

THE LIGHTKEEPER

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ISSUE #1



YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

MEAM (the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts) is rolling out a **statewide customer survey** — and Marblehead is part of it! This is your chance to share your thoughts on everything from service and reliability to the energy programs that matter most to you.

Take a few minutes to make your voice heard by scanning the QR code below!



SCAN ME



THE POWER OF PUBLIC

Every year during the first full week of October, communities across the country celebrate Public Power Week. This year, from October 5–11, we join in recognizing the unique value of community-owned utilities: reliability, accountability, local investment, and affordability.

At Marblehead Municipal Light Department (MMLD), we're proud to serve neighbors—not shareholders—and to reinvest directly into the community. One of the clearest benefits is cost savings...Continues on page 2



LEAF THE HARD WORK BEHIND

October brings many things to the North Shore—trick-or-treating, cooler nights, and plenty of apple cider—but it's the brilliant fall leaves that tend to steal the show. As beautiful as they are, those same leaves can create plenty of extra work in the yard. To help make the cleanup a little easier, MMLD offers a **\$25 rebate** on the purchase of any battery-powered leaf blower through our Electric Yard Equipment Program. Check out the program and apply by visiting: www.nextzero.org/marblehead/appliances.

KOWALIK WINS SERVICE AWARD

Marblehead Municipal Light Department is proud to recognize former General Manager Joseph "Joe" Kowalik, recently honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA). Presented at NEPPA's annual conference in Burlington, Vermont, this award celebrates leaders whose commitment and impact have strengthened public power across New England.

Since stepping into the role of General Manager in 2018—after first serving three years on Marblehead's Light Commission....Continues on page 2

PUBLIC POWER WEEK CONT...

Over the past twenty years, customers of investor-owned utilities like Eversource, National Grid, and Unitil paid between \$38,000 and \$46,000 in electric bills. By contrast, municipal light plant customers—including Marblehead—paid about \$26,379, saving thousands per household.

Those savings stay in Marblehead, supporting families and our local economy. Instead of profits leaving town, MMLD invests in reliability, energy-efficiency programs like NextZero, and rebates that help lower bills even more. Together, we're not just keeping the lights on—we're building a stronger, more sustainable future.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

On Tuesday, September 9, Marbleheaders gathered at Devereux Beach for an evening of classic cars by the ocean—a favorite local tradition. This year's show, however, featured something new alongside the vintage models: a dedicated electric vehicle showcase.

Organized by Sustainable Marblehead, the EV showcase brought together nearly 20 electric vehicles owned by local residents. Attendees had the chance to look under the hood, learn more about each car's features, and talk directly with owners about what it's like to drive electric. The display drew hundreds of visitors, sparking conversations not just about performance and technology, but also about the future of transportation in our community. The event also provided an opportunity to highlight Marblehead Municipal Light Department's EV rebate and incentive programs, including our free home EV charger program available to customers who own or are planning to purchase an electric vehicle. Whether you're already an EV driver or just beginning to consider making the switch, MMLD is here to support you. Visit marbleheadelectric.com to learn more about available programs.

SERVICE AWARD CONT...

Joe has guided the department through several major initiatives. These include improvements to substation capacity, the launch of new metering infrastructure, and the expansion of MMLD's rebate programs through NextZero. This recognition comes at a time of new beginnings for the department, as Jon Blair joins MMLD as our new General Manager. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Joe for his dedication, professionalism, and years of service to the Marblehead community.



BEYOND THE NORTH SHORE

In news outside the North Shore, one high school in Boston is making history as it will become the first in the nation to achieve both Net Zero Energy and LEED Platinum 4.1 certification. When it opens in 2026, Watertown High School will feature in-ground and air-source heat pumps, advanced ventilation and a rooftop solar canopy with battery storage allowing it to generate as much energy as it consumes. At the heart of this school will be a 4-story atrium which will seamlessly blend the outdoors with the classrooms. Such a model will no doubt be studied nationwide by other communities.