



connections

Home Energy Savings (HES) Residential Rebate Program updated



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Groton Utilities is updating its **Home Energy Savings (HES) Residential Rebate Program** to encourage residential customers to become more energy efficient and save money on their utility bills. Whether you heat your home with electricity, oil, or propane, you will want to take advantage of this service.

When the energy technicians come to your home and perform this service, you will receive four (4) LEDs free, if you have not participated in a **HES** Program earlier.

The **HES** program services, which are valued at approximately \$1000, include:

- Up to 25 additional high efficiency light bulbs;
- Blower door testing and on-the-spot air sealing to eliminate drafts;
- Duct sealing to reduce duct loss (if you have a central system);
- Domestic hot water measures such as showerheads and aerators; and
- Health and safety testing

Groton Utilities will require a customer contribution of \$100 for single family residents and a \$50 customer contribution for condominiums, apartments, and multi-family residences. The customer contribution will be paid directly to Groton Utilities.

For single family electric heated homes, Groton Utilities' maximum HES rebate will not exceed \$1,000.

For single family non - electric homes, Groton Utilities' maximum HES rebate will not exceed \$750.

For electric heated condominiums, apartments and multi-family residences, Groton Utilities's maximum HES rebate will not exceed \$500.

For non - electric heated condominiums, apartments, and multi-family residences, Groton Utilities' maximum HES rebate will not exceed \$300.

If the customer installs a mini-split system, or a heat pump water heater, Groton Utilities will double the rebate amount for the qualifying equipment. If the customer participated in the 2019 HES program Groton Utilities will reimburse the customer double their HES contribution.

The term of the HES service is once every 5 (five) years.

For further details, go to the Groton Utilities web site at www.grotonutilities.com, or call Customer Service at 860-446-4000.

Public Power – it's working for you!

Each October, more than 2,000 public power utilities in the country pause to celebrate the low rates and superior service delivered by community-owned electric utilities like Groton Utilities. This year, October 7-13, is the official Public Power Week celebration across the country.



when the leaders of the Borough, the early name for the City of Groton, decided to buy a private electric company and operate it as a municipal business. Today, that foresighted decision has led to low cost electric power not only for the City of Groton, which owns the utility, but also for residents in most of the rest of the Town of Groton, including the West Pleasant Valley Fire District, Poquonnock Bridge, Center Groton, and Groton Long Point.

The City of Groton has been a public power community since 1904. The history of our utility dates to the beginning of the nineteenth century

Groton Utilities Electric Division provides its customers with some of the lowest electric rates in both Connecticut and New England. Not only that, these revenues make it possible for the Electric Division to provide the City of Groton annually with a \$4 million return on the electric business, which helps keep the City's taxes low. Essentially, this reduces the amount of money that the City needs to raise in taxes. Without the utility revenue, The City would have to increase its taxes another two to three mills.

Public power is indeed powerful!

Jacqueline B. Nixon Community Service Award presented to Martin Cloudas

Martin Cloudas is the recipient of the 2018 Jacqueline B. Nixon Community Service Award for his many years of "Giving Back to the Community". The award was presented for the fifteenth time at the annual City of Groton Day celebration on August 3.

Groton Utilities presented a check for \$1,000 to the Aluminum Falcon Robotics in his honor. The charitable donation from Groton Utilities is the symbol of the award.



Photo by Andrew Bell

especially for his roles as mentor, supporter, teacher, and counselor to the Fitch Senior High School robotics team, Team 2168: the Aluminum Falcons.

Groton Utilities is pleased to present this award to this deserving citizen for giving back to our community selflessly, sincerely, willingly and with great pride.

Since 2015, his volunteer efforts, including his leadership position as president of the team's booster organization,

The award recognizes Cloudas for his outstanding efforts over the years,

enhanced the business side of the team. The new financial structure improved

fund raising, giving the team the ability to attend more competitions.

The robotics team credits Cloudas as one of the largest contributors in spreading science, technology, engineering, and mathematics throughout the Groton Community.

"Martin has become a father away from home for the entire team," the team members emphasized in its nominating application. "His ability to communicate with students has produced a trust with students, inspiring them to fulfill themselves and become better people," the team states.

Groton Utilities named the award, **The Jacqueline B. Nixon Community Service Award**, to commemorate Mrs. Nixon's service to her community.

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Groton's Annual Fall Festival marks its thirteenth year

Groton's Annual Fall Festival, Greater Groton's annual celebration of community, will be marking its thirteenth year during the Columbus Day weekend in October.

The festival is scheduled for **Saturday, October 6, 2018** and runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a rain or shine event.

Groton's Annual Fall Festival is a special community event created and hosted by the **Groton Business Association (GBA)** of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce (GMCC).

The main Festival site at Poquonnock Plains Park will feature artists and crafters, displaying their skill and wares for display and purchase. Local businesses and organizations will have exhibits. A complete list of participating artists, crafters, food vendors, businesses and organizations can be found at www.grotonbiz.com. This is the official **Groton Business**

Association (GBA) and Groton's Thirteenth Annual Fall Festival web site.

Groton Utilities has been a major sponsor of this event, since its start years ago. Visit us at the fall festival site at Booth number B-1.

Food vendors will offer a variety of food and drink.

The GBA would like to recognize the companies who have committed to be a sponsor for this year's event. They are Groton Utilities, the Groton Parks and Recreation Department and the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC).

The **GBA**, a coalition of representatives from the local business community, the educational sector, the non-profit community and governmental units, is an affiliation of the **Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce**.



Interested in our Budget Plan?

Have you thought about signing up for Groton Utilities' Budget Plan? All residential customers can use our Budget Plan. Here's how it works.

Our budget plan is based on an average of your last twelve (12) months' usage. We will evaluate your budget payment to

ensure your budget amount is accurate. If there is a need to increase or decrease your budget, we will do so accordingly.

Call (860) 446-4000 or email: gucustomerservice@grotonutilities.com for more information.

Customer Service Hours

M-F: 8 am - 5 pm

Th: 8 am - 7 pm

SAT: 8 am - noon

Closed holidays

Service Award continued

Jackie, as she was known to most, gave back to the community in many ways, including operating a food pantry in her residence for 24 years. She distributed food on a regular basis to many needy families. Jackie passed away July 6, 2004 after a brief battle with cancer. Groton Utilities created the

award in 2004 during its 100th anniversary year.

Earle A. Williams was the recipient of the first annual Jacqueline B. Nixon Community Service Award. Other winners of the award are: Robert "Bob" Leeney, Mimi Orkney, Lillian "Lil"

Hansen, Sarah Stanley, William "Bill" Welsh, Jr., Alfred Restivo, Robert "Bob" Austin LaFrance, Archie C. Swindell, Mildred "Milly" Carlson, Lian Obrey, James "Jim" Streeter, Charlie Ebbinghaus, and Marcia Gipstein.

Holiday Closings

Our offices at the City Municipal Building, including Customer Service, and our Operational Sections, including Project Management, located at The Julio H. Leandri Operations Complex on Poquonnock Road, will be closed for these upcoming holidays:

Monday, October 8

Columbus Day

Friday, November 9

Veterans Day

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 23

Post - Thanksgiving Day

Our operations crews for both water and electric are available for emergencies during holidays. If you experience an electrical outage or a water main break, call us at 860-446-4000, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Customer Service lobby hours are Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and until 7 p.m. on Thursdays and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Groton Utilities hopes you and your family have enjoyable holidays. But, please drive safely. And, yes, don't forget to buckle up!

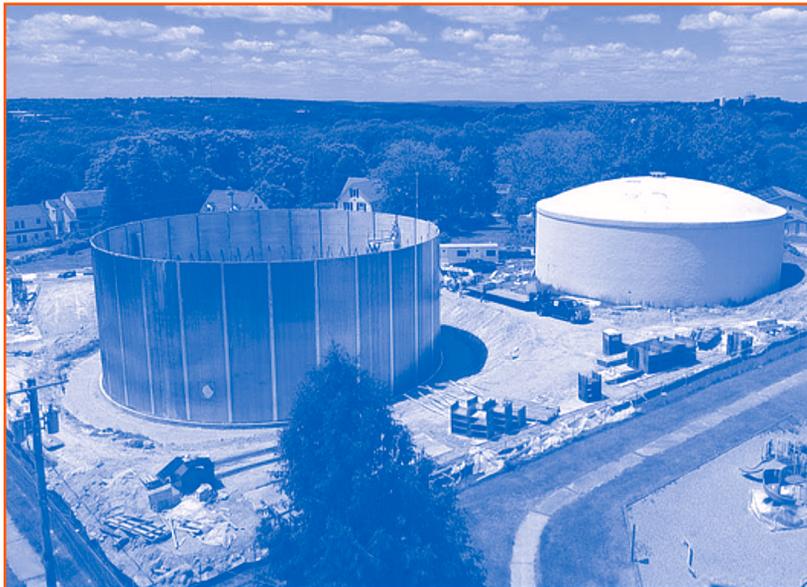


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Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statement
Federal and State law prohibits employment discrimination. It is the policy of the City of Groton to comply with the laws which prohibit discrimination as to race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, history of mental disorder, mental retardation or any other legally protected class.

New water tank



Groton Utilities is replacing the 1.5 MG (million gallon) water storage tank at Walker Hill with a 2.2 MG water storage tank. The increased capacity in the new tank will improve hydraulics to better serve the U.S. Naval Submarine base and the region. The new tank is funded by a \$3.5 million bond. Preload LLC is the tank contractor. (Photo by Steve Schaub)

Hurricane season is here!

Groton Utilities reminds you, our valuable customers, that the hurricane season has arrived. We urge our customers to begin their preparation, as September is indeed the height of our hurricane season.

Take a few minutes now to prepare for the unexpected:

- Have candles and flashlights available for emergency light, and a battery-operated radio for weather reports and other information.
- Keep on hand a supply of non-perishable food, medicine and supplies. Don't forget bottled water, along with extra baby supplies and pet food.

During an outage:

- If all your power suddenly shuts off, the main breaker in your electrical breaker box may have tripped.
- If your area is without power, or you see any downed wires, call Groton Utilities at 446-4000. Call us too if you see damage to electrical equipment, or anything out of the ordinary such as trees or branches on wires. **Do not go near any wires. Even a downed wire may be dangerous.**
- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed. Contents should be safe for at least 24 hours.
- We respond to outages immediately and work until all customers have power.