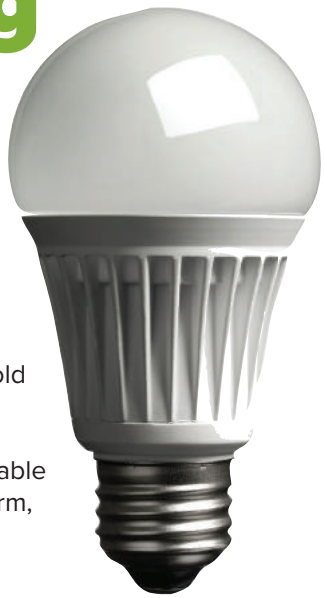
Make Bright Choices for Lighting



LED Light Bulbs

Pros:

- Light up immediately
- Stay cool to the touch
- Last up to five times longer than CFLs
- Have no sensitivity to cold temperatures
- Do not contain mercury
- Some models are dimmable
- Are available in soft, warm, and bright white hues

Cons:

- Has directional lighting that may not spread as evenly as other sources
- Currently cost more than CFLs

The BLP's **Energy Smart** program provides a variety of programs aimed at helping customers use less energy so you may lower your electric bills.

Through Energy Smart, you can receive a rebate of up to $5.50 per LED bulb (maximum 15 bulbs per household per year).

Offer expires 12/31/2017.

Visit mienergysmart.com to view the full list of energy saving programs and rebate application forms.

ENERGY SMART PROGRAM

mienergysmart.com

OMS

BLP Outage Management System

When you experience a power outage - report your outage by calling **616.846.6250** or by visiting **OMS - Your BLP Outage Management System at ghblp.org**

Your Board of Directors:

Jack Smant, Chairperson

Gerald Witherell, Vice Chairperson

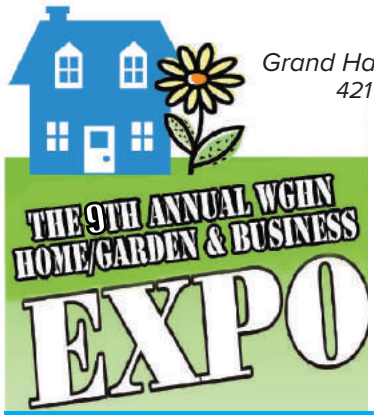
Larry Kieft, Director

John Naser, Director

Jim VanderMolen, Director

PLUGGED IN is a publication of the grand haven board of light & power.

Questions and comments may be submitted to our **Customer Service Department at:**
1700 Eaton Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417
p 616.846.6250 | f 616.846.3114
Emergency: 616.846.6250| E-Mail: customerservice@ghblp.org



Grand Haven Community Center
421 Columbus Avenue

Stop by our booth at the 9th Annual Home/ Garden & Business Expo. Free giveaways and **Energy Smart** information will be available.

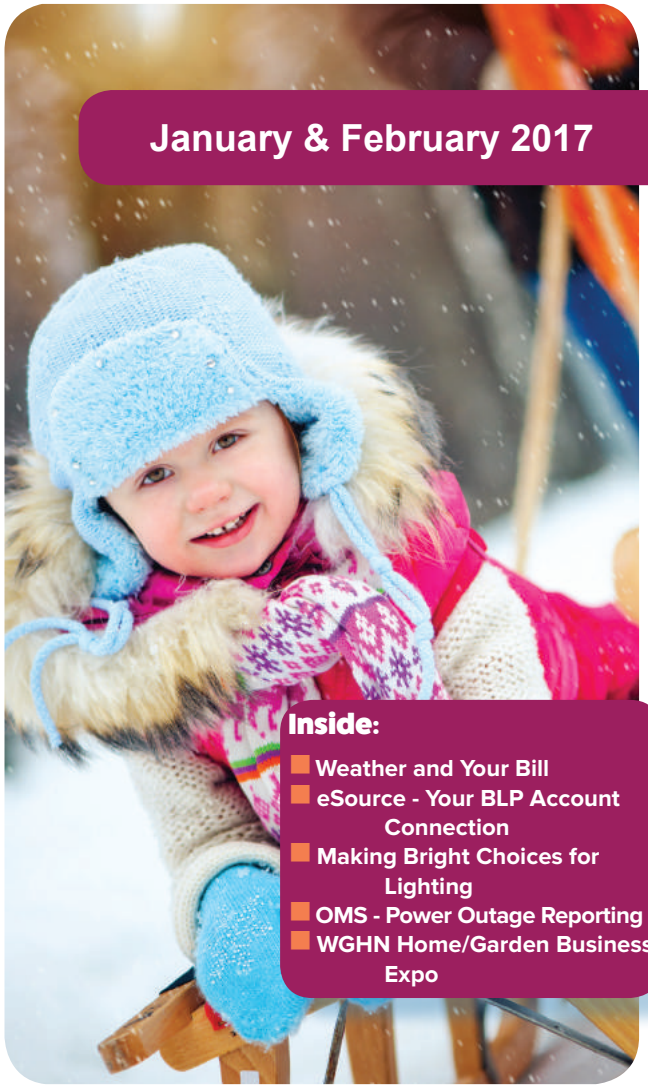
FRIDAY - February 10, 2017 | 3pm - 7pm
SATURDAY - February 11, 2017 | 9am - 5pm

PLUGGED IN

News and Information from your Community-Owned Electric Utility

grand haven board of light & power

January & February 2017



Inside:

grand haven
board of light & power

Providing quality local electric service since 1896

ghblp.org

How does weather impact my electric bill? *look at the Degree Days.*

What is a Degree Day?

degree day – Cold winter weather or sweltering summer heat can increase the cost of your utility bills. You are able to determine the weather impact by using a unit of measure called a Degree Day. **A higher number of degree days will require more energy for cooling or heating your home or business.**

2 types of degree days – Cooling and heating. Each compares the current day's average temperature to a baseline standard of 65°F to determine the energy demands of cooling or heating your home or business. Days with an average temperature of 65°F have no cooling or heating degree days.

- **Hot days** are measured in **cooling degree days**. On a day with a mean temperature of 80°F, 15 cooling degree days would be recorded (80-65=15).
- **Cold days** are measured in **heating degree days**. For a day with a mean temperature of 40°F, 25 heating degree days would be recorded (65-40=25).

Adding the cooling or heating degree days together for a whole month (or year), provides a way to compare a previous month's (or previous year's) cooling demands to that of the current month (or current year).

how weather impacted my 2016 summer electric bill – On July 1, 2016, the GHBLP decreased energy rates to its customers; however, the cooling degree days in June through September were approximately 33% above normal and 45% above those in 2015 (as recorded by the National Weather Service in Grand Rapids). Because air conditioning units demand more electricity than any other household appliance, these weather differences help to explain why electric bills were up 12.1% on average even with a 10.2% reduction in electric rates.

ACTUAL Residential Energy Use & Rate Comparision

June - September	2016	2015
Number of residential customers - 0.4% Increase over 2015	11,873	11,828
Total Residential kWh's of energy used - 12.5% Increase over 2015	32,607,436 kWh	28,981,417 kWh
Average kWh's of energy used per customer per month 12.1% Increase over 2015	687 kWh	613 kWh
Total amount billed - 1.1% Increase over 2015	$4,721,267	$4,671,346
Actual cents per kWh - 10.2% Reduction below 2015	14.48 cents	16.12 cents

Cooling degree days (June - September 2016) were approximately **33% above normal and 45% above 2015.**

Comparing 2016 to 2015, **the AVERAGE energy usage of each residential customer increased 12.1%** in these same months. This increase was primarily due to air conditioning units using more energy to cool homes because of hotter summer temperatures.

eSource
Your BLP Account Connection

Sign up for eSource – through **eSource**, you can update your account information, make payments, set up auto-pay, sign up for paperless ebills, and view your payment and energy consumption history. **Go to ghblp.org and click eSource.**