



To the Customers of Marblehead Municipal Light,

There has been some information in recent articles that needs some clarification. The Marblehead Municipal Light Department's policy regarding renewable energy is anything but restrictive. In fact, we are in the process of working with the School Department, Health Department and the Town Administrator on feasibility studies for solar on various buildings and at the transfer station, which if comes to fruition will benefit all of MMLD's customers.

MMLD helped form the Berkshire Wind Cooperative, which presently provides about 8% of our power and is possibly expanding for even more. We also have Hancock Wind, Eagle Hydro and NYPA Hydro as part of our portfolio for purchasing power.

One of our Commissioners recently visited the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) in Colorado and made contacts which will help formulate ideas on which we can go forward.

As for our 50% policy regarding residential solar, that was imposed at a time when solar really started to become popular and we did not have a good grasp on the effect it would have on the system. We also had concerns raised by Marblehead Fire, the Building Dept. and the Wire Inspector regarding safety issues that installations may create. The four Department's collectively produced a permitting guideline with which installers could go forward. After discussions with various solar companies, including John Livermore, the policy regarding primary residential rooftop installation was lifted.

At our plant on Commercial St, as part of our renovation, a geothermal heating and cooling system is being installed as well as the roof being designed to carry a solar array which could provide power to run the geothermal pumps. In conjunction with our architects, we are pushing for LEED certification. Also, General Manager Andrew Hadden has secured a grant for replacing every street light with LED technology.

We, as a Commission and Department, are charged with providing affordable energy and the best possible service to our customers. We are exploring every avenue to accomplish that goal.

If anyone has questions regarding Marblehead Municipal Light's policies in these matters, please feel free to contact myself, Michael Hull- Chairman or Michael Tumulty and Joe Kowalik who make up our renewable energy sub-committee.

Michael Hull-Chairman

MMLD Board of Commissioners