

BAY CITY ELECTRIC LIGHT & POWER

Quarter 4 Newsletter - 2023



VAMPIRE ENERGY

Stop vampire energy this Halloween. It's time to find and destroy energy vampires plaguing your home.

What is vampire energy?

Vampire energy is also called standby power. Appliances and electronic devices that use standby power keep drawing energy even when they are turned off. Just like vampires suck the blood from their victims, vampire energy sucks the power from your outlets. According to the [Department of Energy](#), vampire energy accounts for 10% of the energy used in an average home.



The top energy vampires include:

- ◆ Computers and computer-related equipment
- ◆ Televisions and video game consoles
- ◆ Cable or satellite TV boxes
- ◆ Tablet and cell phone chargers
- ◆ Household items with a clock (microwave, coffee maker, etc.)



How to slay the energy vampires in your home!

Hanging garlic around your home won't help! There are some simple things you can do to slay your energy vampires.

- ◆ Purchase a "smart" power strip that shuts down power to products in standby mode automatically. Rebates are available (www.BayCityEnergySmart.org).
- ◆ Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use. But, there are some things that can't be unplugged, like refrigerators, because they need power to control temperature. Look for the Energy Star® label when replacing appliances to get the most energy efficient product.
- ◆ Use timers for holiday decor. The lights and inflatables make your yard look spectacular, but they also use electricity.
- ◆ Instead of pausing your video game system or television, save and power down.

Winter Protection Plan (2023/2024)

The Winter Protection Plan (WPP) may protect certain qualifying customers from service shut off and high payments during the winter months (November 1 - March 31). Customers are responsible for all electricity and water used, but some of the costs can be deferred. Participation does not relieve customers from the responsibility of pre-existing balances or payment for the electricity and water usage; it only prevents shut off during the winter months. If you are low-income, you must pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month during the protection period.

If you're an eligible senior citizen customer participating in the Winter Protection Plan (WPP) you are not required to make a specific payment between November 1 and March 31, your service will not be shut off. However, seniors are encouraged to pay what they can during the Winter Protection period to avoid having an excessively high bill that may result in a shutoff notice for non-payment once the protection period is over.

Eligible customers may sign up for the WPP beginning on November 1st. You are eligible if:

- ♦ You are 65 years of age or older, regardless of income
- ♦ You are full-time active military personnel
- ♦ You are qualified for a certified medical emergency relief program or have been documented as a critical care customer, Medicaid or food stamp recipient, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ♦ Your household income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty guidelines* and you comply with the Winter Protection Plan

At the end of the winter months, any under collection as a result of participation in the Winter Protection Plan may result in a true-up and calculation of the payments due through the start of the next winter season. In addition to the past due payments, the customer will have to pay the current bills in full each month.

You must complete and return a new Winter Protection application each year. If you have any questions regarding the Winter Protection program, please call Utility Customer Service at (989) 894-8104, option 7.

# Household Members	Maximum Income*
1	\$21,860
2	\$29,580
3	\$37,290
4	\$45,000
Add \$7,710 for each additional household member	

PUBLIC POWER PROVIDER

Bay City Electric Light & Power (BCELP) is a municipal utility, which means we are owned by the community we serve. Private utilities answer to shareholders. We answer to YOU, our ratepayer. Here are some reasons why a public municipal utility is the best choice:

- We operate in the public interest – for the benefit of the residents and businesses in the City. We focus on providing you with reliable, cost effective service.
- Our employees live in the community, and many are BCELP customers.
- If a customer has an issue that needs to be resolved, they can take care of the problem locally.
- Local ownership means much of our customers' energy dollars stay in the community – creating jobs and supporting the local community.



Utility Customer Service (UCS)

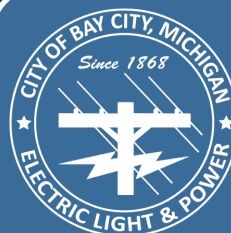
Programs available for eligible customers:

- Programs for seniors 65 years of age or older
- Full time active military personnel protections
- Critical care/life support discounts
- Winter Protection Plan

For additional programs/applications contact UCS at (989) 894-8104 option 7 or www.BayCityMI.org.

Need utility assistance?

Dial 211 - Hearing impaired dial (800) 649-3777



Bay City Electric Light & Power
900 S. Water Street
Bay City, MI 48708
(989) 894-8350

Hours:
Monday - Friday
7:00 am - 3:30 pm