

# HELPS Program

The Home Energy Loss Prevention Services (HELPS) program provides energy education, home energy audits, assistance with home energy improvements, and ENERGY STAR® appliance rebates for Massachusetts municipal utility customers. Established in 1988 by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), HELPS delivers innovative energy technology and superior customer service.

## Efficiency Spotlight: Electric Vehicles

Are you considering purchasing an electric vehicle, but want more information? Read on to learn five benefits of driving electric.

### Clean up the Environment

Electric vehicles are a cleaner alternative than standard cars. On average, electric vehicles produce 54% less carbon pollution than gasoline powered cars, over the lifetime of the vehicles. This number could increase to 71% by 2050.

### Cost Savings on Fuel

Driving an EV cuts down on fuel costs. Fueling a vehicle with electricity is more cost-effective than gasoline. On average, powering a car with electricity equates to roughly the same as paying \$1/per gallon of gasoline.

### Power Up at Home

Driving an EV can mean far fewer trips to a fuel station to power up. Most EV owners do 80% of their charging at home, and the majority of EV models take less than eight hours to fully charge.

### Free/Discounted Charger OR Monthly Incentive

Select municipal light plants (MLPs) offer new EV and plug-in hybrid EV (PHEV) drivers free or discounted chargers in exchange for being enrolled in a Scheduled Charging Program, which helps the light department better manage its load. After being enrolled in the Scheduled Charging Program for three years, customers from select MLPs can earn a monthly incentive by enrolling their chargers in the Connected Homes smart device program.

### Federal and State Incentives

MOR-EV is a Massachusetts program that issues rebates of up to \$2,500 to drivers who purchase or lease select EV and PHEV models. Customers who purchase new EVs or PHEVs might also be eligible for a federal tax incentive of up to \$7,500. Visit [www.mor-ev.org](http://www.mor-ev.org) and [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov) for more info.

[www.munihelps.org](http://www.munihelps.org)

# MMWEC HELPS



**HELPS**  
Home Energy Loss  
Prevention Services

## MMED's Go REO Program Creates 200,000 kWh of Clean Energy

Mansfield Municipal Electric Department's (MMED) Go REO (renewable energy option) Program is off to a strong start. The program recently celebrated its one year anniversary and has offset more than 100,000 pounds of carbon emissions to date.

Go REO, launched in January 2020, allows MMED customers the option to pay an extra fee on their electric bills to use renewable energy sources. Customers can direct a specific dollar amount on their electric bill towards clean energy sources or choose from a number of other options to make their energy sustainable between 20 and 100 percent renewable energy. Customers can sign up at any point throughout the year, but must commit to a one-year minimum contribution cycle.

The program was created for MMED customers who want to cut down their carbon footprint, but aren't currently participating in renewable energy projects of their own, such as home solar installations.

"The purpose of Go REO is to give each customer a chance to increase their environmental stewardship," said MMED General Manager Joe Sollecito. "This in turn will provide financial incentives for future renewable projects."

In its first year Go REO had a total of 47 customers contribute \$9,240 towards renewable energy. With its funds, MMWEC assisted MMED in purchasing 228 Massachusetts Class 1 RECs (renewable energy credits). RECs serve as proof of purchases of renewable energy sources. Each megawatt-hour of clean energy produced is allocated one REC. The Go REO contributions have a substantial impact on the energy resource mix for MMED's customers. The program resulted in more than 213,000 kilowatt hours of clean, renewable energy with a reduction of more than 140,000 pounds of carbon. This is equivalent to planting 281 trees and having them grow for 10 years. The hours also equate to offsetting more than 150,000 vehicle miles.

Sollecito said he is pleased with the results of the first year of the Go REO Program and looks forward to expanding the program as more customers are educated about it.

## MOR-EV Program Expands to Include Electric Trucks

The Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles (MOR-EV) Program has now been expanded to include the MOR-EV Trucks Program which offers rebates for light, medium, and heavy electric trucks.

Battery electric and fuel-cell electric trucks with a purchase price of more than \$50,000 and a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 8,500 pounds are eligible for the rebate. Rebates are available for electric trucks purchases including private, commercial, and public fleet vehicles. Leases of electric trucks are also eligible.

Rebate amounts vary depending on the vehicle's GVWR. Rebates start at \$7,500 for pickup trucks and increase up to \$90,000 for tractor trailers. Recipients of the MOR-EV truck rebates must retain ownership of the vehicle for a minimum of 36 months after the rebate is issued. Lessees must commit to a minimum of a 36-month lease to be eligible for the rebate.

Several electric trucks are expected to be available for purchase within the next year, including Tesla's Cybertruck, General Motors' Hummer EV, Ford's electric F-150, and Rivian's R1T.

# GO Program

The Green Opportunity (GO) Program assists Massachusetts municipal utilities in developing and delivering energy efficiency services to their commercial and industrial customers. GO offers multiple types of energy audits, which are partially funded by your local municipal light department. Our auditors will provide a quality report that will help you understand and choose the best energy efficiency measures to install.

## Prescriptive Lighting Program

Provides a streamlined process for the review and installation of lighting improvement retrofit projects in existing commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional buildings.

## Prescriptive HVAC Program

Provides a streamlined process for the review and installation of HVAC improvement retrofit projects in existing commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional buildings.

## Custom Retrofit Program

Helps commercial and industrial business to identify and implement electric energy efficiency projects in existing commercial, industrial, governmental, and institutional buildings.

[www.mmwecgoprogram.org](http://www.mmwecgoprogram.org)

# MMWEC GO



## WMGLD Joins GO Program

The Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department (WMGLD) has joined MMWEC's Green Opportunity (GO) Program, which offers energy efficiency rebates to commercial and industrial (C&I) customers.

The MMWEC GO Program is a partnership between MMWEC, municipal light plants (MLPs), C&I customers, and local contractors. Through the program, the participating MLPs offer energy efficiency audits to C&I customers to determine what steps the businesses can take to increase efficiency and decrease electric load and costs. After the audit, C&I customers can work with local contractors to create a plan to make efficiency upgrades and, upon qualification and approval, receive rebates for the projects from their light department.

The GO Program offers a wide scope of efficiency project options through its prescriptive and custom programs. WMGLD is participating in the prescriptive lighting, prescriptive HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), and custom retrofit programs. The prescriptive programs are ideal for C&I customers who have identified lighting or HVAC improvement projects and obtained cost quotations from licensed contractors. The custom retrofit program is better suited for C&I customers who are interested in general energy efficiency upgrades, but aren't sure where to start.

Peter Dion, WMGLD General Manager, said the department is excited to join the GO Program.

"We see the great value in having effective energy conservation programs to marry with cost effective power supply management," Dion said.

WMGLD joins nine other MMWEC Members in the GO Program. Other participants include the municipal utilities in Ashburnham, Chicopee, Holden, Ipswich, Peabody, Shrewsbury, South Hadley, Sterling, and West Boylston.

## Customer Case Study- Water Filtration Plant

A 60,000 square foot water filtration plant located in Holden, Mass. upgraded its ozone generation system. The existing system was more than 20 years old and energy intensive.

The facility worked with Pureflow Filtration Division and Methuen Construction Co. to install a new generation system. The new system utilizes liquid oxygen instead of air allowing the plant to remove compressors, desiccant dryers, and refrigerant dryers for significant energy savings. The new ozone equipment also provides higher concentrations of ozone with less electricity.

### Project Benefits:

- \$140,944 annual cost savings
- 146.3 kW demand reduction
- 1,281,311 kWh annual electric savings

Holden Municipal Light Department was able to issue the plant a \$5,000 rebate. The project was completed in March 2020.



The plant's new controlled system pumps.