

# Safe Digging!



# PLUGGED IN

News and Information from your Community-Owned Electric Utility,  
**Grand Haven Board of Light & Power**

April is recognized by underground utility damage prevention stakeholders as **National Safe Digging Month**, which is an excellent time to talk about tree planting and placement. Determining where to plant a tree is a decision that should not be taken lightly! When planning what type of tree to plant, remember to look up and down to determine where the tree will be located relative to overhead and underground utility lines.

Overhead lines can be electric, telephone, or cable television. Underground lines include those three plus water, sewer, and natural gas.

The location of these lines should have a direct impact on your planting site selection. The mature height of a tree must be within the available overhead growing space. Equally important, the soil area must be large enough to accommodate rooting habits and ultimate trunk diameter. By dialing the number 8-1-1, know what's below, to be sure that it is safe to dig and plant in your selected area.

The Grand Haven Board of Light & Power supports the International Society of Arboriculture guideline recommendations. To learn more, visit the residential section on our website at [www.ghblp.org](http://www.ghblp.org) and be sure to dial 8-1-1 before you dig!



Created in 1896, the Board of Light & Power is one of more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities serving homes and businesses across the United States. We are locally-controlled by a five-member Board of Directors elected by Grand Haven residents with approximately 13,500 customers in the greater Grand Haven area.

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1700 Eaton Drive  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
Phone: 616-846-6250  
Fax: 616-846-3114  
Emergency: 616-842-2241  
E-mail: [blpservice@ghblp.org](mailto:blpservice@ghblp.org)  
[www.ghblp.org](http://www.ghblp.org)



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Photo Credit: Zoraq.com

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**GRAND HAVEN  
BOARD OF LIGHT & POWER**

[www.ghblp.org](http://www.ghblp.org)

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## Celebrate St. Patrick's Day With Go Green Efficiency Tips

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, the BLP urges you to think beyond shamrocks and leprechauns, and to think green about our environment and how you can be more energy efficient. Doing so could help you save some "green" as well! Below are a few simple tips you can follow to become more efficient in your every day life:

- Add some trees and plants to your yard! Not only does this support the lives of butterflies, birds and animals, adding trees that shade your home may also help you save money on your energy bill.
- Heating and air conditioning units draw much of the energy a home uses. Reduce your energy consumption by lowering the heating temperature setting or by raising the A/C temperature setting while you are away from home or when you go to bed for the night.
- Change the light bulbs in your home to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) or light emitting diodes bulbs (LEDs). These bulbs use less energy than incandescent lighting and will help you save money on your electric bill.
- Recycle and use recycled products! Recycled products require less energy to make than products made from completely new materials.
- Take time to count how many appliances are plugged in around your home. Did you know that several objects still draw power when they're plugged in and turned off? It is important to remember to unplug items when they are not being used to help reduce your energy consumption and lower your monthly energy bill.

These energy efficiency tips have been brought to you by your community-owned, locally-controlled electric utility, the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power, along with the Nature Conservancy at [www.Nature.org](http://www.Nature.org). Be sure to keep these simple energy saving tips in mind this spring!

Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day!

Think  
Green  
Today! 

Photo Credit: Pinterest.com

## Severe Weather Safety Continued

Not only is it important to be aware of weather hazards and to be prepared for possible severe weather, but it is important to know how to deal with the aftermath of severe weather. Storm damage presents many dangers for you and your loved ones, so keep these things in mind when dealing with the aftermath of a storm:

- Just because power lines are damaged does not mean that they are dead. Downed power lines, stray wires, and debris in contact with them all have potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay away, and instruct others to do the same!
- Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets are under water. The water could be energized and deadly shocks are possible.
- Do not turn off the power if you must stand in water to do so. You should call your electric utility and have them shut off the power at the meter.

These are just a few safety reminders to help you prepare in advance for severe storms. Keeping these tips in mind will help you safely get back to every day life after severe weather hits your area. This information is provided by the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power and [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org).

# SAFETY MATTERS

## Weather the Storm!

The months of April through July represent the most active months for severe storms, lightning strikes, and tornadoes. The worst part yet is that you never know when a storm may hit! This creates potential electrical hazards for your family and friends. Below are some important steps that everyone should take to be fully prepared when that severe storm hits:

- Assemble a kit of essentials, like battery-operated flashlights and radios.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers that includes your electric utility.
- Be prepared for the possibility of a lengthy power outage due to power line and electric equipment damage.
- Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand.
- It is also important to have a supply of non-perishable food items on hand.
- During a power outage, be sure to switch off all lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored.
- Be sure to tune into your local weather station if you suspect severe weather is brewing! It is important to understand the National Weather Service warning classification system.