

Use less gas this Winter + SAVE

Cooler weather means it's time for WG+E's Gas Energy Saving Credit Program. This coming January through March, if you reduce your gas consumption by 10% compared to your previous year's bill and adjusted for the weather, you will receive a \$50 Energy Credit applied to your WG+E account. Visit www.wgeld.org under Residential > Ways to Save > or call us at 413-572-0216 for an application. You must sign up before the program starts on January 1, 2022.

CELEBRATE PUBLIC POWER WEEK!

One lucky winner will get \$100 towards their WG+E bill. Complete your bill insert or double your chances when you apply online.

www.wgeld.org/promo/public-power





Can you recognize the smell of natural gas? Watch for this 'scratch & sniff' safety insert in your October bill (or separate mailing if you are a paperless customer). You'll learn how to recognize a gas leak and what to do if you suspect a leak. While natural gas has an excellent safety record, like all forms of energy, it must be handled properly.

If you smell gas, don't wait!

Leave first, and then call 911 or WG+E. Being "nosey" can keep you safe!





Customer Service: (413) 572-0100 Emergency Response: (413) 572-0000

www.wgeld.org

fall 10



WESTFIELD GAS+ELECTRIC



changing times and climate change

With the summer of 2021 now behind us, it was clearly a warmer and wetter season in New England than we have experienced in decades. The impacts of tropical storms Elsa, Fred, Henri and Ida, put our electric distribution system and crews to the test with numerous outages. many attributed to high winds and branch and vegetation contact. Our electric system also experienced the unexpected failure of a piece of equipment at one of our substations requiring us to temporarily reroute several high voltage power circuits until repairs could be made. This reconfiguration complicated subsequent outage restoration efforts until the equipment was back in its normal state. As always, we appreciate customers' understanding and patience during the outages of these past few months.

As we look to the upcoming heating season, there is a growing concern about the direction of natural gas prices nationwide. There is a significant increase in the US export of liquified natural gas (LNG) to entities in Asia and Europe which are looking to reduce their coal burning operations. The WG+E energy supply team is constantly monitoring and adjusting our natural gas purchasing contracts to provide price stability

january-september 2021 rate comparisons **Residential Electric Rates Residential Gas Rates** \$950.51 \$1,71 Berkshire Gas (+10.6%) Eversource Energy (+66.8%) \$947.10 \$1.593.61 WG+E WG+E \$856.33 \$955.25 Data based on average residential customer usage of 750 kWh/month. Data based on average total residential consumption of 630 Ccf for the period. Data compiled for WG+E by Energy New England. Data provided by distribution company websites.

for our ratepayers but this year, this is an extra challenge. We are preparing for the projected impacts of the market with an adjustment to the gas supply charge on your monthly bill. We expect this increase will offset any spikes on your bill and keep your annual natural gas and electricity costs below the state average.

Looking further down the road, we are preparing for a transformation from an energy system supported by fossil fuels to one with net-zero emissions. We anticipate monumental impacts to our gas and electric supply and distribution systems driven by the requirements of Clean Energy Standards legislation. By 2030, there will be a major shift towards electricity produced by non-emitting carbon sources including wind, solar and water. WG+E continues to move in this direction with several projects on the horizon to propel us towards the goal of carbon-free generation by 2050.

Now let's turn our focus to some of the very positive things happening in Westfield. WG+E/WCF is committed to our local community and we have had some excellent opportunities to offer support in the recent months. We celebrated our 5th year as Whip City Fiber at the Starfires game with free tickets, hotdogs, and fireworks. If you were golfing at a tournament this summer to support a local cause, you likely saw our sign on a tee or at the clubhouse. Maybe you joined us at one of the Westfield Concert

Series events and stopped by our booth for a fan or a glow necklace. All of these events give us an opportunity to reinvest in the community we call home.

And finally, we would like to congratulate Beth Burns on her pending retirement from the WG+E. Beth has been instrumental in the success of three General Managers and the Municipal Light Board over the past 12 years. Beth's title as Director of Human Resources did not nearly cover the numerous other areas of her positive contributions to this Department. A sincere "Thank You" from me for all her help over the past 7 months.

Please stay safe,

/our

Tom Flaherty General Manager

