



NEWS
RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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Peabody Municipal Utility Joins Connected Homes

LUDLOW, Mass. -- April 4, 2022 – Peabody Municipal Light Plant (PMLP), the consumer-owned utility serving Peabody and South Lynnfield, is joining Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company's (MMWEC) innovative residential demand management program, "Connected Homes." Connected Homes allows residential customers to better manage wifi-connected devices in their homes while reducing their carbon footprint.

Connected Homes, launched in April 2020 with 11 municipal light plants (MLPs), is offered through MMWEC's electrification and decarbonization program, NextZero. NextZero works through Connected Homes to allow customers of the participating municipal light plants (MLPs) to leverage the technology of smart appliances and devices into energy and cost savings for the light department and its customers.

By enrolling a smart device in the Connected Homes program, customers agree to allow their light department to make brief, limited adjustments to their devices during times of peak electric demand, such as temporarily reducing the charging rate of an electric vehicle during peak hours. Customers will be informed of possible adjustments in advance via email or text message, and will be given the choice to opt out of each adjustment. Customers who participate are given a stipend or bill credit.

PMLP joins 13 other MLPs participating in Connected Homes. The other light departments in the program include those in Belmont, Groton, Holden, Holyoke, Ipswich, Mansfield, Marblehead, Princeton, Shrewsbury, South Hadley, Sterling, Wakefield, and West Boylston.

Specific brands and models of thermostats, home batteries, electric vehicle chargers, electric hot water heaters, and mini-split controllers are eligible for incentives under the Connected Homes program. Devices and incentive amounts may vary by MLP – check www.nextzero.org for details.

Connected Homes is helping PMLP and its customers make the clean energy transition by making the electrification of residential heating, transportation, and cooking put less stress on the electric grid, while reducing end use carbon emissions. As a community owned utility, PMLP makes the shift to electrification more affordable for its customers with some of the lowest electric costs in the region. Through participation in Connected Homes, the growing number of customers moving toward electrification can easily and conveniently manage their home's energy use, by adjusting the device's energy usage remotely, or by setting an automatic schedule.

"PMLP is excited to offer this great service to our customers," PMLP Manager Joseph Anastasi said. "Giving each home the ability to make individual choices that will reduce carbon emissions is a great way to have everyone pitch in and be part of a better, greener future. We are thankful for MMWEC's initiative and partnership toward a greener community."

MMWEC is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1975 and authorized to issue debt to finance a wide range of energy facilities. MMWEC provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state's consumer-owned municipal utilities.

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