



# Energy Edge

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMPHIS LIGHT, GAS AND WATER DIVISION GENERAL POWER CUSTOMERS  
OCTOBER 2010

## Energy Efficiency Loan Program workshop draws moderate crowd

Some 20 attendees gathered for the 9/21/2010 workshop on the new Energy Efficiency Loan Program. The deadline to apply for the initial round of funding is 11/1/2010, with loans to be announced on 12/1/2010. Additional application periods are planned in 2011, until funds are depleted.

If you are interested in the loan program but could not attend the workshop, read the September issue of *Energy Edge*, available at [www.mlgw.com/energyedge](http://www.mlgw.com/energyedge), for background information and links. *Loan applications for energy efficiency projects require a completed energy audit, so start planning now!*

## Computer power management can save your business energy, money

Are you ready to reduce your business' or organization's computing costs significantly with very little expense and effort? With an average of 60% of office computers being left on overnight, an effective computer power management strategy can substantially reduce wasted electricity and save money without compromising computer performance or security. Highlighted below are three effective approaches to help you select the strategy that best fits your business needs.

**Enable built-in power management settings.** You can gain significant energy savings by verifying that power management settings are enabled on individual computers and monitors so that they will enter sleep mode after a specified period of inactivity. Most recent desktop computers—those purchased since 2008—should have been shipped with these settings enabled. This is a simple, no-cost approach to reducing computing energy and can cut each computer's electricity use roughly in half, saving from \$25 to \$75 annually. If you need help activating power management features on individual computers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers detailed instructions on its website for each computer operating system (type "computer power management" into the search bar at [www.EnergyStar.gov](http://www.EnergyStar.gov)). Some users may be concerned that automatic software updates will be inhibited if power management settings are enabled, but that is not the case. Updates will automatically begin to download when the computer awakens from sleep mode. This savings

### MLGW Rates

MLGW's current and historic electric, natural gas and water rates are published at [www.mlgw.com](http://www.mlgw.com), along with updated Purchased Gas Adjustment and Fuel Cost Adjustment rates.

### Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA)

MLGW Rate	Consumption	Demand
G-1 residential	(\$0.090)	na
G-7	(\$0.159)	na
G-8 / G-9	(\$0.206)	\$0.111
G-10 / G-12	(\$0.218)	na

Monthly adjustment in \$/Ccf to published natural gas rates for meters read on or after 9/30/2010.

### Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA)

TVA Rate Class	MLGW Rate Code	FCA Amount
GSA, Part 1	E-2	\$0.01175
GSA, Part 2	E-2	\$0.01175
GSA, Part 3	E-2	\$0.01161
Residential	E-1	\$0.01187
Outdoor Lighting	E-3	\$0.01189

Monthly adjustment in \$/kWh to all firm kWh, beginning with meters read on or after 9/30/2010.



### Important Contact Information

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Outage: 901-544-6500

VIEW YOUR BILL ONLINE AT [www.mlgw.com](http://www.mlgw.com)

approach is only effective if individual users do not change the settings.

**Deploy log-on scripts.** If your business uses a Windows domain-based network, you can ask your network administrator or IT staff to develop and deploy group policy objects or log-on scripts that control power management settings from the server level. This approach has the advantage of being an enforceable savings standard that computer users are not able to tamper with, and it offers IT staff the flexibility to create groups of users with similar computing habits to accommodate different operating needs. If implemented with care, group policy objects and log-on scripts can be a cost-effective strategy because they ensure that power management settings will be enabled and maintained at the appropriate level for each user without the need to purchase additional software. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers EZ GPO, a free tool to assist network administrators in creating group policy objects (type “EZ GPO” into the search bar at [www.EnergyStar.gov](http://www.EnergyStar.gov)).

**Use computer power management software.** If your business has multiple types of hardware and operating systems on the same network, consider purchasing a computer power management software solution. The software is installed on individual machines and is centrally controlled by the IT staff via the Internet or the company network. Depending on the program used, IT staff can manually wake up computers for maintenance, monitor energy consumption and savings, and apply different settings to different groups of computers. These programs generally run from \$10 to \$20 per computer and are often available at discounted rates for bulk purchases. With average annual savings ranging from \$25 to \$75 per machine, the payback period is typically less than a year for a desktop computer. Because the software is sold on a per-computer licensing basis, it is roughly as cost-effective in a small business as in a large corporation. And although maintaining this software does require some time commitments on the part of a network administrator, it’s well within the means of even modestly sized organizations. As a rule, if a company is large enough to have at least one designated IT staffer, it’s probably large enough to consider computer power management software as a means of cutting costs.

## **Business Energy Advisor web content refreshed with new topics**

Each quarter, new content is added to the Business Energy Advisor section of MLGW’s website, enabling businesses and organizations to access up-to-date information and advice on equipment purchases, equipment maintenance and facility efficiency. More than 3,352 visits—including 15% from first-time users—have been made to our Business Energy Advisor content this year. If you were not among them, you are missing out on objective, quality information including these recent additions:

### **Updated Buying Advice on Natural Gas Chillers**

Although natural gas chillers have effectively served many end users over the past half-century, all of the signs today are pointing to a drastic decline in the use of this technology. Manufacturers we spoke with reported that sales have dropped by up to 75% over the last few years in the U.S. Most—and for some manufacturers, all—new gas-fired chillers sold in the U.S. are being used to replace existing gas systems, not for new installations. When existing gas chillers eventually reach their end of life, system owners will need to decide whether to replace them with another gas chiller, knowing that this technology is in decline, or to convert their facility to accept an electric chiller—a potentially expensive option. To understand the implications of this change in chiller options, visit [www.mlgw.com/businessenergyadvisor](http://www.mlgw.com/businessenergyadvisor) and look under the “Buying Equipment” link.

### **Updated Guide to Managing Energy Costs in Warehouse**

We’ve just added new information on how to boost the profitability of your warehouse by reducing energy consumption. We can help you manage energy costs in refrigerated as well as non-refrigerated facilities. We suggest a number of low-cost solutions, and we also help you decide whether measures like radiant heating, light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, and electric forklifts are a good fit for your business. For more details, visit [www.mlgw.com/businessenergyadvisor](http://www.mlgw.com/businessenergyadvisor) and look under the “Facility Efficiency Advice” link.

### **Updated Guide to Managing Energy Costs in Retail Buildings**

Retail buildings use a lot of energy to create a comfortable environment and to accent the wares they sell. It's possible to make significant reductions in energy use without compromising those goals. In fact, some energy-saving measures can also enhance the shopping environment. Our advice on managing energy use in retail facilities presents a range of no-cost/low-cost energy-saving measures as well as longer-term steps that can make deep cuts in your energy bills. Visit [www.mlgw.com/businessenergyadvisor](http://www.mlgw.com/businessenergyadvisor) and look under the "Facility Efficiency Advice" link to learn more about the latest energy-saving opportunities for your retail facility.

### **Updated Guide to Managing Energy Costs in Office Buildings**

A productive office building uses lots of energy to maintain comfortable temperatures and a well-lit environment, and to power a host of energy-using equipment ranging from computers and printers to refrigerators and vending machines. Our advice on managing energy use in office buildings tells you how to save energy in all those areas through a range of low-cost/no-cost measures and longer-term investments. Visit [www.mlgw.com/businessenergyadvisor](http://www.mlgw.com/businessenergyadvisor) and look under the "Facility Efficiency Advice" link to learn more about the latest energy-saving opportunities for your office facility.

### **New Maintenance Advice on Air-Handling Equipment**

Proper maintenance of air-handling components can prevent energy waste and help to ensure the comfort of building occupants. The main power consumer in air-handling equipment is the fan, which can either be in self-contained equipment such as with air-handlers used in chilled water systems or integrated into packaged equipment, like rooftop air conditioners. In either case, they can use a significant amount of energy—on average, about 7% of the energy consumed by buildings that use conditioned air. To help you keep your air-handling equipment working its best, we've combined and updated several of our Maintaining Equipment topics into a comprehensive look at what checks need to be done and how often. To see what this maintenance advice can do for you, visit [www.mlgw.com/businessenergyadvisor](http://www.mlgw.com/businessenergyadvisor) and look under the "Maintaining Equipment" link.

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