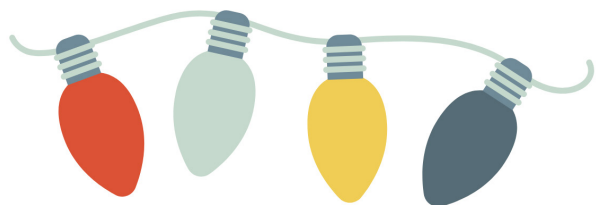


Bright Ideas for Safe Lighting this season



A lot of things can happen in a year of holiday light storage. Depending on how you store your decorations, you could encounter some damage to your lights. Below are some safety tips:

- **Check for fraying.** Examine all holiday lights and electronics before decorating.
- **Use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors.** It seems pretty obvious but people sometimes think they are interchangeable.
- **Do not hang lights when it is windy, raining, or snowing.**
- **Do not overload extension cords** or string more than the recommended number of strands together. The rule of thumb is to only string three strands of lights together for safety. Any more than that and we've created a potentially dangerous electrical situation.
- **Keep cords out of high traffic areas.**
- **Never use staples, tacks, or nails to hang lights.** Staples, tacks, and nails can pierce holiday light strands and create a potential electrical shock.



**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year**

*It's Survey Time
and your voice matters!*

greatblue

The Board of Light & Power partnered with Great Blue Research, Inc., an innovative company with 41+ years of dedicated customer survey work, to conduct our Fifth Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. The random telephone surveys will take place in the first two weeks of December 2020. Every voice matters as we plan for the future direction of the GHBLP. Please be sure to participate if you're contacted for our random Customer Satisfaction Survey.



Your Board of Directors:

Jack Smant, Chairperson
Gerald Witherell, Vice Chairperson
Todd Crum, Director
Larry Kieft, Director
John Naser, Director

Grand Haven Board of Light & Power
1700 Eaton Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417

616.846.6250 | ghblp.org

PLUGGED IN

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



**November &
December 2020**

GHBLP Approves Conceptual Master Plan For Harbor Island Site Redevelopment

In alignment with the community-owned utility's strategic plan for a diverse, sustainable energy supply, Grand Haven Board of Light & Power (GHBLP) directors have approved a conceptual master plan to redevelop the utility's Harbor Island site. GHBLP staff can now proceed to more fully evaluate the financial and engineering viability of developing an Operations and Technology Center, including 12.5MW of combined heat and power generation on a portion of the former Sims site.



Although the JB Sims coal power plant is undergoing demolition, the Harbor Island site is still the location of critical distribution infrastructure including the utility's primary connection to the grid, which currently supplies 100% of power to the community. As the existing transmission and distribution infrastructure on the site cannot be affordably relocated, the board is exploring integrating the existing infrastructure with an operations center as the most cost-effective approach. The operations center will house the technology and staff necessary to support the utility's advanced distribution infrastructure and combined heat and power generation.

"A diverse portfolio of power supply sources including renewables, grid purchases and locally-

owned generation will ensure affordable, reliable power for the community," said Gerald Witherell, vice-chairperson of the board. "The operations center and generation units we're considering will help us leverage the best prices from the grid and protect our ratepayers from excessive wholesale market prices during regional peak demand periods."

The proposed natural gas reciprocating internal combustion engine (RICE) peaking units would account for about 15% of GHBLP's state-mandated resource adequacy capacity requirements. The utility has already invested heavily in new renewable resources and is on track to meet 25% of its energy needs by 2022 with aggressive plans for continued growth. Ultimately, GHBLP plans to use the RICE generators during peak demand periods when it is more economical to produce power locally than to buy from the grid. Counsel from Power Engineers Collaborative and ProgressiveAE have also determined that a combined heat and power generation solution on Harbor Island near the downtown area would be the most economical source of heat for the city's snowmelt system.

"The community has asked that our utility place a high value on fiscal and environmental responsibility," said Jack Smart, chairperson of the board. "Our strategic transition from an organization focused on operating a single coal generating unit toward advanced distribution technologies and renewable energy resources aligns with our community values."

The GHBLP is exploring the best ways to restore wetlands to a portion of the property, and reduce the utility's footprint to about one-half of the site previously occupied by the old Sims power plant, its coal yard and dock, and other adjacent equipment and ancillary facilities.



While you're busy in the kitchen preparing your family's holiday feast, Grand Haven Board of Light & Power wants to help keep your family safe and your energy bills low. These steps are easy to follow and come at no extra cost.

- **Make sure your pan covers the coil**



of your range. If you can see coil peeping out from the sides of your pan, you need a bigger pan (or a smaller burner).

- **Put a lid on it.** Cover pans while cooking to prevent heat loss.

- **Think small** opt for a smaller appliance, such as a toaster oven or microwave, whenever possible. They have smaller spaces to heat, so they require less energy.



- **Defrosting food in the microwave** may be convenient, but it costs nothing more to defrost in the refrigerator.

- **Turn the oven or stove burners off a few minutes before your food is ready.** They will remain hot enough to finish cooking the food.

- **Don't preheat the oven** unless a recipe requires it.

- **Don't peek.** Opening the oven door lowers the internal temperature and requires more energy to reheat.

