

# The Kilowatt Hour



A Publication for KLPD Customers

Spring, 2023

Volume 2, Number 1

"Your consumer owned electric utility since 1893."

## Ode to Spring

*Spring has sprung.*

*Winter is done.*

*Despite the last shadows of Winter's gloom,  
the flowers will soon begin to bloom.*

*The days grow longer.*

*Natural light is stronger.*

*Our spirits, they will soar,  
so, ditch that coat and get yourself outdoors.*

*Driving up the road with the windows down.*

*People out walking all over town.*

*Wind in my hair, no longer cold,  
sun warming my skin that will soon be gold.*

*Living the life in what's known as the District*

*Laughing and smiling; feeling terrific.*

*Goodbye to the snow and hello to the Spring.*

*For this we are happy. For this we shall sing!*

KLPD Poets' Society

## Welcome:

Welcome to Kennebunk Light & Power's second newsletter! Communication with our customers is important to us here at KLPD. Finding new and innovate ways to provide our customers with valuable information, available services, and upcoming events is important to us. Visit us online at [www.klpd.org](http://www.klpd.org) and don't forget to join us on Facebook!

There's lots going on within the District. Don't forget to check your town's website for upcoming events:



<https://www.kennebunkmaine.us/>



<https://arundelmaine.org/>



<https://www.wellstown.org/>



<https://lyman-me.gov/>

## Watt's Up:

1. Energy Savings Tips for Spring
2. Utility Pole Information
3. Meter System Upgrade
4. From the General Manager
5. Employee Spotlight:  
Kevin Vezina

## COVID Update:

Kennebunk Light & Power District takes our responsibility to provide safe electricity to our customers seriously while ensuring the safety of our employees and customers. Our office is open to the public. To reduce the risk of COVID spread and to maintain the resources we need to provide our essential services, protective shields have been installed at our counter, a hand sanitizing station is present within the lobby, and we ask that if you are not feeling well, that you wear a protective face covering.

Before coming by, please consider these other available options:

**Telephone:** Customer Service Representatives are available from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at 207-985-3311.

**Email:** [info@klpd.org](mailto:info@klpd.org)



**Website:** [www.klpd.org](http://www.klpd.org)



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/KennebunkLightAndPower>

# Watt's Up



For safety tips and information visit:

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/spring-and-summer-energy-saving-tips>

<https://www.energymaine.com/>

<http://www.esfi.org>

[klpd.org](http://www.klpd.org) – Information – Safety

## DOWNED POWER LINES ARE AN EMERGENCY!

If a wire attached to a utility pole is on the ground,

**DO NOT TOUCH IT!**

Call our emergency numbers  
**(207) 985-3311 or (207) 985-1142**  
immediately.

If you still have power to your home, and there is a wire on the ground, it could have looped above live power lines.

**DO NOT TOUCH IT!**

Call KLPD and our trained personnel will respond immediately.

**THE LIFE YOU SAVE COULD BE YOUR OWN**

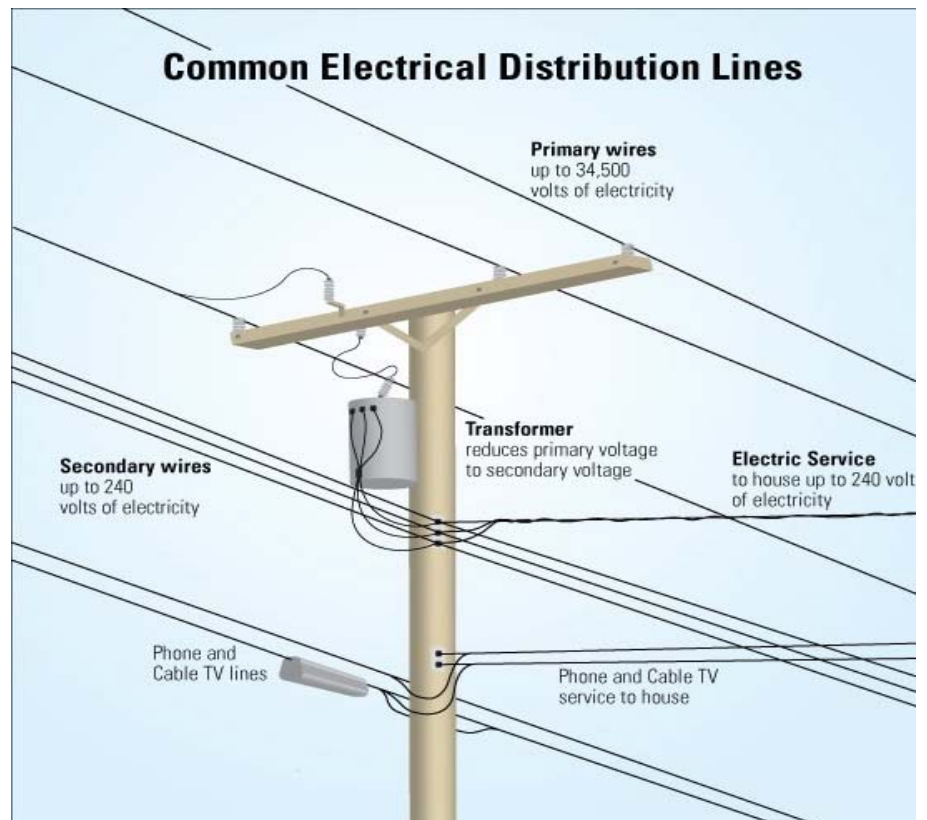
## 1. Energy Saving Tips for Spring

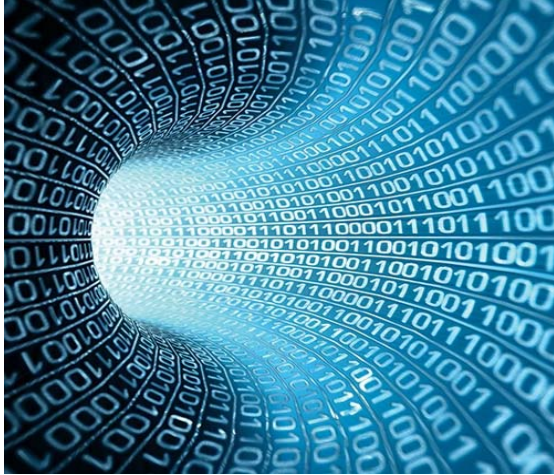
Monday, March 20, 2023 marks the beginning of spring. Here are a few simple things you can add to your spring cleaning to save energy and money:

- Service your heating and air conditioning system.
- Change the direction of your ceiling fans – flip the switch that's located on the fan to a counter-clockwise circulation for spring/summer.
- Inspect, clean and repair door and window openings, removing built up debris and seal any potential air leaks.
- Install window coverings such as shades, blinds or curtains
- Switch to energy efficient lighting.
- Clean your dryer vent.
- Clean your refrigerator coil and door seals.

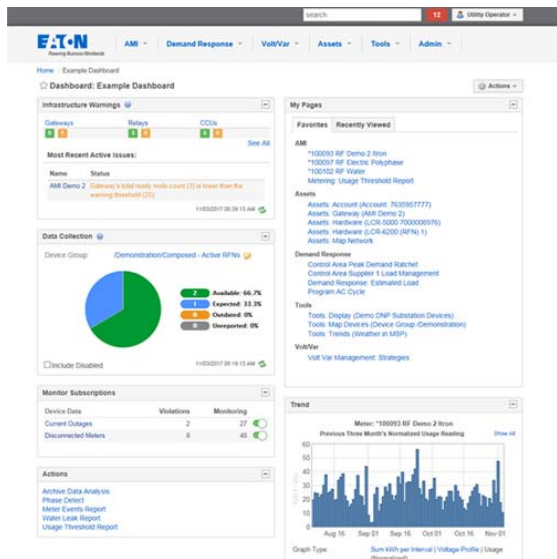
## 2. Utility Pole Information

(Understanding the equipment found on a utility pole)





<https://www.eaton.com/ca/en-gb/catalog/utility-and-grid-solutions/rf-smart-grid-network.html>



<https://www.eaton.com/ca/en-gb/catalog/utility-and-grid-solutions/yukon-odms-software-and-ami-suite.html>



<https://www.eaton.com/us/en-us/catalog/utility-and-grid-solutions/advanced-single-phase-electric-metering.html>

Visit: <https://klpd.org/information> for up-to-the minute news on the AMIS program.

### 3. Meter System Upgrades

KLPD is pleased to announce that beginning in the late spring, we will begin integrating into a new Advanced Meter Infrastructure System. The current metering data collection technology is nearing end-of-life and requires replacement. Since KLPD's inception in 1893, 130 years ago, KLPD has expanded electric service to over 7300 homes and businesses within its 24 square mile service area. KLPD currently uses Eaton Cooper Power Systems' Yukon PC and RF mesh network advanced metering infrastructure system for reading the majority of its single-phase energy-only meters. The remaining meters are manually read.

**The new system:** Upgrading to the Eaton RF Mesh Smart Grid IPv6 offers high bandwidth, minimal latency, superior flexibility and industry-leading end-to-end security architecture. The RF Mesh Smart Grid delivers highly reliable two-way communications across a 900 MHz spread spectrum utilizing radios with 50 channels for frequency hopping.

**The new software:** Eaton's Yukon Advanced Energy Services Software platform provides advanced energy services for the IPv6 RF Mesh Smart Grid. It will provide a comprehensive infrastructure for our Smart Grid automation. Yukon will manage the communications network and provide front-end interface and reporting tools. Its capabilities will include data validation, storage and management. It will provide outage mapping and geographical visualization tools, along with a consumer web portal.

**The new meters: Itron:** C1SX, C2SXD; **Landis-Gyr:** Focus AL, Axe-SD, S4x; **Honeywell:** Elster A3 Alpha. Eaton's advanced metering infrastructure meters come fully integrated, tested and sealed and are pre-configured at the factory to KLPD specifications. The meters communicate via Eaton's RF Mesh network to provide key values, metrics and information. The meters provide time-of-use information, net metering values, temperature and tamper indications.

#### What's completed:

- Discovery and design
- Delivery Phase I:
  - Technology review, project plan development, system implementation planning
  - Receipt of hardware and initial meters

#### What's happening now:

- Delivery Phase II:
  - Operational review of Infrastructure
  - Gateway, relay and hardware installation
  - software installation
  - Receipt of next scheduled delivery of meters

#### What's next:

- Delivery Phase III:
  - System Testing
  - Meter Installation: Meter installation is expected to take approximately one year to complete. A grid approach will be taken for the installation process. Customers will be notified via their billing as to the scheduled installation date. An interruption in service can be expected to last for approximately 5 minutes during the installation process.

## 4. From the General Manager

What. A. Winter. Overall it really hasn't been too bad, so far as a real Maine winter goes. But things kind of took a turn for the worst on January 20. This was a Friday snow storm with wet, heavy and sticky snow. The problem with that snow was that the sun never came out to melt things off of the trees. When you're in the electric utility business these are things that you notice when you are admiring a winter wonderland. 'The snow from the last storm is still on the trees, this could be bad' is kind of how it goes in your head. So when the next storm came in on Sunday the 22, well, let's just say things started falling apart. Our line workers and staff know that when oak trees start losing branches, or falling completely, things aren't going to be good. And by 1 AM Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> that is exactly what started happening.

Our first calls came in from Chick Crossing Road and Sea Road. Those were the areas hardest hit because they are laden with large pine, oak, maple and birch trees. Many of those trees decided on that day that they wanted to be logs. (Inside joke here are the District, credit to line worker Justin Webster.) General Foreman Kevin Vezina, a 16-year veteran of KLPD, says that it was the worst storm damage that he has seen in his time here with the District. A few long days, actually a week of long days, and everything was back up and running. Although KLPD invests heavily in vegetation management, we have no authority to cut trees on private property. And those trees and branches just kept falling. And falling. Needless to say, everyone was exhausted by the time all of the damage was fixed.

Thank you to all KLPD employees for their dedication and commitment to power restorations in the days following the storm. Thank you to Asplundh Tree Service, both our regular contract crew and the additional crew from Concord, NH, for cutting our way through affected areas so that our line crews could restore power. Thank you to Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative for sending a crew and bucket truck to assist with restoration. Thank you to the Town of Kennebunk, Kennebunk Fire and Rescue and Kennebunk Police for working harmoniously with us in this emergent situation. Thank you to Laura Dolce and those at the Chamber of Commerce for helping us to spread the word. And thank you to our valued customers for your patience and outpouring of support during the storm and in the days and weeks following. I cannot repeat this enough: our customers are why we are here and we are dedicated to providing and restoring your power as quickly and safely as possible.

Winter is almost over. Although we don't ever want to predict bad weather, it will happen again. Following the storm staff and crew revised our play book for future storms. We ask our valued customers to also take a fresh look at what to do in emergency situations. Please think about the things that were most inconvenient while your power was out and try to come up with a plan so that if and when an outage occurs, you are prepared. Our website has some suggestions, and a quick search of what to do in a power outage may be all of the help that you need.

## 5. Employee Spotlight

### Meet Kevin Vezina:

The Employee Spotlight is on Kevin Vezina. KLPD General Foreman. Kevin is responsible for the safety and proper operation of our system and the safety and work scheduling of our line-workers and meter technician. Kevin started with KLPD in 2007, making him the second longest tenured employee here at the District. Prior to working for KLPD, Kevin spent 18 years working for Central Maine Power. Kevin can be found in his office doing job takeoffs, in the field providing estimates for jobs and troubleshooting, as well as working with the crew on safety and proper practice. Kevin and his wife, Jenn, live in Springvale and have two grown children. When he isn't coordinating or planning something for KLPD, Kevin and Jenn enjoy sunny days riding their Harleys to nowhere in particular.

Thank you, very much, Kevin, for your continued service to the District.



### Kennebunk Light & Power District

4 Factory Pasture Lane  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Website: [klpd.org](http://klpd.org) Email: [info@klpd.org](mailto:info@klpd.org) Facebook: [@KennebunkLightAndPower](https://www.facebook.com/KennebunkLightAndPower)  
207-985-3311 - Weekdays 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
207-985-1142 - Evenings, Weekends, Holidays

