

BELMONT LIGHT

POWERING YOUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1898

— 2019 Home Energy Assistance Programs



■ HAVING TROUBLE WITH YOUR HEATING BILLS?

The winter heating season can make it difficult for some local families, especially those on a limited or fixed income.

The information in this booklet is provided to inform Belmont Light customers about some of the programs and services that are available to low income residents, residents who are in temporary financial crisis, and those who are ineligible for assistance but need to cut energy costs to help make ends meet.

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Economic Development income eligibility for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is 60% of the state median income level. Specific income guidelines and additional eligibility information is listed in the appropriate sections. Residents who are eligible for LIHEAP may also be eligible for other programs.

This booklet also contains information about other resources that are available to Belmont residents, as well as an application for the Belmont Light Residential Low Income Rate Change.

■ 65 YEARS OR OLDER:

If you are 65 years of age or older, Belmont Light reminds you that utility companies may not shut off service to households where all residents are 65 years or older without written approval from the Department of Public Utilities. If you have not contacted Belmont Light informing us that all residents of your household are over age 65, please call us at 617-993-2800 as soon as possible.

■ UTILITY SHUTOFF PROTECTION

Residents under the age of 65 are also protected from having their electric or gas service shut off if they have a financial hardship and someone in the home is seriously ill, if there is an infant in the home under the age of 12 months, or if it is between November 15 and March 15 and service is needed to heat the home. If any of these situations apply to you, please call us at 617-993-2800 as soon as possible.

A financial hardship exists when a customer is unable to pay an overdue energy bill and they meet income eligibility requirements for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. You may be eligible for assistance if your household income does not exceed 60% of the state median income.

HEATING ASSISTANCE

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FUEL ASSISTANCE)

Funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assists low-income individuals and families with the cost of heating their homes during the winter season. The program is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Economic Development in conjunction with 22 regional nonprofit and local government organizations.

This year, LIHEAP will provide fuel assistance to low-income people with annual incomes up to 60% of estimated State Median Income or \$68,289 for a family of four. (Income eligibility guidelines can be found on page 8 of this brochure.)

The amount of fuel assistance is determined by income, household size, housing status, and heating costs. Tenants in subsidized housing get a reduced benefit. Some households qualify for extra help if their heating bills last year were very high.

LIHEAP-eligible households may also be eligible for weatherization services and heating system repairs. In addition, Belmont Light offers a lower rate to customers who receive fuel assistance.

Fuel assistance benefits will be paid directly by CTI to the heating company, unless heat is included in the rent. You must pay any part of your heating costs not covered by fuel assistance. If you are eligible for weatherization, emergency furnace repair, or utility discounts, your fuel assistance agency will explain how to get these benefits.

To access LIHEAP services, Belmont Light customers should contact:

Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI)
45 Kirk St., Lowell, MA 01854
(978) 459-6161 - Lowell
(781) 643-2358 - Arlington
1-877-451-1082 - Toll Free

OTHER HEATING ASSISTANCE

GOOD NEIGHBOR ENERGY FUND

If you are not eligible for fuel assistance, you may be eligible for help from the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, a cooperative effort between Massachusetts energy companies and The Salvation Army of Massachusetts. This program provides energy assistance to those in temporary crisis.

The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal energy assistance.

Income must be within 60% and 80% of the state median income. (Income guidelines can be found on page 8 of this brochure.)

The grant per eligible household is \$300 per season regardless of the amount that is owed. Grants for a household must be paid directly to the vendor(s). For more information about eligibility criteria and where to apply, call 1-800-334-3047, or visit the website at www.magoodneighbor.org.

LOW INCOME ENERGY PROGRAMS

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP)

The Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provides eligible households with full-scale home energy efficiency services. Typical work includes air sealing, attic and/or sidewall insulation, weather stripping, and minor repairs associated with weatherization work. Households can expect to see anywhere from 25 to 30% energy savings after these improvements are made with estimated energy cost-savings of more than \$500.

The program operates throughout the year and eligibility is based on household eligibility for LIHEAP Fuel Assistance program or if someone in the household gets SSI or Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC.) Priority of service is given to those households with elderly, disabled, children (6 and under), LIHEAP high-energy costs, and Native Americans. Homeowners and tenants with their landlord's permission are eligible.

The Department of Housing and Community Development administers WAP on the state level, with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The value of the work varies depending on need. The average value is \$4500.

Energy inspectors visit eligible households to see what work needs to be done to save energy. The inspectors also do a health and safety check to make sure that all energy-related systems are working properly. Weatherization workers then make energy-saving improvements as needed.

Households with the greatest need get priority for the Weatherization Assistance Program. WAP services are free.

Community Action Program Intercity, Inc. (CAPIC)
100 Everett Street, Unit 14, Chelsea , MA 02150
(617) 884-6130

HEATING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE RETROFIT TASK WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEARTWAP)

Belmont residents who are eligible for fuel assistance and own their own home can get help with heating system repairs or replacement through the Heating Energy Assistance Retrofit Task Weatherization Assistance Program (HEARTWAP). During the heating season, eligible homeowners whose heating systems are not working can get free emergency repairs. In some cases, homeowners can have their heating systems replaced. Priority for HEARTWAP services is given to those clients in an emergency no-heat or unsafe heating situation.

There are maximum allowable expenditure limits for different types of heating system activities. In some instances households may be required to provide a co-payment. Local agencies attempt to utilize all available utility funds for system replacements in an effort to minimize the need for client contributions.

Heating system repairs and replacements must be authorized by the HEARTWAP program before any work is done. Renters do not qualify for this program, as the landlord is responsible for making sure the heating system is working properly, even if the renter pays for heat. Tenants should contact their landlord unless contact fails to resolve a no-heat situation.

Interested households should contact their local Fuel Assistance agency for application information. Households will be required to verify their income, household characteristics, address and home ownership.

For more information on the Heating Emergency Assistance Retrofit Task Weatherization Assistance Program, contact:

Menotomy Weatherization

20 Academy Street, Suite 202, Arlington, MA 02476

(781) 316-3436

888-772-4242

BELMONT LIGHT PROGRAMS ENERGY CONSERVATION

Belmont Light residential customers can obtain information about energy efficiency, energy conservation, and how to reduce energy costs through Belmont Light's partnership with Energy New England.

A complete analysis of the home's energy use can also be obtained by scheduling a free home energy assessment. A professional energy advisor will provide useful information and tips on appliance usage and will provide a computerized report detailing recommendations and payback time for any improvements. The advisor will also install up to \$30 of energy saving materials during the assessment. The 2019 assessment program includes a free thermal imaging scan.

Energy New England

Energy Hotline: 888-772-4242

ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCE REBATES

Energy efficient appliances save an average of 15-50% in energy costs and can help reduce the need for additional generation during peak time, saving money and helping the environment. To encourage energy efficiency, Belmont Light residential customers who purchase energy efficient ENERGY STAR® appliances may be eligible to receive a rebate after they purchase a qualified ENERGY STAR® appliance.

The 2019 ENERGY STAR® Appliance Program includes the following rebates and appliances:

Refrigerator 15.0 cu. ft. or larger (<i>with DPW or vendor disposal</i>)*	.\$100
Heat pump and Hybrid Heat Pump Dryers **\$300
Central AC with SEER rating \geq 14\$100
Room AC (<i>with DPW or vendor disposal</i>)*\$100
<i>Air conditioners must have a remote and be Sensibo compatible. Rebate for optional Sensibo smart controller - up to \$120.</i>	
Room AC (no disposal)\$25
Dehumidifier\$75
WiFi-Enabled Hybrid Heat Pump Water Heater\$500
<i>Optional Smart Aquanta Controller - up to \$165</i>	
WiFi-Enabled Smart Thermostat\$100

* A copy of the appliance disposal receipt from vendor or proof of DPW disposal must be submitted with this application.

** Standard dryers, even those with ENERGY STAR labels, do not qualify for the program.

Heat pump units are not eligible as AC units for rebates but are eligible for Belmont Light Heat Pump Grant Program.

The program is administered by Energy New England.

For additional information about the Belmont Light Appliance Rebate Program call Energy New England at 888-772-4242.

HIGH EFFICIENCY HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS

Highly efficient electric heat pump systems can help residents reduce energy bills and carbon footprints by up to 50%. For this reason, Belmont Light offers discounts between \$650 and \$3,500 for air-sourced heat pumps, depending on the size of the system. These discounts are available to homes currently heated with any fuel type and must be approved and granted prior to purchase and installation. To learn more, please visit the website or call Sagewell, the program administrator, at 617-963-8141.

Heat Pump Discount
Sagewell, Inc
617-963-8141
www.BelmontLightEnergyGrant.com

Incentives based on cooling capacity.

Rated cooling capacity (BTU/h)	2019 Belmont Light Incentive
Up to 11,999.....	\$650
12,000 - 23,999.....	\$1,000
24,000 - 35,999.....	\$1,250
36,000 or more.....	\$1,500

Incentive Adders.....	\$500 - Residential Rate A Low Income and Small Municipal Rate MB customers
	\$500 - \$1,500 - full fossil fuel displacement

Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements.....	NEEP Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump Specifications
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FUEL ASSISTANCE INCOME LIMITS WINTER 2018 -2019

Household size	Gross annual income 60% Estimated State Median Income
1	\$35,510
2	\$46,437
3	\$57,363
4	\$68,289
5	\$79,215
6	\$90,141
7	\$92,190
8	\$94,239

For additional information about the federal income guidelines, visit the website at www.mass.gov/hed and click on Community.

MASSACHUSETTS GOOD NEIGHBOR ENERGY FUND INCOME GUIDELINES

Income for either the prior twelve months or the past month (times 12 months for a total annual figure) must fall between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels.

Income eligibility guidelines for 2018-2019 are as follows:

Household Size	Total Gross Yearly Income
1	\$35,510 - \$47,347
2	\$46,437 - \$61,916
3	\$57,363 - \$76,484
4	\$68,289 - \$91,052
5	\$79,215 - \$105,620
6	\$90,141 - \$120,188
7	\$92,190 - \$122,920
8	\$94,239 - \$125,652

Households of more than 8 can contact the Salvation Army for income limits.

Applications were accepted starting January 1, 2019. The grant per eligible household is \$300 per season regardless of amount owed. Grants for a household must be paid directly to the vendor(s).

You may apply by directly contacting your local Salvation Army Service Center. For more information about eligibility criteria and where to apply, please call: 1-800-334-3047 (serving area codes 508, 617, 781 and 978).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program:

Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI)

45 Kirk St.

Lowell, MA 01854

978-459-6161 - Lowell

781-643-2358 - Arlington

1-877-451-1082 - Toll Free

Weatherization Assistance Program

Community Action Program Intercity, Inc. (CAPIC)

100 Everett Street, Unit 14

Chelsea, MA 02150

(617) 884-6130

www.capicinc.org

Heating Emergency Assistance Retrofit Task

Menotomy Weatherization

20 Academy Street, Suite 202

Arlington, MA 02476

781-316-3436

Good Neighbor Energy Fund

1-800-334-3047

www.magoodneighbor.org.

Energy Conservation

Energy New England

Energy Hotline

888-772-4242

Energy New England

Belmont Light Appliance Rebate Program

100 Foxborough Blvd, Suite 110

Foxborough, MA 02035

888-772-4242

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40 Prince Street

Belmont, MA 02478

617-993-2800

www.belmontlight.com