WMGLD rebate and incentive program. Customers who participated had an opportunity to ask questions and receive advice from the experts.

For more information about the WMGLD's heat pump program, including its rebate incentive program, visit [www.wmgld.com](http://www.wmgld.com).

## Tree Planting Initiative



The WMGLD recently produced an educational video that addresses its tree initiative which customers can view on its website [www.wmgld.com](http://www.wmgld.com). This initiative provides utility-friendly trees at no cost

to customers. This is the third consecutive year that WMGLD is sponsoring the program.

The WMGLD's participation in the tree planting program compliments the WMGLD's ongoing commitment to environmental justice initiatives as well as its sustainability efforts to provide energy-saving opportunities for customers while reducing carbon emissions in the atmosphere. In addition to the spring program for customers the WMGLD also plants trees along public ways through its existing tree planting program.

## 2024 Rebate and Incentive Program

The WMGLD has enhanced its residential rebate and incentive program for 2024 to include an increase in the induction range rebate amount, and the addition of rebates for heat pumps with insulation and heat pumps that replace fossil fuel systems. The new program eliminates some rebates for gas appliances and equipment as part of the WMGLD's efforts to meet its decarbonization goals and the

state's Net Zero 2050 goal.

Information about the 2024 rebate and incentive program, including rebate amounts, qualifying items, and criteria, is available on the website <https://wmgld.com/energy-programs>.

# Natural Gas Safety

Natural gas is a safe way to heat your home and cook your meals, but it is also important to be aware of the signs of a gas leak, or a problem with natural gas-powered heaters and appliances.

Because natural gas is a colorless, odorless hydrocarbon, a chemical odorant is added making the presence of gas detectable for safety purposes. The odorant has a distinct smell, one that resembles rotten eggs. If you detect even a small amount of the odor of natural gas in the air, there are several steps you should follow.

## If you smell gas in your home:

- Put out all open flames and don't smoke. Don't attempt to light any appliances.
- Don't touch electric switches, thermostats, appliance controls or electric panel breakers. These items may cause sparks that could lead to an ignition.
- Do not use an automatic garage door opener.
- Do not start your car if it is in the garage or close proximity to the house.
- Open windows and outside doors for ventilation.
- If the odor is strong, don't use your telephone or cell phone inside the house.
- Leave the premises on foot and call the WMGLD at 781-246-6363 from a neighbor's home and remain outside until WMGLD crews arrive. WMGLD provides 24-hour emergency service every day of the year. If you sense it is an emergency, call 911.
- Do not assume someone else will report the condition.

## To stay safe you should:

- Look for the blue flame on your gas stove. If pilot lights and burners have a steady, blue flame, they are operating correctly. (Decorative gas fire logs are the only exception. Their flame is usually yellow.)
- Have all gas appliances, furnaces, vents, flues, chimneys and gas lines in your home or business inspected every year or two by qualified industry professionals.
- Keep the areas around all appliances and equipment clean and unblocked to allow for proper airflow.
- Follow manufacturer instructions for the care and use of gas appliances and equipment.

- Make sure there is at least one multipurpose fire extinguisher in your home or place of business.
- Review these natural gas safety tips regularly with all family members and coworkers.

## What you shouldn't do:

- DON'T let children play with or near natural gas appliances or pipes, even the knobs on the oven or cook top.
- DON'T use your stove or oven for anything other than cooking (for instance, to heat your home) under any circumstances.
- DON'T move or install a gas appliance or change the connector in any way without professional assistance.
- DON'T use a space heater UNTIL you are sure it has been vented properly. If using a vent-free heater, make sure the automatic cut-off switch is operational.
- DON'T install a gas appliance yourself, unless you are a qualified contractor. You should always seek professional assistance.
- DON'T store household chemicals or combustible materials near gas appliances.

Natural gas is very safe when used properly. It is important to remember to call 781-246-6363 or 911 if you smell gas; it's better to be safe than sorry.



## Do you need a quick Level 3 EV Charge?

The WMGLD installed two Level 3 – ChargePoint Express CPE250 Direct Current Fast Chargers (DCFC) on Lowell Street at Quannapowitt Parkway through a \$100,000 grant from the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP) under the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The chargers are in close proximity to Route 128/95 at exit 58, at the juncture of

Quannapowitt Parkway and Lowell Street, and provide an ideal location for the State to help it meet its goal to install DCFC along major routes in the Commonwealth.

According to WMGLD Engineering and Operations Manager David Polson, the estimated length of time for an 80% charge on a DCFC is approximately 30 minutes depending on the vehicle and battery state of charge.



# Contact

WMGLD

**WMGLD**  
480 North Ave.  
Wakefield, MA  
781-246-6363  
www.wmgl.com

## Payment Locations:

Please use the drop-off box located in front of the building when the Business Office is closed.

All locations of The Savings Bank, including its Wakefield Offices:

357 Main Street  
599 North Ave  
979 Main Street

## Pickup Location:

Drop box at the corner of Smith and Lincoln Streets

## Outages

781-246-6363

Find us on Facebook 

The WMGLD office will be closed on the following dates:

Presidents' Day -  
Monday, February 19

Patriots Day - Monday, April 15

Memorial Day - Monday, May 27

In case of an emergency,  
please call 781-246-6363.

## WMGLD Receives DOT Grant



The Town of Wakefield recently received a \$1.3 million Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization (NGDISM) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA.) The grant was awarded to WMGLD representatives (from left to right) General Manager Pete Dion, Gas Superintendent Jim Brown, Senior System Engineer Raven Fournier, and Gas Foreman Paul Robertson during a ceremony at Westfield Gas & Electric in Westfield. The WMGLD and the Town of Wakefield will use the grant to improve and upgrade aging infrastructure in the community. The ceremony was also attended by Senator Edward J. Markey, Congressman Richard Neal, and award recipients Holyoke Gas & Electric and Westfield Gas & Electric.



the Town, as well as the services offered by Town departments like the WMGLD. The WMGLD was among the many Town departments, organizations, and businesses who were at the event sponsored by the Town of Wakefield at the Americal Civic Center in cooperation with the Wakefield Area Chamber of Commerce.

WMGLD Office Clerks (back row, left to right) Michelle Corcoran, Christine Conroy, and Shannon Maher were at the event to answer questions about the community-owned gas and electric department and to provide information about its many energy saving programs and rebate incentives.

## Wakefield Food Pantry Donation



The WMGLD recently presented a \$3,000 donation to Wakefield Food Pantry Manager Debbie Jones, left, and Executive Director Maureen Miller, right, on behalf of the WMGLD supervisory and employee associations, and management team. The donation was presented by, (second from left to right), Lead Substation Technician Kurt Bode, President of the WMGLD Employee Association; Electric Superintendent Paul Redmond, President of the WMGLD Supervisory Association; and General Manager Pete Dion. The WMGLD donation is among the recent donations made by WMGLD employees to the food pantry.

## APPA Award



WMGLD Business Analyst – Energy Services Joe Collins, left, and Office Manager Tara Aniello, right, accepted the award signifying the utility's designation as a Smart Energy Provider (SEP) for 2023-2025. The best practices designation for utilities recognizes commitment to and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, renewable energy, and environmental initiatives.



WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
480 North Avenue • Wakefield, MA 01880 • 781-246-6363  
www.wmgl.com

