



BUSINESS

# Connections

## New streetlights are using LED technology

GU is bringing state-of-the-art LED technology to local streetlights with a project that will save energy, cut costs, and improve area lighting.

reduced light pollution with a more focused beam that lessens excess light spreading to unneeded areas.

Begun this fall, the street lighting project will convert 2,000+ existing streetlights on public ways throughout the Groton Utilities service area to LED lights by the



*A new LED streetlight*

end of the year. The project's estimated \$850,000 cost will be funded through Groton Utilities' conservation fund.

LED lights use 60-70 percent less energy than older technology, which saves money and is also a greener option as lower energy use means fewer emissions associated with power plants.

In addition, LED lights last three to four times longer than older lights, which helps hold down electric rates by cutting maintenance costs. And the improved light quality provided by LEDs – closer to a daylight spectrum – improves local safety. They also offer

What makes LED technology so efficient? Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are solid-state devices that convert electric energy directly into light of a single color. Because they employ "cold" light generation technology, in which

most of the energy is delivered in the visible spectrum, LEDs don't waste energy in the form of non-light producing heat. In comparison, most of the energy in an incandescent lamp is in the infrared (or non-visible) portion of the spectrum. As a result, both fluorescent and high intensity discharge (HID) lamps produce a great deal of heat.

You can get a preview of the new LED streetlights outside the City of Groton Municipal Building. We've installed them throughout the complex, so feel free to drive through and check them out.

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**Sponsorship deadline is Nov. 17**

# Be a part of the Holiday Lights parade

The Groton Business Association (GBA) of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce will hold its Twentieth Annual Groton Holiday Lights Parade on Saturday, December 2 at 5 p.m. The GBA invites you and your business to participate in and be a sponsor for this popular holiday event.

The line of march starts at the entrance to Groton Utilities Julio H. Leandri Operations Complex opposite South Road and ends at the Groton Shopping Plaza. After the parade, Santa Claus will have the honor of lighting up the holiday tree at the back of the Plaza.

The parade will feature floats from businesses, clubs and organizations, along with marchers from all groups in the community including the Fitch Senior High School

marching band. A special call goes out to bands and choral groups who make that holiday music that everyone knows and loves.

All participants must sign up online at [grotonbiz.com](http://grotonbiz.com) or call the Town of Groton Recreation Department at 860-536-5682. The deadline is **Friday, November 17**.

Parade awards will be given out to entrants in several categories. Judging will take place as participants pass by Chelsea Groton Bank.



*The GBA would like to recognize these companies who have committed to sponsor this year's event:*

#### Capstone Level

Groton Utilities  
Groton Parks and  
Recreation Department

#### Keystone Level

Stonington Odd Fellows  
Lodge #26

#### Fieldstone Level

Chelsea Groton Bank  
Darrell Fox, Centurion  
Wealth Management  
Grover Insurance

Thames Valley  
Communications  
The Light House

#### Sandstone Level

Groton Shopping Plaza

## Keep your buildings safe and secure

As the days grow shorter and darkness falls early, now is a good time to think about improving the outdoor lighting around your business.

Outdoor lighting is one of the best ways to increase security, discouraging prowlers who might otherwise hide under the cover of darkness. Outdoor lights help you see objects that might be dangerous in the dark, such as dark steps or curbs.

A new security light can be inexpensive, and today's efficient choices can cost just a few cents per day to operate. Many, like low-energy light bulbs and photocells, simply plug or screw into existing fixtures, so installation is easy. Photocells, or light sensors, are designed to turn the lights on at dusk and off at dawn, so you don't pay for lighting during the day.



Like those easy options, installed lighting choices are designed to put light where it is most needed. For example, motion sensors turn on outdoor lights, if movement is detected, so lights can scare off would-be intruders, while also alerting you or others to the prowler's presence. Today's motion sensor lights have adjustable sensitivity levels, so that small animals won't turn them on.

You might also put one or more lamps inside your business on a timer, too. Timers that will turn lights on at preset or random times can make your building look occupied. That discourages prowlers, too.

And no matter what lighting you choose, you'll always have the advantage of the low rates that we offer, so you can buy a lot of peace of mind for just a little bit of money.



## Three new solar farms

Members of the community partnership that constructed three solar farms in the Greater Groton community cut the ceremonial ribbon, celebrating completion of the project.

From left are John Burt, Town of Groton Manager; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton Mayor; Captain Paul A. Whitescarver, Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Base New London; Ron Gaudet, Groton Utilities Director; Mark Lavin, Senior Vice President for Government Development Services, Balfour Beatty Communities; Peggy Roberts, President, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce; and Drew Rankin, Executive Director, Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative. (Photo by Deborah Damm)

# Ribbon-cutting celebrates solar

From the sounds of the national anthem sung by the Fitch High School chamber choir to the ceremonial cutting of the red ribbon, the celebration of the completion of the three solar farms in the Greater Groton community was a resounding success.

The ceremony at Polaris Park, the site of the largest of the solar farm sites, was marked by a positive response of representatives of the community team that constructed these renewable energy facilities.

The private and public community partnership includes a broad spectrum of interests, including the U. S. Naval Submarine Base, Balfour Beatty Communities, Groton Utilities, the City

of Groton, the Town of Groton, the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative, and Brightfields.

“In total, the farms in the Polaris Park, Trident Park, and Pelican Park are expected to produce nearly eight million kilowatt-hours every year,” said Capt. Paul Whitescarver, Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Base, New London.

“Today, our Navy energy programs aim to reduce the Navy’s consumption of energy, decrease its reliance on foreign sources of oil, and significantly increase its use of alternative energy,” he added.

Other speakers from the community partnership, including City of Groton Mayor Keith Hedrick, Mark Lavin from Balfour Beatty Communities, and Ronald

Gaudet, Groton Utilities Director, all emphasized the major energy savings, the importance of the private-community partnership, and the positive impact of this green energy source to the Groton’s energy supply mix.

The three solar facilities are expected to deliver lifetime benefits of about:

- 833 homes totally served by solar energy annually
- 94,000 tons of carbon eliminated
- 1,137 cars removed from the road
- 9,600,000 of gasoline avoided

The site also contains electric storage capacity, providing critical resiliency during power outages – enough to extend electric supply for the equivalent of 100 homes for a 24-hour period.

# Tell us about new electric motor loads

If you are planning to add large electric motor loads at your business, Groton Utilities needs to know about it.

Commercial and industrial customers should get in touch with us if you are planning to install a motor that is 10 horsepower or greater. Smaller businesses should let us know about plans to install items such as electric heat pumps, central air conditioning, and single-phase motors greater than three horsepower.

In order to prevent electrical disturbances, modifications to your electrical facilities and possibly Groton Utilities’ distribution system may be necessary.

Large electric motors need special consideration due to the hefty amount of power they consume, especially when starting. This extra power consumption can cause electrical disturbances such as low voltage, dimming lights and light flicker.

Please call Groton Utilities Project Management at 860-446-4000 for advice and information if you are planning additional motor loads at your business, if you are experiencing any electrical disturbances, or if there is anything unusual about your electric service.

## Holiday Closings

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

**Monday, October 9**  
Columbus Day

**Friday, November 10**  
Veterans Day (observed)

**Thursday, November 23**  
Thanksgiving Day

**Friday, November 24**  
Post-Thanksgiving Day

Groton Utilities' operations crews for both water and electric are available on an emergency basis 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. Please drive safely. **And, yes, don't forget to buckle up!**



**GROTON UTILITIES**  
295 Meridian Street  
Groton, Connecticut 06340  
T 860-446-4000  
F 860-446-4098  
www.grotonutilities.com

**Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statement**  
The City of Groton is an Equal Opportunity Employer in accordance with Federal, State and local laws. Discrimination because of an individual's race, color, religious creed, age, gender, marital status, national origin, ancestry, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status or any other protected class is prohibited.

# Thank you for caring!

Groton Utilities is reaching out to our business customers in the Greater Groton community to help those in real need.

Unfortunately, some of your neighbors will be finding themselves in a money squeeze as their energy use increases and their cash decreases in the cold months ahead. This is your chance to make a difference in their lives.

Your donation to the Energy Assistance Fund at Groton Human Services will help local families in financial difficulty to keep their homes bright and warm this winter.

If your business is in a position to give, we at Groton Utilities urge you to make a

donation to the fund. Any amount would be welcome.

Although it's always a good time to help others, we are now entering the season of giving. We sincerely hope that you and your business can help some of our neighbors and customers stay comfortable this winter and get off to a better New Year.

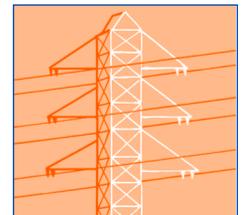
Send your donation to:  
GAP  
c/o Groton Human Services  
2 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4723

**Make checks payable to GU/EAF. Please do not send cash through the mail.**

## Here's how to hold down your demand charge

Demand charges, expressed in kilowatts (KW), are based on the greatest amount of power required at any one time. Demand charges help cover the infrastructure and capacity we must install to meet the peak demands for electricity that occur from time to time.

Your monthly demand charge is calculated on the basis of your highest demand requirement for electricity over a 15-minute period for the past month. To hold down your demand charge, you need to schedule your use of electrical equipment to get work done at the lowest possible electric load at any one time.



For example, if you have equipment that might be used simultaneously, you may save by scheduling their use at different times of the day and night so they are not all running at the same time.

To do the scheduling, you may need an energy management system or demand controllers for individual pieces of equipment. Or you may find that a major reduction can be achieved just by simple manual rescheduling of a few pieces of equipment.

For personal advice on your specific needs, call us at 860-446-4000.