

# A Brighter & Cleaner Future

## Serving The Community While Improving the Environment

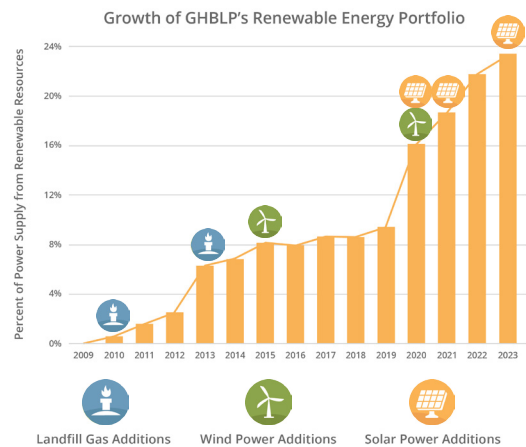
Over the past decade, the Board of Light & Power (BLP) has made substantial progress in reducing environmental impacts from the power supply used to electrify the communities we serve. Our publicly owned and locally operated BLP has moved away from a large baseload fossil fuel combustion source to a more balanced power supply portfolio that's positively impacting the environment while also saving customers money.

## Achieving Significant Emission Reductions

In 1983, when Sims Unit 3 was added to the power plant in Grand Haven, it was accompanied by state-of-the-art pollution control equipment. However, there were still significant air emissions from this coal-fired boiler. While the Sims Power Plant served the community well, a lot has changed in power supply options and the BLP can now provide power to our community that is cleaner and less expensive.

This is why, in 2020, the BLP retired the Sims Power Plant and created a new, diversified power supply portfolio. This allowed the BLP to increase its renewable energy portfolio from 8% in 2016 to 23.4% in 2023. A significant achievement in a short period of time! Renewable energy projects that the BLP has invested in include six

different utility-scale solar projects (three are in operation and the other three will be going online in 2025), two different wind power projects, and four different landfill gas projects.



While the BLP's newly developed power supply portfolio still exhibits some regional emissions based on the power supply makeup, it has greatly reduced overall emissions.

Compared to historical air emission peaks, carbon dioxide emissions have decreased by over 70% since the BLP made this once-in-a-generation power supply change. Nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide emissions have both decreased by 90% from peak local levels as well.

## Saving Customer Money at the Same Time

The power supply transition has saved BLP customers millions of dollars every year

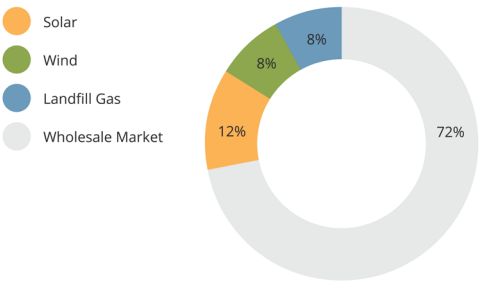
since inception. This is how the BLP was able to decrease rates by 3% in 2015 and again by 3% in 2017 while holding rates relatively steady since. A win-win solution that benefits everyone.

## Adapting and Evolving Responsibly

The Michigan Legislature developed new laws in November 2023 that require all electric utilities to increase their renewable energy portfolios to 50% by 2030 and 60% by 2035. Now several years into a proactive power supply strategy targeting long-term sustainability, the BLP is well-positioned to meet the first phase of the new rules. Early measures taken can be used for compliance during the first four years of the new regulations allowing our community to continue the diversification strategy and spread out risk across many different renewable energy projects over the next decade.

Through its partnership with the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA), the BLP in conjunction with the other municipal utilities in the state will be able to pool its resources to achieve economies of scale for future long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with renewable energy developers. Newly enacted

### 2025 Energy Portfolio



state regulations are anticipated to spur additional investments in renewable energy allowing the BLP to increase the community's renewable energy portfolio in a manner that balances affordability and reliability.

The BLP will continue moving forward using proven risk management practices to ensure an economical power supply portfolio today and into the future. A balanced approach will allow the community to adjust and adapt as market conditions and emerging technologies continue to evolve.

## Going Green Beyond the New Portfolio

The BLP offers customer solutions to further reduce environmental impacts through an energy waste reduction (EWR) program. With the help of partners Franklin Energy and Michigan Energy Options, the EWR program provides resources like:

- Residential Energy Savings Rebates
- Commercial & Industrial Rebate Programs
- Electric Vehicle Charging Rebate Program
- Appliance Recycling Program



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Story continues on outside panel

## A Brighter & Cleaner Future *con't*

Many customers have taken advantage of these incentives. The BLP's energy waste reduction program is cumulatively saving over 30,000 mega-watt hours per year which is over 10% of the BLP's average annual sales.

### Conclusion

We've made great progress, and our local communities are doing their part to usher in a cleaner, more environmentally friendly future through the power supply transition at the BLP. Together, the BLP and its 15,000 customers have accomplished a heavy lift over the past decade. We'll continue to move forward while maintaining a balance between reliability, affordability, and sustainability. Grand Haven and the surrounding communities of Grand Haven Township, City of Ferrysburg, Spring Lake Township, and Robinson Township are successfully moving toward a brighter and sustainable future.

To view our newest solar project  
watch our video  
"GHBLP Calhoun Solar Project September 2023" on our YouTube Channel.



## Employee Spotlight



On June 5, 2024, Samuel Garcia, a BLP Utility Clearance Department member, joined 213 others during a swearing in ceremony at the Forest Hills Art Center in Grand Rapids to officially become a US citizen! These 214 new US Citizens hail from 58 diverse countries. The BLP is immensely proud of Sam and his valuable contributions to the team. Sam works tirelessly and devotes his talent and commitment to the community, helping clear downed trees and limbs during storm events, allowing our line crews to get in and restore power. His great attitude makes him an absolute pleasure to work with! We congratulate Sam on a truly great achievement, which is a testament to his dedication and love for his community and country!



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- Update contact information
- Pay your bill in real-time
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For customers interested in setting up a SmartHub account, registration is simple and located right at the top of the **ghblp.org** homepage or download the FREE app from Apple® and Android® devices.



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# PLUGGED IN

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September/October  
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