

CURRENTS

Spring 2010
No. 24

Does Anyone Feel a Breeze?

We have recently signed a few contracts that will make the renewable energy mix in the *New England GreenStart*SM program even windier! We love wind as a clean, local, cost-effective source of power, and our goal is to replace all of our landfill gas with wind power. Landfill gas is very green compared to fossil fuels, but wind power is even better. Wind turbines have begun to gain momentum in New England with a number getting ready to break ground, and we want to do our part to keep the momentum going. In fact, keep your ears peeled for a breezy announcement soon. ■



Spin Spin Spin

Resource Maps

The maps below depict the location of our renewable generation sites in New England from March 2009-March 2010. You might notice an increasing number of our resources are located in Massachusetts and Rhode Island where our

members are. For resource conservation and the environment it's good to be local! Look around your neighborhood, and you might even spot PV panels we support on a neighbor's sunny roof! ■



Red dots= PV installations; Blue dots= small wind turbines
Our renewable energy generation sites are scattered all over Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and, as always, limited to the New England grid.

Low Impact Hydropower Plant Wins Accolades

All of our renewable energy producers are heroes in our book, but one hydropower facility has recently made a—how shall we say it—big splash. The Winooski Hydropower facility sits on the Winooski River in Winooski, Vt. It received certification from the Low Impact Hydro Institute (LIHI) in 2004, and we have used it in our *New England GreenStart*SM mix since then. It was up for recertification in the summer of 2009, and passed with flying colors.

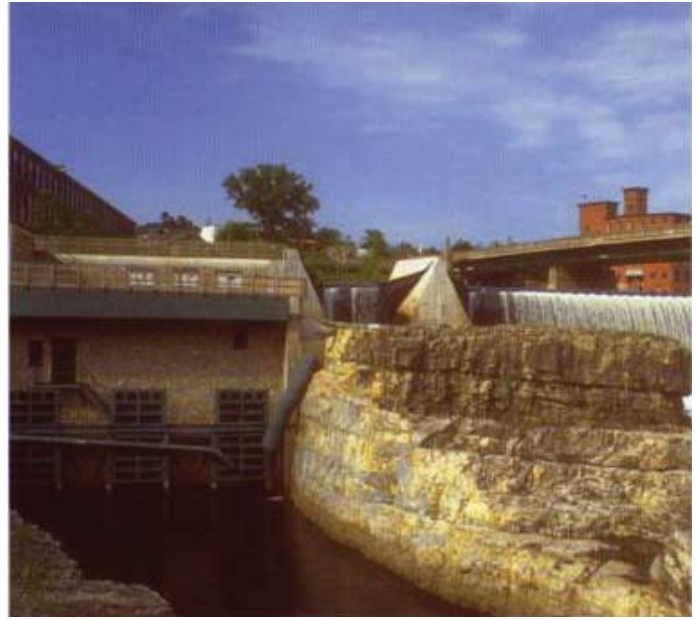
To be included in *New England GreenStart*SM, our hydropower sites must be LIHI-certified and committed to remain as environmentally friendly as possible. Winooski has exceeded expectations. “During the re-certification review, LIHI was impressed with the fact that nearly every one of the federal, state, and local agency staff contacted in the course of this review commented that the applicant had demonstrated extraordinarily good corporate citizenship in carrying out and often exceeding the requirements associated with the project’s construction and operation,” stated LIHI

The dam is 150 feet long, 28 feet high, and sits on the National Register of Historic Places. This beautiful facility sports a riverside educational and recreational park, and it produces 7.4 megawatts of electrical power per year.

The dam has a fish ladder that allows fish to move freely from one side of the dam to the other. This is just one example of a step LIHI certified hydropower plants might take to accommodate nature.



Winooski Hydropower from above the dam



Winooski Hydropower Raceway

LIHI is a voluntary certification program designed to help consumers identify environmentally sound, low-impact hydropower facilities, so we can be sure our green power is not greenwashed.

LIHI certification means that the hydropower facility has been found by the Institute to meet or exceed the Institute’s certification criteria, which address eight key areas: river flows, water quality, fish passage and protection, watershed protection, threatened and endangered species protection, cultural resource protection, recreation, and facilities recommended for removal.

Matthew Rubin of Winooski sent this message to our members, “We are pleased with the performance of the site, and would be glad to give you a tour the next time you are in Vermont.”

New England is suited for power production from small hydropower plants as there are many existing mills that can be updated to produce emission free, ecologically sound electricity without any new dams adding new problems to the rivers. We are proud to work with Winooski as an outstanding example of a safe, green power producer.

Visit <http://lowimpacthydro.org/cf.aspx> for more information on LIHI certification. ■

Calling New Volunteers!

People's Power & Light has always relied on volunteers to spread the word that Rhode Islanders have a choice to buy green power right now through *New England GreenStart*SM. These remarkable and dedicated volunteers love to share the opportunity to support green power.

Just to mention two who've given countless hours, we would like to give a shout out to David Brown and Shannon Donovan. David decided to make a career change from software development to sustainable energy, so he volunteered for People's Power & Light to learn about the field. He has spent days at a time helping us get the word out at events where we have a table or a booth—often quite fun events, like the musically well-endowed Sustainable Living Festival—and also doing research and attending mind-numbing six-hour policy meetings. Meanwhile he's learned a ton about the field, and went on to take an auditor training course.

Shannon was one of our first volunteers, who did some of everything it took to get us started, including serving on our board of directors. Since then she has continued, year after year, to engage her high school students in promoting *GreenStart* in

their community.

As the season for outdoor events begins, we need more volunteers to help with “tabling,” or outreach at events. But don't worry, Shannon and David's level of dedication is not required! If you are willing to donate three or four hours every once in a while to help get the word out at events, please contact Priscilla at 401.861.6111 or Priscilla@RIPower.org. ■




Volunteer David Brown (center) speaks with Town of Portsmouth Turbine Festival attendees

Rhode Island Disclosure Label

PEOPLE'S
Power & Light

New England
GreenStart
Feel good about your electricity.

Source	National Grid Standard Mix		GreenStart 50% Mix		GreenStart 100% Mix	
Biomass	0%		0%		0%	
Coal	12.0%		6.0%		0%	
Diesel	1.8%		0.9%		0%	
Efficient Resource (Maine)	0.1%		0.1%		0%	
Fuel Cell	0%		0%		0%	
Hydroelectric (Large)	4.2%		2.1%		0%	
Hydro (Small) - Existing	0%		34.9%		69.9%	
Hydro (Small) - New	0%		4.9%		10.6%	
Jet	2.5%		1.3%		0%	
Landfill Gas	0.6%		2.7%		4.2%	
Municipal Solid Waste	0.1%		0.1%		0%	
Natural Gas	33.7%		16.9%		0%	
Nuclear	30.4%		15.2%		0%	
Oil	2.6%		1.1%		0%	
Solar Photovoltaic	0%		3.3%		5.9%	
Imported Power	10.3%		5.2%		0%	
Trash-to-Energy	1.1%		0.6%		0%	
Wind	0%		4.7%		9.4%	
Wood	1.1%		0.6%		0%	
Air Emissions *%=Air Emissions as % of NEPOOL System Mix	Emissions Standard Mix		Emissions GreenStart 50%		 GreenStart 100%	
	Lbs./MWh	%*	Lbs./MWh	%*	Lbs./MWh	%*
Carbon Dioxide	804.966	73.9%	430.918	48.5%	50.820	5.7%
Carbon Monoxide	0.399	75.2%	0.352	71.3%	0.273	55.3%
Mercury	0	90.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Nitrogen Oxides	0.890	79.9%	0.522	73.3%	0.137	19.2%
Particulates	0.379	85.0%	0.202	57.9%	0.022	6.2%
Fine Particulates	0.211	85.1%	0.118	55.6%	0.022	10.3%
Sulphur Dioxides	1.866	78.3%	0.965	68.6%	0.057	4.1%
Organic Compounds	0.028	87.5%	0.030	103.9%	0.028	98.4%

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Electric Power Suppliers are required by the Rhode Island Public Utilities commission to provide customers with a disclosure label. The label enables consumers to look at the energy sources, air emissions and information about the supplier used to serve their needs. Consumers can compare energy labels to make the best choice based on their energy needs. "Standard Mix" is based on Standard Offer Service, emissions for "Last Resort Service" are insignificantly different-view at www.nationalgridus.com. Power Sources: Demand for this electricity product in the period above was assigned generation from the listed sources. Air Emissions: from the specified electric power resource are compared to the new England regional average air emissions for all power resource in the period above, as reported by National Grid and NEPOOL GIS, 100% is the average (baseline) emissions.

NOTES: 1. Electricity customers in New England are served by an integrated power grid, not particular generating units. This information is based on the most recently available information provided to suppliers via the NEPOOL GIS System. National Grid procures its electricity supply for Standard Offer Service, on behalf of its customers from system power contracts, not from specific generating units. 2. You may call National Grid at 1-800-322-3223, People's Power & Light at 401-861-6111, or the Rhode Island State Energy Office at 401-222-3370 for additional information. **www.ripower.org** EMISSIONS: for each of the following pollutants are presented as a percent of the regional average emission rate. Arrows represent, for each pollutant, the emission rate from a hypothetical new generation facility. Carbon Dioxide: Causes climate change and rising sea levels. Nitrogen Monoxides: Health Effect-Reduces ability of blood to bring oxygen to body cells and tissues. Mercury Health Effects- Liver, kidney, and brain damage: neurological and developmental damage, Economic Effects-Accumulates in food chain, impacting the fishing industry. Particulates: Health Effects- Lung damage, respiratory illnesses, ozone (smog) effects, Economic Effect- Precursor of acid rain, which damages trees, lakes, and soil; aerosols can reduce visibility. Nitrous Oxide: Health Effects- Eye, nose, and throat irritation; lung damage bronchitis; cancer; early death. Economic Effects- Ashes, smoke, soot, and dust can dirty and discolor structures and property, including clothes and furniture. Source of haze, which reduces visibility. Sulfur Dioxide: Health Effects- Respiratory illness, breathing problems, may cause permanent damage to lungs, Economic Effects- Precursor of acid rain, which can damage trees, lakes, and soil; aerosols can reduce visibility. Acid rain also causes buildings, statues, and monuments to deteriorate. Organic Compounds: Health Effects- Ozone (smog) effects, cancer, and other serious health problems. Economic Effects- Vegetation and crop damage.

PEOPLE'S

Power & Light

Making energy more affordable and environmentally sustainable

17 Gordon Ave., Suite 201
Providence, RI 02905

401-861-6111 (phone)
401-861-6115 (fax)
info@ripower.org
www.ripower.org

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Have You Ever Stared a Wind Turbine in the Eye?

We are planning visits to local wind turbines throughout the upcoming warm months.
Dates TBA. Please plan to join us for the fun!



Medford "Harvest the Wind" Festival in October

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