

# Mainlines

NOVEMBER 2015

A newsletter for the customers of the Holyoke Gas & Electric Department

## Commercial ROOFTOP SOLAR Lands in Holyoke

"Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E) is excited to have its first commercial utility-scale roof-top solar installation in the City," said Brian C. Beauregard, Superintendent of HG&E's Electric Division. "We have been pushing for roof-top installations as Holyoke has an abundance of commercial and industrial building roof space that could be utilized for solar."



Launched on October 8, 2015, this project was developed through a unique agreement between HG&E, Health Planet Partners, LLC (HPP), and the private building owner. HPP commissioned C-TEC Solar for the engineering, procurement, and construction of the 996 kilowatt system. The project is owned and operated by HPP and the electricity generated will be procured by HG&E through a Purchase Power Agreement.

The 3,762 solar panels will produce 1,196 MWh annually; this project will not only benefit the building owner, but also the City of Holyoke. The energy produced is enough to provide power for approximately 200 homes.

James Lavelle, HG&E's Manager commented, "Through its Power Purchase Agreement with Healthy Planet Partners, this project will add additional renewable energy to HG&E's portfolio and will help HG&E continue to maintain some of the lowest electric rates in the region and one of the smallest carbon footprints for an electric distribution company in the region."

This project is HG&E's fourth utility-scale solar facility, approximately 6.3 MW of total capacity. HG&E's goal is to expand carbon-free content while maintaining some of the lowest electric rates in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This successful balance is reflected in the fact that HG&E's Carbon Footprint is less than one tenth of that of an average utility in New England. For more information, please visit [www.hged.com](http://www.hged.com).

### Natural Gas Rate Comparison

May 2015 - October 2015 (average summer bill) - Residential customer consuming 43.6 CCF/month. (1376 CCF Annual Consumption)  
Amounts shown include all discounts. Rates effective as of 10/1/2015.

HG&E	<b>\$45.49</b>
Berkshire Gas <small>serving Pittsfield</small>	<b>\$52.66</b>
Columbia Gas <small>serving Springfield</small>	<b>\$52.98</b>

### Electric Rate Comparison

October 2015 - Residential customer consuming 500 kwh per month.  
Amounts shown include all discounts and use the fixed default generation supply price.

HG&E	<b>\$60.06</b>
National Grid <small>serving Northampton</small>	<b>\$90.82</b>
Eversource Energy <small>serving Springfield</small>	<b>\$99.20</b>

For more information visit: [www.hged.com/rates](http://www.hged.com/rates)

## Community Corner



### Holyoke Early Literacy Initiative [HELI]

"HELI (Holyoke Early Literacy Initiative) wants to THANK YOU for supporting your child's literacy development. Fall is a great time to enjoy the outdoors before winter. Here are some ideas for you to do with your child to support their literacy development.

Birth-1: Pass a toy back and forth and say "Thank you"

When you read to your child, linger on the pages for a few seconds longer after you've finished reading. Give your child time to analyze the illustrations and focus on the storyline.

2-3 year olds: Ask your child to give you an object (leaf, acorns, rocks, etc.) and say "please" and "Thank you." Name all colors of the fall (Red, yellow, orange, green).

4-6 year olds. Go on a walk outside and find objects from nature, such as leaves, acorns, etc. Find different ways to sort the objects, such as by color, shape, size.

Have your child help you prepare for the Thanksgiving meal by counting dishes to set the table.

Play with your child today after they come home from school. Tear strips of multi-colored tissue paper and create a colorful collage. The activity of tearing strips of paper will develop your child's motor skills.

Remember to use words of encouragement such as: "Great job," please," "thank you," "I appreciate."

For more "One Thing a Day" tips to support your child's literacy development, visit [www.Heli-holyoke.org](http://www.Heli-holyoke.org) and take the HELI Parent Pledge Today!

### Iniciativa de Alfabetización Temprana de Holyoke [HELI]

"HELI (Iniciativa de Alfabetización Temprana de Holyoke) quiere darle las GRACIAS por el apoyo al desarrollo de alfabetización de su hijo. El otoño es un buen momento para disfrutar al aire libre antes del invierno. Aquí están algunas ideas para que usted haga con su hijo para apoyar su desarrollo de alfabetización.

Nacimiento -1: Pase un juguete de ida y vuelta y diga "Gracias"

Cuando usted lee a su hijo, quedarse en las páginas por un par de segundos más después de haber terminado la lectura. Dele a su niño tiempo para analizar las ilustraciones y centrarse en la historia.

2-3 años de edad: Pídale a su hijo darle un objeto (hoja, bellotas, piedras, etc.) y decir "por favor" y "Gracias". Nombre todos los colores del otoño (rojo, amarillo, naranja, verde).

4-6 años de edad: Ir en una caminata afuera y encontrar objetos de la naturaleza, tales como hojas, bellotas, etc. Encuentre diferentes maneras de clasificar los objetos, como por el color, forma, tamaño.

Haga que su niño le ayude a prepararse para la cena de Acción de Gracias contando platos para poner la mesa.

Juegue con su hijo hoy después de que lleguen de la escuela. Arranque tiras de papel de seda de varios colores y crear un collage colorido. La actividad de las tiras de papel rasgado desarrollará las habilidades motoras de su hijo.

Recuerde utilizar palabras de aliento como: "Buen trabajo," "por favor," y "gracias," "lo Aprecio."

Para más consejos de "Una Cosa al Día" para apoyar el desarrollo de la alfabetización de su niño, visita [www.Heli-holyoke.org](http://www.Heli-holyoke.org) y tome la Promesa del Padre HELI Hoy!



EMPOWERING YOUR WORLD

**HG&E Main Office**  
99 Suffolk Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
(413) 536-9300  
[www.hged.com](http://www.hged.com)

**Customer Service Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Contact Customer Service:**  
(413) 536-9300  
[Customer\\_Accounts@hged.com](mailto:Customer_Accounts@hged.com)

**Marketing/Newsletter  
Coordinator:**  
Kate Sullivan  
[ksullivan@hged.com](mailto:ksullivan@hged.com)

## Payment Options

**Online Payment**  
[www.hged.com](http://www.hged.com)

**Walk-in/Drive-Thru**  
99 Suffolk Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
(413) 536-9300

**Mail**  
P.O. Box 4165  
Woburn, MA 01888-4165

**Holyoke drop boxes**

- Senior Center, 291 Pine Street
- C-Mart, 1500 Northampton Street
- DB Mart, 494 Westfield Road
- Stop & Shop, 28 Lincoln Street
- Stop & Shop, 2265 Northampton Street
- Wally's BP Shop, 297 Apremont Hwy

## Holiday Closings

**Veterans' Day**  
Tuesday, November 11, 2015

**Thanksgiving Day**  
Thursday, November 26, 2015

## Commissioners

Francis J. Hoey, III  
Robert H. Griffin  
James A. Sutter

## Manager

James M. Lavelle