

Belmont Light statement on Heat Pump Rates

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) recently approved special winter heat pump rates for customers of the state's investor-owned utilities (Eversource, National Grid, and Unitil). These utilities change their rates every 6 months and typically raise November through April rates to \$0.30–\$0.50 per kWh, including supply and delivery. Heat pump customers use considerably more electricity than their fossil-fuel heating neighbors during these months. The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) instructed the investor-owned utilities to create heat pump rates to provide some relief to these customers.

Belmont Light is a municipal light department (public power utility) that serves the Town of Belmont. Because we are not regulated by the DPU in the same way as the investor-owned utilities, the new heat pump rate programs do not apply to Belmont Light customers.

That said, Belmont Light's electricity rates are already much lower than the state average (approximately \$0.246 per kWh as of March 1, 2026) and we do not increase our rates during the winter months. As a result, Belmont Light customers with heat pumps generally do not experience the same level of winter bill increases seen in other parts of the state.

We are carefully reviewing how the new heat pump rates are being deployed and evaluated elsewhere, and we will continue to explore options that best serve our community. Please reach out if you have additional questions; we're always happy to discuss how our public power model helps keep rates stable and affordable for Belmont residents.