

National Electric Safety Month

Pool & Spa Safety -

Electric shock drowning occurs when swimmers are exposed to electric currents in the water. In some cases, the shock itself is fatal because the person will suffocate when their diaphragm is paralyzed, while in others the electric current incapacitates the swimmer causing them to drown. The main cause of electric shock drownings is faulty electrical wiring that causes electric current to leak into the water.

HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING



Locate and label all power switches to pool, hot tub, and spa equipment and lighting.



Make sure all pools, hot tubs, and spas are at least 25 feet from power lines.



All wiring and repairs should be performed by a **qualified electrician**.



Have a qualified electrician **inspect your pool, spa, or hot tub annually**.



Install **GFCIs**, which can prevent electrocution, on all receptacles within **20 feet** of water's edge.

ESFI.org

Sign Up for **SmartHub**

An easier way to manage your GHBLP electric bill.

Through SmartHub you can:

- Access multiple accounts
- Update contact information
- Pay your bill in real time
- Set recurring payments
- Compare monthly bills

Visit ghblp.org to set up your **SmartHub Account**.



Get Plugged In!
Sign up to receive news and information electronically at ghblp.org



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PLUGGED IN

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



May & June 2019

SUMMER IS COMING PREPARE YOUR HOME NOW

ACTUAL Residential Energy Use & Rate Comparison



Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill

- Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.
- Change the air filter on your cooling unit.
- Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.
- Clear the air vents throughout your house.
- Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
- Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.

EARN CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING REBATES when you purchase and install **Energy Star®** rated equipment.
Incentive per 17 SEER unit: \$150
Incentive per 16 SEER unit: \$100
Incentive per 15 SEER unit: \$75
Visit mienergysmart.com for your Rebate Application

Comparing 2018 to 2017

The AVERAGE amount billed to each residential customer increased 6.2% year over year. This increase was due to an increase in average energy usage in 2018.

The AVERAGE energy usage of each residential customer increased 6.1% year over year. This increase was primarily due to warmer summer weather in 2018.

Adding 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) heating and cooling demands to that of the current month (or current year).

What is a Degree Day?

Degree day – Cold winter weather or summer heat can increase the cost of your utility bills. You can 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.

January to December

	2018	2017	2016
Number of residential customers - 2.9% Increase over 2017	12,553	12,199	12,002
Total Residential kWh's of energy used - 9.2% Increase over 2017	86,847,274 kWh	79,523,753 kWh	80,601,370 kWh
Average kWh's of energy used per customer per month - 6.1% Increase over 2017	576 kWh	543 kWh	560 kWh
Total amount billed - 9.3% Increase over 2017	\$12,169,263	\$11,134,970	\$11,819,927
Actual cents per kWh - Unchanged from 2017	14.0 cents	14.0 cents	14.7 cents
Number of Cooling Degree Days - Increased in 2018	61.4% above normal	8.8% above normal	37.0% above normal
Number of Heating Degree Days - Increased in 2018	1.8% below normal	10.2% below normal	11.8% below normal

In 2018, the total number of cooling degree days was 61.4% above the normal or average year.

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).