



BELD *Business* POWER

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Braintree Electric Light Department

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We're practicing what we preach—in our own backyard!

Our highly-efficient Watson Generating Station, our solar panels, our hydroelectric supply, our BGREEN program enabling customers to purchase renewable energy units, our conservation programs—they all represent BELD's commitment to green practices.

Now we've taken that commitment a step further by participating in an Integrated Sustainability Planning study. We took a look at our own buildings and unearthed some new money-saving opportunities to go even greener.

We're looking into leveraging more efficient fleet operations, purchasing more green

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BELD is one of only a handful of vertically integrated municipals in the state of Massachusetts

Braintree Electric Light Department (BELD) is a municipal electric utility providing low-cost and reliable electric service to the Town of Braintree. Considered a vertically integrated utility, BELD is fairly unique in that we are one of only a handful of municipals in the state that still own and operate generation, transmission and distribution equipment.

We currently own and operate **four power plants** and bid them into the ISO New England market system. They include Potter II, a 96 megawatt (MW) combined cycle power plant, the two new Thomas Watson 58 MW quick-start simple-cycle turbines and a 2 MW diesel unit. The units provide added reliability to our system as well as a physical hedge against high energy prices. In an extreme situation, we can run the Town of Braintree as an island by using our own internal generation.

BELD's 115kV **transmission system** is essentially a loop connected at two different transmission lines on the NStar system. Should either one of these transmission lines fail—either on our system or on the NStar system—we have the capability to seamlessly continue electrical service to the town by using the second line.

BELD's **distribution system** consists of three substations, two of which can easily handle our peak demand (about 93 MW). If a catastrophic event were to take out an entire substation, the other two would be able to carry the load. This year we will install a second substation transformer at our station behind the South Shore Plaza, allowing for even more redundancy throughout the electrical system.

Providing highly reliable electric service **at the lowest reasonable cost** is a primary focus at BELD. We have also developed a hedging plan minimizing the volatility

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supplies and equipment, and introducing wireless HVAC controls. These new controls will allow us to control systems remotely, saving energy and money.

If the new system proves beneficial, we will look to promote it to our commercial and industrial users who can benefit from it as well.

BELD is now working on developing policies and procedures that will embed sustainability into all our decision-making processes—because it's not just the right thing to do, it's sound ecology and economics. And everyone wins when BELD gets greener.



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of our rates. Taking a long-term approach toward electric markets—by building power plants and contracting for extended periods with other energy providers—has helped BELD customers realize a significant savings in electric rates when compared to investor-owned utilities. Our customers are benefiting from the 2009 completion of the Thomas A. Watson Generating Station and moderating energy costs, as evidenced by BELD's reduced electric rates. Further reductions are expected.

Energy New England announces an enhanced Commercial Auditing Program

In these challenging times, we need to work together to lower energy costs, reduce our carbon footprints, and pursue new sources of innovation that can create short- and long-term growth. Everyone Can Help Out (ECHO), Energy New England's new sustainability arm, has been created to help us reach those goals.

The ECHO team's areas of expertise include Conservation—integrated sustainability planning and green practices consulting; Clean Technologies—wireless building automation and energy management systems plus a web-based state-of-the-art water conservation service; Commodity Services—demand response and load curtailment programs; and Carbon Mitigation—sustainability planning, green house gas and carbon accountability, benchmarking, mitigation and disclosure support.

Through ECHO, BELD is offering an enhanced and expanded Commercial Auditing Program (CAP) for 2010. This audit will go beyond the evaluation of lighting systems to include review of mechanical systems, controls, motors and drives, and infrared evaluations, where applicable. **Our goal is simple: to help our customers use energy more efficiently and identify opportunities for energy savings to enhance facility operations.**

The auditor will prepare a clear and concise report outlining recommendations for conservation and efficiency, estimated kWh and dollar savings, and simple payback calculations. As necessary and where feasible, photos of equipment and/or recommended measures will also be included.

And the audit will offer a "green component" as well, suggesting ways to promote sustainability goals and identifying ways to implement the practices of "reduce, reuse and recycle." To learn more, contact Mike Ford at 781.348.2370 or mford@beld.com.