



2012 Annual Summary for the Energy Optimization and Renewable Energy Plan

In 2008 a state law was passed directing all Michigan utilities to help its customers reduce their energy usage. Public Act 295, also known as the *Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act* requires Traverse City Light & Power (TCL&P) to assist customers in improving their electric energy efficiency through Energy Optimization programs and increase the amount of renewable energy in the utility's generation portfolio.

Energy Optimization

In 2012 TCL&P saved over 4.1 million kilowatt hours through the TC Light & Power Energy Smart Program, exceeding the state-mandated goal by 62% and saving enough energy to power approximately 628 Traverse City area homes for an entire year.

The program offered many opportunities for customers to save energy and money. Those opportunities included:

- Free compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs
- Coupons for discounted LED holiday light sets
- A \$60 incentive for recycling an older, inefficient refrigerator or freezer, which included free pickup of the unit
- A \$25 incentive for customers who purchased a new electric clothes dryer with moisture sensor, an electric hot water heater with an energy factor greater than or equal to 93%, or an ENERGY STAR® refrigerator
- A \$150 incentive for customers upgrading their furnace or central air conditioner

Additionally, TCL&P offered energy efficiency assistance to other customers:

- TCL&P provided CFLs and refrigerators to low-income homeowners. TCL&P also distributed energy saving kits, which included CFLs, an LED nightlight and educational material on saving energy, through the Department of Human Services. The program was available to customers whose household income was at or below 200% of the federal poverty level guidelines
- Business customers were offered incentives for upgrading to equipment with greater energy efficiency, including lighting, motors, air systems, refrigeration, HVAC units and building management systems



New in 2013

TCL&P is offering a \$75 rebate when customers participate in the SUN Alliance's community solar project!

For more information on the TC Light & Power Energy Smart Program, visit the website, tclp.org, and click on the 'Energy Smart' button at the bottom of the homepage.

Renewable Energy

In addition to helping Michigan residents become more energy efficient, Public Act 295 also requires Michigan utilities to acquire more renewable energy. TCL&P's successes to date in meeting the state-mandated renewable energy goal include:

- A long-term agreement to buy electricity that is generated from the Heritage Stoney Corners wind farm. Beginning in August 2010, the energy produced from this agreement was equivalent to powering approximately 4,171 Traverse City area homes
- A long-term agreement to buy electricity that is generated from the Granger landfill gas facility. In 2012, the energy produced from this agreement was equivalent to powering approximately 497 Traverse City area homes
- Owning and operating the country's largest utility grade wind turbine when it was installed in 1996 (*pictured*). At 600 kilowatts, it is small in comparison to today's larger units. Even though the unit was down 5 months in 2012 for repairs, it still produced enough energy to power 52 Traverse City area homes



For the 2012 reporting period, TCL&P generated or acquired 31,119,324 kilowatt hours of renewable energy. During this time frame, TCL&P's renewable energy was 8.54% of its total retail electric sales. State law requires utilities to have 10% renewable energy by 2015 and TCL&P exceeded this mandate in 2012 with a peak month of 12% for the year. TCL&P anticipates that it will achieve as much as 16% by 2015 with the increase in landfill gas energy production.

Cost to Customers

TCL&P currently does not charge its customers for either the Energy Optimization or Renewable Energy Plan expenses as allowed by Public Act 295.

- The 2012 itemized cost to a residential customer for implementing the Energy Optimization program requirements was \$1.13 per month
- The average electric residential customer is expected to save \$3.55 each month of the Energy Optimization program's life
- The 2012 itemized monthly surcharge for a TCL&P residential customer for the Renewable Energy Plan requirements under Public Act 295 was \$0.00
- For the average Michigan residential customer, renewable energy is estimated to avoid \$3.90 per month of new coal-fired generation costs
- The Michigan Public Service Commission's annual report on renewable energy can be viewed at the following website: www.michigan.gov/mpsc

Copies of the complete 2012 annual report for both the Energy Optimization program and the Renewable Energy Plan are available at the Customer Service Desk in the Governmental Center (400 Boardman Ave.) and on TCL&P's website, tclp.org.

New Crosswalk Law



The City Commission approved a local law that states the police can issue a civil infraction (ticket) to drivers that do not stop and yield the right of way for a pedestrian within a marked crosswalk that has a "Stop for Pedestrian" sign erected. Drivers include anybody operating a motor or non-motorized vehicle, including bicyclists.

Later this summer, the City of Traverse City will kick off an education and information campaign for pedestrians and drivers, to help them understand their rights and responsibilities as well as to inform them of the recently adopted law. Following the educational/informational period, enforcement of the law with possible fines will follow for those that violate the local crosswalk law.



Free CFLs

Use the coupon below to pick up three FREE compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs! Lighting accounts for close to 20% of the average home's electric bill. ENERGY STAR® qualified CFLs use up to 75% less electricity than incandescent light bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, cost little up front, and provide a quick return on investment.

Free 3-Pack of 13-Watt CFL Bulbs

60-watt incandescent bulb equivalent

Coupon Redeemable only at: TCL&P Service Desk at the Governmental Center - 400 Boardman Ave.



Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Account # _____

Phone # _____

Coupon expires September 13, 2013.
Limit one coupon per ratepayer household or business. No cash value



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Did You Know...

Did you know that ceiling fans don't just provide cooling comfort from summer heat? They also reduce your energy bills when used instead of other air conditioning methods. Ceiling fans can save as much as 40% on summer cooling costs by making a room feel up to 8° cooler, so you can turn up the thermostat. When shopping for a new ceiling fan, be sure to look for one with the ENERGY STAR® label – it will be approximately 50% more efficient than basic units and move 20% more air.

TCL&P Mission:

To provide safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and related services in an environmentally conscious manner.

Board Member Spotlight

The City Commission appointed Jan Geht to serve on the TCL&P board on June 17, 2013. He is filling the unexpired term of John Snodgrass who recently resigned from the Board. Jan has an undergraduate degree in accounting from Truman State University, a masters degree in taxation from University of Illinois, and a law degree from University of Michigan. He has experience in tax law, employment law, business organizations, and business transactions. Currently, he practices law with Bowerman, Bowden, Ford, Clulo & Luyt, P.C. in Traverse City. Jan and his family moved to Traverse City last year and he looks forward to serving the citizens of Traverse City through his new role at TCL&P.



TCL&P News

On May 14, 2013 the TCL&P Board promoted Tim Arends to Executive Director, who had been serving as Interim Executive Director since October 2012. Tim has been with the City of Traverse City since 1990 and with the TCL&P department since 2008. Stay tuned for more information and updates from Tim in upcoming bill inserts.



**TRAVERSE CITY
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Investing Our Energy In You

1131 Hastings St. | Traverse City, MI 49686
Main Office and 24-Hour Service: **922-4940**
Billing & Account Questions: **922-4431**
Now available: Paperless billing!

See the Home Energy Saver and L&P Energy Smart Program at: tclp.org



Proudly serving our community for 101 years.

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