

THE LIGHTKEEPER

NOVEMBER 2025

ISSUE #2



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 visiting our main page at:
<https://marbleheadelectric.com/>



STAY WARM—AND SAVE—THIS SEASON

As the autumn air turns crisp and Thanksgiving approaches, now's the perfect time to think about home comfort and efficiency. If you're considering a heat pump, don't wait—schedule your installation before December 31, 2025 to take advantage of a 30% federal tax credit through the Inflation Reduction Act. Combine that with MMLD's NextZero rebates, and you'll enjoy lower energy bills while keeping your home cozy all winter long.



MMLD REPS AT CLIMATE BEACON

On October 23, Marblehead Municipal Light Department's Energy Programs Manager, Michael Hall, represented the community at the Climate Beacon Conference in Boston — a regional gathering of municipal utilities, policymakers, and energy professionals from across Massachusetts.

The event featured forward-looking sessions including Scaling Thermal District Plans in Our Region, Finding New Ways of Funding Resilience Projects, and Building the Resilient Power Systems Our Future Demands...Continues on page 2

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW GENERAL MANAGER, JON BLAIR

MMLD welcomed Jon Blair as General Manager on September 29. Jon is a U.S. Navy veteran whose early career was shaped aboard deployed submarines — an environment where teamwork, communication, and planning are absolutely essential.

"Serving on a deployed submarine exposed me to many different leadership styles and situations that helped me learn and grow at an early age."

Those early lessons influence how Jon approaches leadership today: steady, clear, and relationship-focused.

Continues on page 2

CLIMATE BEACON CONT...

Each discussion offered practical insights into how public power utilities can prepare for future challenges while maintaining the reliability and cost-effectiveness their customers expect.

MMLD's participation in events like Climate Beacon keeps Marblehead connected to the latest ideas and best practices in the industry — ensuring that as the energy landscape evolves, our community remains informed, prepared, and proudly locally powered.



BEYOND THE NORTH SHORE

A new 31-megawatt battery is helping a Pacific Northwest data center come online years ahead of schedule — and it's a glimpse into how smart grid planning can work anywhere, even here in Marblehead.

Rather than waiting for utility upgrades, developer Aligned Data Centers partnered with Calibrant Energy to install its own large-scale battery system. The battery smooths out power demand, supports the grid during peaks, and lets the facility start operating sooner.

Here's what's remarkable: the company is paying for the battery itself, not passing costs on to local ratepayers. In return, the utility gets a flexible asset it can tap when the data center doesn't need it. It's a rare example of infrastructure built faster and fairer.

For a community-owned utility like MMLD, it's a powerful reminder that smart planning, local control, and flexibility can go hand-in-hand. Big lessons sometimes come from big batteries — but they all point toward the same goal: keeping power reliable, affordable, and local.

JON BLAIR CONT...

After his service, Jon spent more than a decade working in municipal utilities across New England. His work has centered on improving grid reliability, strengthening organizational communication, and helping communities adopt new energy technologies thoughtfully and affordably. He was drawn to Marblehead because of its strong civic identity and the close connection between the Light Department and the people it serves.

Jon describes his personal approach simply: "Faith, family, and a positive attitude." He also speaks passionately about the value of public power:



"As a public power utility, we're owned by the customers we serve. I'd personify MMLD as a capable and respected 'everyman'— knowledgeable, honest, and hardworking. Each one of our customers should be able to see themselves in us."

And lastly, because it's November, we had to ask: Favorite Thanksgiving dessert?

"Pumpkin pie — after the meal and dishes are done, when everyone is calm and relaxing." We're happy to welcome Jon to Marblehead, and we look forward to the work ahead.