



Grand Haven Board of Light & Power encourages everyone to help prevent and reduce power theft:

1. **Notify GHBLP immediately if you know of an illegally connected consumer.**
2. **Report any suspicious activities to the GHBLP.**
3. **Never cut the seal on your meter base or tamper with your own meter for any reason.**

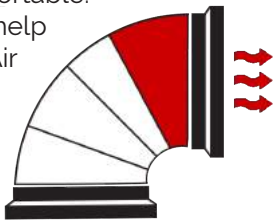
Everyone pays for power theft. Detecting and reporting illegal activity will help reduce the cost to all customers. **Report to 616.846.6250**

Prepare For Cold Weather

Check Your Home For **Air Leaks**

They may seem small, but air leaks can cost a bundle on your heating bill and make it harder to keep your home comfortable.

Sealing those leaks will help prevent wasting energy. Air gaps are often found around doors and windows, attic hatches, basements, and floor joists. Other potential problem areas include recessed lighting, outside water faucets, outlets, and door frames.



Air leaks in ducts can account for about 20-30% of wasted heat.

Electronic Payments



Auto-pay ACH

We pull the payments for you from your Checking or Savings. Pick up an ACH application form at our Service Center or on our website @ghblp.org. Changes must be made in writing. If you need to make a change, but you are not sure which type of automatic payments you have, please call our Customer Account Representatives at **616-846-6250**.



Website Auto-Pay in the Wallet

You can set up automatic payments via Checking, Savings, Debit Card, or Credit Card. There are no fees, and you are in control with a one-time payment or a reoccurring payment option. Any changes are made by you, right on our website.



Would you prefer to receive **Plugged In** electronically? Sign up by emailing customerservice@ghblp.org.

Your Board of Directors:

- Jack Smart**, 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

PLUGGED IN

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

November & December 2017



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Grand Haven Board of Light & Power

Providing quality local electric service since 1896

ghblp.org

How do we get power when Sims is offline?

From the Board of Light and Power's origin in 1896 until the initial Sims power plant was constructed in the early 1960s, all of the City of Grand Haven's power was produced and used within our local distribution system. Essentially, during these years, the system was electrically an independent "island" having no ties or interactions with the larger regional transmission system. What many now call the power grid.



Following the construction of Sim's Units 1 and 2, high voltage electric lines were installed within the Grand

Haven community to interconnect

the new power plant and our local distribution network with the regional transmission system. This allowed the Sims plant to operate "synchronously" or in parallel with the regional system, allowing for power to be exchanged with other interconnected utilities. In other words, when the Sims power plant was overproducing (above the power needs of the locally connected "retail" customers), this power could be sold at "wholesale" to others and when Sims was producing less, or offline entirely, our local system could be supplied with power from other more remote generation sources. No longer was the reliability of the local distribution system based only on the ability of local generating units to produce energy; the Sims units could then be supplemented by other generators regionally. The reliability of the system improved dramatically as a result and these interconnections allowed Sims

to be run more efficiently as a base load resource. Sims Unit 3 became operational in 1983, and Units 1 and 2 were retired shortly thereafter. Sims Unit 3 continues to supply the majority of the power our community needs. In 2016, Sims 3 generated approximately 283 million kWh while the system annual load was 313 million kWh (or Sims output was 90.4% of the total system annual load). Interestingly, during 2016, over 96 million kWh from Sims generation output was sold to the wholesale power market and 126 million kWh was purchased from the market – a "net" input into the system of 30 million kWh. 25 million kWh of this amount was attributable to long term power purchase agreements from renewable sources (wind energy and landfill gas generation).

The high voltage transmission power lines that run through Grand Haven (originally built in the early 1960s) and the interconnections to the power grid to the north and south of our community remain critical elements of our system's electrical infrastructure, allowing the GHBLP to exchange power in the wholesale power markets and supply electricity to our system when Sims Unit 3 is offline. These lines, however, have now reached the end of their useful life (after more than 50 years of service) and can no longer transmit enough energy reliably to supply our system during peak load conditions when Sims is not generating. As such, this summer the GHBLP completed phase 1 of a three year transmission upgrade project. Phase 2 will be completed in 2018 with the final phase constructed in 2019. After completion of this project, the GHBLP transmission system and associated grid interconnections will again be capable of supplying adequate and reliable power from the regional power grid to our system year-round without Sims generation, even during peak load conditions, if necessary.

Service Center Renovation

We believe our fresh new image and open concept office is something our community will be proud to own.



Highlights of the renovation project include:

- Relocating customer service to the west side of the building
- Adding a covered walkway to the entry point
- Addition of a new board room on the north side of the building
- Installation of three, new flag poles to display our National, State and City flags
- Incorporating energy efficient measures throughout the office including LED lighting with motion sensors, new windows, doors, and programmable thermostats
- New roofing with improved insulation above the front office area
- Improved security system with additional interior and exterior cameras
- Keyless entry system for secure access