

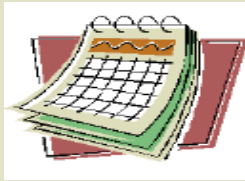
The Holland Board of Public Works

WINTER 2002-03

NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Publication for HBPW Customers

Holland BPW Board Meeting Schedule for 2003



The HBPW Board of Directors has approved scheduling board meetings on a monthly basis. (Previously, meetings were held bi-weekly.) Meetings are held at the HBPW administrative offices, located at 625 Hastings Avenue in Holland. All meetings are open to the public, and begin at 4:00 p.m. It is recommended that you call the HBPW offices to confirm the date and location of the meeting, prior to attending. The following HBPW meetings are scheduled for the Monday prior to the Holland City Council's second meeting of each month:

2003

January 13
February 17
March 17
April 14
May 19
June 16
July 14
August 18
September 15
October 13
November 17
December 15

Be Power Smart

How you use what's in your home could double or halve your energy bills, and increase your comfort. For example, if you replaced four 100-watt incandescent bulbs that burn four hours a day with four 23-watt fluorescent bulbs, you'd get as much light and save at least 1,350 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity and \$83 over the next three years.

Fluorescent bulbs use only about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the energy that incandescent require and can last ten times as long. Fluorescent bulbs cost more than incandescent bulbs, but the energy they save will make up for the difference at least 2-3 times over.

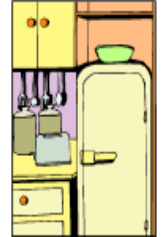
Fluorescent bulbs cannot be used with dimmer switches, and may not fit all your fixtures. So, plan how to use the fluorescent bulbs before purchasing.

If you use incandescent bulbs, you can still realize energy-efficient lighting. In fixtures that have several sockets, use one high-wattage bulb instead of 2 or 3 smaller bulbs. It takes two 50-watt bulbs, or four 40-watt bulbs to light a space to the same brightness as one 100-watt bulb. Using the 100-watt bulb will cost 17% less than 60-watt bulbs and 38% less than 40-watt bulbs. You'll want to consider purchasing "Energy Miser" or "Supersaver" type bulbs,

which use up to 13% less electricity.

In the kitchen.

If you use a dish washer, use the short cycle and air-dry selections. This cycle uses less hot water, and the air-dry selector shuts off the heat during the drying cycle, reducing energy use up to 20%.



When buying a refrigerator, consider one with the freezer on top. These are typically more efficient than side-by-side or models with the freezer on the bottom. Side-by-side refrigerators typically use about 35% more energy. To avoid making your refrigerator work harder, locate it away from the stove, dishwasher, and out of direct sunlight. Also, make sure air can circulate around the condenser coils.

Check temperatures inside the refrigerator. Temperatures should be between 38-42 degrees F, with the freezer temperature between 0-5 degrees F. Keep within these ranges. Ten degrees colder, could increase energy use up to 25%.

Look for energy efficient features when buying a stove. If you choose gas, select one with an electric ignition, which uses about 40% less energy (Continued on back.)

Automated Meter Reading

The HBPW is in the process of installing Automated Meter Reading (AMR) for water and electric meters. AMR is a proven technology that reduces the frequency of estimates, re-reads, and errors. Communities that have already installed AMR have reported successful results in increased efficiency and greater customer satisfaction.

Installation began in January 2003, and it is expected to take a couple of years to complete the entire service area.

The project involves changing electric and water meters. Access to your meters will be necessary.

You can expect a brief water stoppage if your water meter needs to be replaced, and you will have a brief power outage when the electric meter is changed. Most likely these two outages will not happen on the same date depending on the availability of the meter reading devices. You will be notified by the HBPW regarding scheduling the changeover.

The new meters will not affect your billing cycle, and there will be no additional charge for this new system. During the changeover period, however, the meter reader may leave a meter reading card on your door, if the reader does not have access to the meter.

If you have questions, please contact the HBPW Customer Service Department at 616/355-1500.

HOLLAND BPW SPONSORS “HOME EXPO” SHOW



For the second year, the HBPW has partnered with the Home Builder's Association (HBA) of the Holland Area as the corporate sponsor of the Home Expo Show. This year's event will take place from Thursday, Feb. 20 - Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Westshore Mall.

Each year, the Home Expo Show spotlights some of the latest trends and products

being used in home improvement projects, new construction materials, and building technologies. The show has annually attracted up to 5,000 area residents.

The HBPW will have an exhibit booth with staff to answer questions regarding your utility service. Home Expo hours are: 10 am - 9 pm. There is no charge.

Be Power Smart

(Continued from front.)

than a pilot light. This could save you about \$25-30 per year. Convection ovens offer a more efficient means of cooking, by allowing for lower temperatures and shorter cooking times. Speaking of cooking, if you are heating up small quantities of food, it's more efficient to use a microwave, toaster oven or crock-pot. Microwaves generally use 1/3 to 1/2 as much electricity as conventional ovens for cooking the same amount of food. When preparing soups and stews, requiring long periods of cooking, use a crock-pot, which consumes a lot less energy than a stovetop. To get the most efficient heating when cooking on electric stovetops, use pans with flat bottoms.

In the laundry room. Did you know that the average household washes 7.4 loads – about 50 pounds of laundry per week. Ninety percent of all wash loads are put in a dryer. With more than 6,000 articles of clothing being machine-washed each

year in a typical household, the laundry room is an important room to identify cost-saving measures. Wash clothes in warm water instead of hot. Up to 90% of energy used to wash clothes is used to heat the water. Always use a cold-water rinse cycle which does not affect the cleaning.

When buying a clothes dryer, look for features such as moisture sensor controls. These controls automatically turn the dryer off as soon as the clothes are dry – resulting in a 10-15% energy savings. Dry only full loads of similar weight together so that all the clothes dry at the same time. It requires more energy to dry two small loads than one large one. Don't add wet items to a load that is already in the process of being dried, and take advantage of the heat still in the dryer by drying two or more loads in a row. Remember, be energy conscious and power smart!