

the Messenger

A newsletter from Middleborough Gas & Electric Department April 2007

Community-owned since 1893

Do we look different?

We've updated *the Messenger's* look this spring, with changes designed to make it more appealing to customers and sensitive to the environment.

Stories are now shorter, because your time is limited. Topics are a little different, too, with more emphasis on customer interests and needs. And we're using recycled paper to help save both energy and the environment. Let us know what you think!

What you need to know: your bill

Your bill will soon have a different look, too. We are converting our billing system later this year and the process will include a new bill design for all customers. The new bills will be easier to read and will show your energy use for 12 months.



Change the way you cook to save energy and money. What will make a difference? See the chart below.

What uses more energy?

Conventional electric oven 10 hours per month	125 kWh*	\$16.88
Microwave oven 5 hours per month (cooks fast)	7 kWh	\$.95
Crockpot cooker 40 hours per month (cooks slow)	4.4 kWh	\$.59

Source: MG&Eonline.com > Appliance Calculator *kilowatt-hours

Sidebar stats: CNG

Number of CNG (compressed natural gas) vehicles operated by MG&E:

4

Year of first CNG vehicle at MG&E:

1999

Carbon dioxide emissions saved with CNG instead of gasoline:

20%

Nitrous oxide emissions saved burning CNG instead of gasoline:

87%

CNG cost per gallon:

\$2.46

per gasoline gallon equivalent (March 30, 2007)

Get more CNG info at MGandEonline.com
Go to the About Us link and click on CNG Fleet.



HomeWorks: dishwashing

If you wash your dishes by hand and avoid using the dishwasher to save energy, you could be wasting your elbow grease. Recent studies show that filling that sink will take five to seven gallons of hot water – but you'll use twice that rinsing the dishes first! And the hot water you need means more energy used by your water heater.

A newer dishwasher on efficiency cycle will use only that five to seven gallons and you don't need to rinse the dishes first – only scrape! It uses a booster heater to heat only the water it uses so you can keep your water heater at a lower temperature and save energy throughout the day.

Careful, though – that rinse and hold cycle will use about four gallons of extra water, so use it only when the washer is full. The cleaner should dissolve the rest.



Think twice: Dig Safe

Thinking of renting a backhoe for a digging project? You must call toll-free 1-888-DIG-SAFE before you scratch the surface. They'll notify area utilities who will mark the location of underground lines. Don't risk serious injury and expensive damage. The service is free, and it's the law.

Do you do this?

Do you pick up a standard incandescent light bulb to replace one that burned out?

Do this instead:

Buy one or two compact fluorescent bulbs and try one at a time in various fixtures. Over the life of the bulb, you'll grow used to this light that is now warmer than ever and saves its purchase price in energy bills three times over.



Free booklets at our office have more simple and quick ways to save energy. Stop by or call to get yours. Or visit our website at MGandEonline.com.

DIRECTORY

Customer Service & Billing
508-947-1371

Gas Service Questions
508-947-1535

Electric Service Questions
508-947-3023

Emergency:

Gas 508-947-1535

Electric 508-947-3023

Payment locations:

Main office:

32 S. Main St.,
Middleborough
8:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Pay Boxes:

Main office parking lot

32 S. Main St.,
Middleborough

Oak Point
Middleborough

Savas Plaza
Route 18, Lakeville

Stop 'N Shop Plaza
Route 28,
Middleborough

Holiday Closing:

Monday, April 16
Patriots' Day

Monday, May 28
Memorial Day observed

Commission Meetings:

Meetings are typically held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Administrative Offices at 32 S. Main St., Middleborough. Please call 508-947-1371 to confirm dates and times.



MIDDLEBOROUGH
Gas and Electric Department
www.MGandEonline.com