



GHBPL received the Diamond Level RP3 award on March 23, 2021, the highest RP3 designation awarded. The prestigious RP3 designation indicates that our service meets high industry standards for reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement.



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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



May & June 2021



Harbor Island Site Redevelopment

On the heels of Grand Haven's coal-fired power plant demolition, Grand Haven Board of Light & Power (GHBLP) shared designs for redevelopment at the site, including a future Operations and Technical Center with combined heat and power (CHP) generation. At a virtual meeting late February, GHBLP staff and Progressive AE, the design firm chosen for the project, shared renders of the redeveloped site and answered questions from the community.

"The landscape of Harbor Island will look remarkably different with this sustainable, new vision," said Gerald Witherell, vice chairperson of the board. "Our customer-owners are our greatest priority, and this design places our community values of reliability, affordability and environmental responsibility at the forefront."

GHBLP's plans for an Operations and Technology Center will take advantage of the regional transmission network connections that connect to the Harbor Island site as well as the proximity to downtown to provide heat for the snowmelt system. Also on site will be the recently updated downtown substation and a dedicated space for future new technologies including advanced energy storage and a community-owned solar project.

About half of GHBLP's property will be restored to wetlands and turned over to the community. Current renderings show the potential for an expansion of Linear Park with greater public-access to natural areas and the Grand River waterfront.

"The new Operations and Technology Center represents a more sustainable and complementary architecture to the natural area," said David Shull, principal, industrial practice leader at Progressive AE. "The design is also flexible, and while a portion of it is dedicated to combined heat and power engines now, it can also be used for emerging technologies in the future."

In alignment with professional recommendations and several years of planning, the Board approved the master plans for the site in October 2020 and approved Progressive AE as the design and engineering firm in November 2020. GHBLP plans to fund the redevelopment project through municipal bonds at an attractive interest rate. GHBLP lowered customer electric rates by 6% over 2016-2017 and has committed to maintaining rates constant throughout this transition. These current rates are adequate to cover expected annual debt service and fund the expected 5-year capital plan the BLP currently has in place.

"This is an excellent solution that will secure affordable, reliable power for customers while enabling us to confidently continue growing our renewable energy portfolio," said David Walters, GHBLP General Manager.

Visit GrandHavenPower.org for more information about GHBLP's Harbor Island redevelopment project and diverse energy supply portfolio.

Community-Wide Savings of \$6.6 Million Per Year

One question that we have frequently been asked at Grand Haven Board of Light & Power is how our rates compare to other local service providers such as Consumers Energy. To help answer this question and raise awareness about one of the most important benefits of having a community-owned electric utility, we compared the financial impact for GHBLP customers using Consumers Energy (CE) rates as of January 1, 2021 to current GHBLP rates. This evaluation shows that if GHBLP customers were to receive service from CE, the community would holistically pay \$6.6 million MORE per year under CE's 2021 rates.

In other words, if all 14,713 GHBLP customers were billed under Consumers Energy's current applicable rates, they would pay an average of \$0.145/kWh (about 18% more on average than they pay under current applicable GHBLP rates).

Our community collectively saves about \$550,000 per month on average under GHBLP's current rates as opposed to CE's similarly applicable current rates each and every month. That is \$6.6 million per year in savings for our community!

