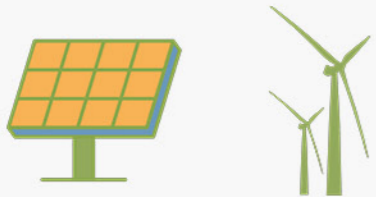


continued from inside panels

Locally-Based Sustainability Programs

In addition to the current energy waste reduction programs that have been in place for over 12 years, there are other steps that could be evaluated as a community that may provide additional flexibility in this changing industry. However, before taking additional steps, we want to ensure we move forward strategically and systematically with your input. One option that has been discussed in the past is a local community solar program, which would involve the construction of a high-grade but small-scale solar farm locally. Such a program has potential but also carries some cost, and we need your input on the willingness to financially participate in such a program.

Additionally, we would like your input on programs such as Demand Response, which is an energy-saving program some utilities use to adjust equipment in your home, and Time of Use rates, which is a program that charges more for power in the peak hours of the day and less at night. These are programs that are being initiated by some other utilities but before the BLP decides to pursue and invest in these options, we want to gauge our communities' desire for such initiatives.



Your Feedback is Important

Please scan the QR Code below or access the digital survey online at www.ghblp.org.

Our community depends on the BLP to provide for one of your most essential needs. Our proven approach to healthy utility management is to maintain a proper balance between reliability, affordability, and sustainability.

Please consider taking just a few moments to share with us your priorities and desire for the future. This is your chance to let us know how we can best serve your family and your business.

The survey will be open from February 24th through March 31st. The results of the survey will be publicly presented to the Board in May.

Scan for survey



Reporting an Outage

Visit our Outage Center at ghblp.org & click on the yellow plug



Customer Service 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
24 hour Emergency Service
616-846-6250



Your Board of Directors:

- Michael J. Westbrook, Chairperson
- Todd B. Crum, Vice-Chairperson
- Phil Polyak, Director
- Kurt Knoth, Director
- Mike Welling, Director

Grand Haven Board of Light & Power
1700 Eaton Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 846-6250 | ghblp.org

PLUGGED IN



We are Looking for Your Feedback



March-April 2025

Announcing the BLP's 2025 Customer Service & Planning Survey

The Grand Haven Board of Light and Power (BLP) is conducting a customer survey beginning in late February through March to make sure your electrical service meets your expectations while also creating an opportunity to share your thoughts with us on opportunities for improvement.

In this *Plugged In*, we provide context on why your participation is so valuable in shaping the future of your community-owned BLP.

Understanding the Role of Public Power

In 2025, the BLP celebrates a proud milestone – 129 years of community ownership and operation of a public power electric utility system. We owe much of our success to the support we receive from the community. Public Power is a very different business model than investor-owned for-profit electric companies. The money that our customers pay on their electric bill is invested back into your local electrical system or set aside for future utility planning efforts. Our goal is to make sure that our community's power is reliable, affordable and sustainable not only today but into the future.

Only one in seven electricity customers across the nation are fortunate to be served by a public power utility. The businesses and residents served by the BLP in the City of Grand Haven, City of Ferrysburg, and Townships of Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Robinson have a direct opportunity to offer input and feedback to their hometown power provider that serves one of our most essential life needs.

Local Control - A Strategic Advantage

The BLP is governed by a five-member voter-elected Board of Directors. The Board is required under the City Charter to implement best practices to serve the citizens and businesses of our community. A vitally important component of those best practices is regular strategic planning.

The Board is successfully wrapping up the priorities established in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, and soon the Board will begin developing the next five-year strategic plan.

Your feedback through this survey will be extremely valuable in the Board's planning process because it gives them accurate, quantitative data that is representative of the interests of all stakeholders. In other words, this is your opportunity to tell the Board your priorities when it comes to your local electric service, what initiatives you would like to see it pursue, and your willingness to support future endeavors.

Maintaining Stable, Affordable Rates

There have been revolutionary changes in the power industry over just the last five years with even greater changes on the horizon. The BLP has followed a strategic approach of adapting and evolving with these changing industry trends. This is why in 2020, the BLP retired the coal-fired Sims Power Plant and developed a diversified power supply portfolio with increased renewable energy purchases. This enabled the BLP to lower rates by approximately 3% in 2016 and another 3% in 2017 while holding them relatively steady since.

The BLP is currently undergoing a Cost-of-Service Study to develop a long-term rate track for the next five years to maintain competitive rates for our community in this changing energy industry. Currently, the BLP is approximately 30% cheaper in residential rates than our neighbors served by a for-profit electric utility. An outstanding achievement by any measure, this keeps your hard-earned money in your pocket, but it will take skillful planning and foresight to maintain that competitiveness in the future.

Meeting Renewable Energy Targets

The State of Michigan has set challenging mandates that all electric utilities are required to meet 50% of their energy portfolio with renewable resources by 2030 and 60% by 2035. The BLP's current power supply portfolio includes 24% from renewable energy resources with two new solar projects expected to be completed in 2025.

The BLP has proactively entered into power purchase agreements with five different solar power projects and two wind power projects to get ahead in meeting these state requirements. Last December, the Board also approved the purchase of enough renewable energy credits (representing renewable energy produced elsewhere on the national grid) to meet the first phase requirements of the new state regulations. This will allow our community to continue the strategy of diversifying power supply resources by making incremental investments on multiple renewable energy projects constructed throughout our state over the next 10 years.

