



**Western Massachusetts
Electric**

A Northeast Utilities Company

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Technology is advancing everyday, and so is the way we are thinking about energy savings. Solar energy, through the installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems is becoming more common. WMECo has a proud history of supporting this technology; in fact, our first large-scale solar project is currently under construction in Pittsfield. We also work with customers who are installing PV systems, as well as wind and other types of generation. There are several steps that you are required to follow before installing any type of generation at your home or business to ensure your safety and the safety of our employees.

Before installation begins you must:

- Submit an application to, and obtain approval from, WMECo
- Ensure work is done in accordance with the Distributed Generation Interconnection Standards and Procedures Tariff, approved by the Department of Public Utilities
- Secure all necessary town permits

Applications, tariffs and additional information can be accessed by visiting www.wmeco.com/distributedgeneration

We are committed to working with you to see that your generation project stays on track and is successful.

Protect Your Home and Your Family!

Enhanced home security brings peace of mind. Start with outdoor security lighting — which can be as simple as a bright light on an otherwise dark and secluded driveway.

Light areas that you need to access after dark and look for potential hazards like steps or uneven surfaces. Well positioned lights with motion detectors are convenient and efficient. Encourage your neighbors to increase their outdoor lighting too, since a well lit neighborhood is a big deterrent to crime.



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Summer Daze to School Days

Summer is wrapping up, and that means it is back to school time for the children in your neighborhood. Whether waiting for the bus or moving away to school, it's important to remind your kids that safety is a priority, for you and for them. Don't learn safety by accident! Take proactive measures to keep your home and family safe. Inside, you will find safety tips for living at college, ways to protect your home from theft, and resources to help keep you safe. Enjoy the warm weather while it lasts, and make sure to end summer on a high note, by protecting your family from harm.



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Back to school time can be hectic for families – especially those with children attending college. It's easy to get caught up in the details of planning and overlook potential safety hazards. Whether in your home, in your residence hall, or in a new apartment, follow these tips to avoid electrical dangers:

- Replace a halogen lamp with a compact fluorescent bulb-floor lamp. Halogen lamps may reach temperatures hot enough to ignite nearby curtains or blankets.
- Never drape towels, clothing, or anything other than an approved lampshade over light bulbs – they could ignite!
- Exercise special care with hot plates, toasters and toaster ovens and other appliances that heat up.
- Don't overload extension cords by plugging in appliances that draw a total of more watts than the rating of the cord.
- When disconnecting cords, pull the plug rather than the cord itself.
- Insert plugs fully so that no part of the prongs are exposed when the extension cord is in use.
- Keep all electrical cords from devices such as radios, TVs, hair dryers and curling irons away from water in a sink or tub. Even an appliance that is plugged in but not turned on can electrocute you if it falls into water.

In addition to staying safe, be energy smart by taking steps to reduce your consumption. Not only will it reduce your electric bill, but will help protect the environment as well. Here's how:

- Beware of Phantom Electricity: Electronic devices that are plugged in when not in use are actually using electricity. Laptop computers, TVs, answering machines, cell phone chargers, electric toothbrushes and more are all drawing electricity unless they are unplugged, or plugged into a power-strip that is turned off.
- Doing homework? Consider using a task lamp where you're working rather than the full power of the overhead light to save energy and focus the light where you really need it.
- Planning for dinner? Think about grilling outside. You'll save on your electric bill and will keep your home cool!
- Laundry day? Save energy (and quarters) by drying your laundry outside. Not an option? Consider a drying rack.



Streetlight Safety: Report Problems To Us!

Safety is our utmost priority, and adequate street lighting is important. You can help us keep your neighborhood safe by reporting streetlights in need of repair. If you notice a streetlight out at night, on during the day, or one that is dim or blinking, please call us at 781.4300 (1.800.286.2000 outside of the Springfield calling area).

The following information is needed to identify a specific light:

- Address/intersection of the affected street lamp

This information is also helpful:

- Side of the street the light is on
- WMECo pole number (located at eye level)
- Your name and daytime phone number so we may call with questions

