

# The Holland Board of Public Works

Your hometown utility.



## NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

A publication for HBPW Customers

### What are these charges on my bill?

The City of Holland and the Holland BPW recently approved an electric rate increase which became effective July 1, 2009.

The additional monies will help to cover rising power costs; replace aging equipment and facilities in order to maintain reliable electric service; and help meet state goals and mandates for energy efficiency and increased renewable energy.

Your billing statement now reflects new changes in the electric charges. These changes include:

- 1) The Customer Charge is now called: **"Readiness to Serve."** This charge covers the cost of the expenses necessary to be ready to serve you at all times.
- 2) The Renewable Energy Charge (which was based on usage) is now a **flat monthly charge** instead of a per kWh charge.
- 3) The **Energy Optimization Charge** is a new charge, and covers costs mandated under the State of Michigan's Public Act 295.

To learn more about the HBPW's Renewable Energy plans and/or our Energy Optimization Program (as required by the State of Michigan), go to [www.hollandbpw.com](http://www.hollandbpw.com), and view Holland BPW Renewable and Efficient Energy Plan - Michigan Public Act 295.

The Holland BPW is doing all that we can to keep our rates competitive, and we are making strides to lower our expenses. Additionally, the HBPW is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the environment. Our goal is to provide affordable, reliable energy while implementing the State's Energy Optimization and Renewable and Efficient Energy Plans.

Energy efficiency can significantly help in lowering bills, and the HBPW's Energy Smart program offers opportunities and education to customers on how to minimize energy use and cut down on energy costs. In addition, the HBPW has a free on-line energy audit service to help customers better understand how they are currently using energy in the home or business.

For more information and tips on how you can save, please go to [www.hollandbpw.com](http://www.hollandbpw.com).



### Got expired, unused medications? **Don't flush.**

Got pain medication that didn't get used once the pain went away? Or pills remaining after a loved one's death? The toilet bowl is not the place to dispose of unused medications. Over the years, we've been told to flush unwanted drugs down the drain or toilet. Recent concerns about pharmaceuticals in the wastewater and water supply have resulted in the Office of National Drug Control Policy issuing an advisory telling consumers not to flush medications.

The Ottawa County Health Department and the Holland BPW are offering residents the opportunity to dispose of unwanted, unneeded or expired prescription and over-the-counter medicines. The collection is free and available to Ottawa County residents.

#### Holland BPW & Ottawa County Health Department are co-sponsoring a **Personal Pharmaceutical Collection**

**on Saturday, September 26  
from 9:00 am to Noon  
at the Health Department facility  
located at 12251 James Street  
just east of US 31 Highway.**

Residents are encouraged to bring:

- Expired or unwanted medicines
- Drugs that didn't work for you or a pet
- Prescriptions of a deceased family member
- Unknown tablets or capsules

While this collection is not accepting home use medical sharps, a sharps collection service is available through a separate health department program. Got questions? Contact the HBPW at 355-1500 or the Ottawa County Health Department at 393-5645.

Unable to drop off your old medicine? Securely wrap the medicine and put into a trash can that is out of reach of children and animals. Or check with a local pharmacy to see if they will accept old medicines. Remember, don't flush that old medicine!

## HBPW plugs in Energy Smart program for residential customers

The Holland BPW is launching its new **Energy Smart** residential programs designed to assist electric customers lower their energy use and save money.

Recent state law requires that all Michigan utilities start "energy optimization" plans to assist customers in lowering their energy costs.

In addition to our existing efforts to encourage energy conservation, beginning in mid-September 2009, our Energy Smart program will offer:

**A Residential Refrigerator/Freezer Turn-in Program.** HBPW electric customers with an operable, inefficient refrigerator or freezer can have it removed and recycled in an environmentally safe manner at no cost. In addition, we'll send you a check in the amount of \$30 for becoming "energy smart."

**A Residential Efficient Lighting Program.** HBPW will help buy-down the cost for customers purchasing compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), LED Holiday Lights and ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> qualified light fixtures and ceiling fans. A limited number of CFLs will be available to residential customers during 2009.

**A Program for Residents with Limited Incomes.** Working with community service organizations, the HBPW will provide qualified replacement ENERGY STAR products for customers whose income is estimated to be below 200% of poverty level.

**Residential and Business Education.** Educational materials as well as an on-line energy audit at [www.hollandbpw.com](http://www.hollandbpw.com) are available free to HBPW customers.

For detailed information, terms and conditions on these Holland BPW Energy Smart programs, call toll free 877-674-7281 (Michigan Energy Smart Program).

Over the next four years, more programs will be added. For information about the Energy Smart Program and the HBPW's 2009-2012 energy plans, visit the HBPW website, [www.hollandbpw.com](http://www.hollandbpw.com) and click on Holland BPW Renewable & Efficient Energy Plan.

Being energy smart means using energy more efficiently. It's more than simply the right thing to do -- it will save you money on your energy bills and help the environment as well. **BE ENERGY SMART!**

## HBPW BOARD NEWS



### DIANE HAWORTH APPOINTED TO HBPW BOARD

Diane Haworth was recently appointed by Holland Mayor Al McGeehan to the HBPW Board of Directors.

Haworth replaces Bryan Gras who had served on the Board since August 2006. She will serve a partial term until 2011, and then be eligible for a first term from 2011-2016.

A resident of Holland and an environmental community supporter, Haworth recently served as a member of the City of Holland/Board of Public Works' Sustainability Committee.

Haworth previously served as the sustainability manager at Haworth, Inc. and participated in the 3 E's Initiative.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the municipally owned HBPW that provides utility services to 28,000 customers in the Holland area.

"An experienced person in environmental and sustainability issues, Diane brings a wealth of experience to the Board," said HBPW's General Manager Loren Howard. We look forward to benefiting from her input over the coming years."

Other members serving on the Board of Directors include: Richard Cook, Paul Elzinga, Timothy Hemingway and James Storey. City Manager Soren Wolff serves on the board as an Ex Officio member.

### 2009-2010 Board Officers Appointed

New HBPW Board officers were named at the August 10th board meeting. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to have Jim Storey serve as chairperson and Tim Hemingway as the new vice chairperson.

Storey, who brings experience in utility operations, has been serving as vice chairperson since January 2009. Hemingway retired last fall as president of SAF-Holland following a 34-year career. Both are residents of Holland.

