

# Highlights

WINTER/SPRING 2026

## WMGLD Receives DOER Award

The WMGLD has received a Leading by Example Award from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). The award was accepted by WMGLD General Manager Peter Dion, Engineering and Operations Manager Dave Polson and Commissioners Jennifer Kallay and Sharon Daly in a ceremony at the State House.

The Leading by Example Award recognizes outstanding efforts among agencies, public colleges and universities, and municipalities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that have implemented policies and programs that have led to significant and measurable environmental and energy benefits. The WMGLD has implemented several sustainable and clean energy initiatives in recent years, including the Energy Park on Hemlock Road, the Kenneth J. Chase community solar program, and the development of residential and commercial Electric Vehicle Time of Use rates as well as a residential heat pump rate.

In addition to the award, the WMGLD's 5 megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system on Hemlock Road was recognized by NextZero in 2025 with its Innovation Award. The Energy Park, which operates as a resilient, grid-connected microgrid, will provide cost savings to WMGLD customers, environmental benefits, and educational opportunities for local high school students. The award is only one of three given annually to municipal light departments that participate in NextZero programs.



WMGLD General Manager Pete Dion (fourth from right), Engineering and Operations Manager Dave Polson (third from right) and Commissioners Jennifer Kallay (second from right) and Sharon Daly (right) accepted the 2025 Leading by Example Recognition Award from (from left) Joanne Bisetta, Director of Green Communities Division of the DOER; Adam Baacke, Commissioner Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM); Elizabeth Mahoney, Commissioner, DOER; and Rebecca Tepper, Energy & Environmental Affairs Secretary.

## WMGLD Receives \$2.8 Million Grant to Boost Resilience and Clean Energy Benefits

The WMGLD has been awarded \$2,867,044 to develop a comprehensive microgrid at Northeast Metro Tech and Wakefield Memorial high schools. The grant, awarded through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) Grants for Enhancing Grid Resilience and Reliability Program, will modernize local electricity infrastructure, supporting the adoption of clean energy, building electrification, and economic growth. The program was designed in partnership with the state's Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

The project is one of eight projects that received a portion of \$8 million in funding to strengthen Massachusetts' electric grid, reduce costly outages, and better protect residents from the impacts of extreme weather.

By upgrading critical systems, the projects will not only reduce the frequency and duration of outages but also create jobs and lower long-term energy costs for residents and businesses across the state. Supported by federal resources under Section 40101(d) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, this program underscores Massachusetts' commitment to a cleaner, more reliable, and more affordable energy future.

According to the DOER, as Massachusetts continues to electrify buildings, transportation, and industries, the state's grid faces new pressures, the funding aims to help utilities, municipalities, and local partners meet these challenges head-on.

# WMGLD Offers Seasonal Heat Pump Rate

The WMGLD recently instituted an optional seasonal heat pump rate for residential electric customers who use heat pumps as their primary or secondary heat source. The HP-RES rate includes a per kilowatt-hour discount on the Electric Distribution Charge during the heating season (November-April).

Customers who use a heat pump will qualify for one of two HP\_RES rates:

- HP-RES A - Heat Pump All-Electric (\$0.03 discount per kWh)

- HP-RES B - Heat Pump while keeping fossil fuel – (\$0.015 discount per kWh)

Gas customers who enroll in HP-RES B will move from the Gas Residential Heat Rate to the Gas Residential Non-Heat rate, which includes an additional \$0.20 per CCF cost on gas used throughout the year.

To determine if you qualify, and to enroll in the HP-RES A or HP-RES B rate, visit the website [www.wmgl.com](http://www.wmgl.com)



## Tree Planting Initiative

The WMGLD has planted 172 trees for residential customers and 351 trees along public ways from 2021 to 2025 as part of its tree planting initiative. Now in its fifth year, the program provides 50 utility-friendly trees at no cost to customers and 50 along public ways in

support of the American Public Power Association (APPA) "Tree Power Initiative" and Arbor Day Foundation's "The Power of Trees." The 2026 program will get underway in the summer, with planting scheduled to begin in the fall.

According to WMGLD General Manager Pete Dion, participation is on a first come, first-served basis and is limited to 50 customers whose property qualifies for the program. Customers may receive only one tree throughout the life of this program. The 50-customer trees are provided without charge and are planted on the property in an area approved by the WMGLD. One utility-friendly tree will be provided after the WMGLD determines that the location and conditions are conducive to healthy tree growth. A tree arborist will meet with the property owners to determine the type of utility-friendly or shade tree that is suitable for the area and will return to plant the tree. Customers will be responsible for maintaining the tree and ensuring the healthy growth of their tree.

Additional information will be available on the website: [www.wmgl.com](http://www.wmgl.com), as soon as it becomes available.

## Clear Away Snow and Ice From Your Gas Meter



The major snowstorm that affected the area in late January caused snow drifts while snow removal operations created snow mounds around homes and businesses. The WMGLD reminds customers that heavy snow placed against the building's natural gas meter can cause damage to the gas regulator and overflow valve, causing it to

not operate properly, and/or create a dangerous situation.

There are several steps natural gas customers can take to ensure that they stay safe in their homes and businesses this winter:

- Make sure you and your family members know where your gas meter is located.
- Always use caution when operating a snowblower or snowplow near your gas meter.

- Keep your meter free of snow and ice by sweeping snow and ice build-up away using a broom or your hand. A shovel should never be used for this purpose.
- Never put snow up against your gas meter whether using a snowblower or shovel.
- Make sure that snow removal operations don't cover your meter or exhaust vents to ensure that your gas-operated appliances operate safely.
- Look up to see if any icicles or heavy snow are above your gas meter. They could fall on the meter.
- Maintain a clear path to the meter.
- If you suspect any damage to your natural gas meter immediately call the WMGLD at 781-246-6363 to report it.
- If you smell gas, make sure everyone is out of the dwelling and call 9-1-1 after you are safely outside. Never call while in the home and never use any light switches or phones while inside.

# Be Safe Around Natural Gas

Now that the home heating season is here, customers are encouraged to learn all they can about natural gas. More than 6,600 residential and commercial customers use natural gas in their homes and businesses. While natural gas is very safe when used properly, safety measures should always be in place when using gas appliances, furnaces, and heaters.

## To stay safe ...

- 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.

## What you shouldn't do...

- DON'T let children play with, or near, natural gas appliances or pipes, including the knobs on the oven or cook top.
- DON'T use your stove or oven for anything other than cooking. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home, especially if the power goes out.
- DON'T move or install a gas appliance or change the connector in any way without professional assistance.
- DON'T use a gas 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 store household chemicals or combustible materials near gas appliances.

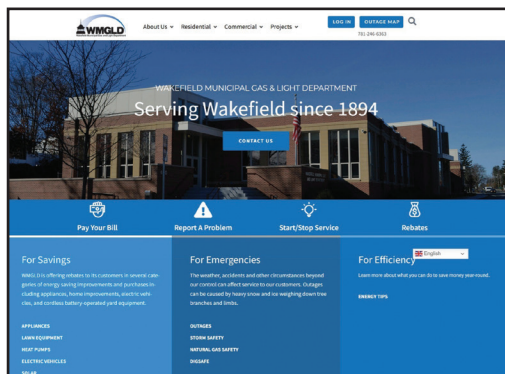
Because natural gas is a colorless, odorless hydrocarbon, a chemical odorant is added making the presence of gas detectable for safety purposes. The odorant has a distinct smell, one that resembles rotten eggs. If you detect even a small amount of the odor of natural gas in the air, there are several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



## Have You Seen our New Website?



The WMGLD has relaunched its new and improved website, [www.wmgld.com](http://www.wmgld.com). The redesigned and user-friendly website has been updated and designed to create a better experience for customers. The

site was redesigned following a customer focus group that addressed key areas of the website with a focus on making it easier to navigate while giving customers added features and

enhancements. The redesigned website enables customers to easily find useful information about programs and services as well as submit applications to start/stop service, pay their bills on line, and sign up for paperless billing and automatic payments.

One key enhancement is the streamlining of the incentive rebate process which will provide a hassle-free submission of applications and required documentation. In addition to enhanced online form submissions, the newly designed site provides information about the WMGLD in an easier to navigate format. Customers can easily obtain information about the residential incentive rebate programs, receive real-time outage updates, review their energy usage, and learn about any program updates and expanded services.



# Contact

WMGLD

## WMGLD

480 North Ave.  
Wakefield, MA  
781-246-6363  
[www.wmgld.com](http://www.wmgld.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 - February 16

Patriots' Day - April 20

Memorial Day - May 25

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



## WMGLD Spotlight

### WMGLD In the Community



Customer Relations Specialist Robin Leary, right, joined Lynna Chear of LEO, Inc. at the McCarthy Senior Center to answer questions about the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) which is available to qualifying residents. The WMGLD was at the Senior Center in November and December to meet with local residents and answer questions about the program that is offered by LEO in partnership with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. For information about the program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their winter heating bills, and eligibility requirements, visit [www.leoinc.org](http://www.leoinc.org).

### Burns Park to be Dedicated in the Spring



As part of its commitment to plant trees throughout the community, the WMGLD has created the Matthew Burns Park on Ballister Street. The park, located on the former site of the Burns 4KV Substation, is set to be dedicated in the spring. The Burns Park is one of the many areas that has benefitted from the WMGLD's pledge to plant trees throughout Wakefield to offset the trees that were removed to build the Energy Park microgrid project on Hemlock Road.

### Kenneth J. Chase Community Solar Project



were (left to right) Commissioner Sharon Daly, Board Chair Thomas Boettcher, Ken Chase, Nancy Chase, Matt Chase, General Manager Pete Dion, Board Secretary Jennifer Kallay, and Commissioner Jack Warchol.

The WMGLD has officially dedicated the Kenneth J. Chase Community Solar Project at the 480 North Avenue facility. The community solar project is named in honor of former longtime WMGLD Commissioner Ken Chase (third from left) for his 42 years of service as a member of the WMGLD Board of Light Commission. Joining the retired Commissioner at the dedication

WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
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