



Customer Connections

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A Quarterly Newsletter for Our Customers & Community

Issue 2: Winter 2022

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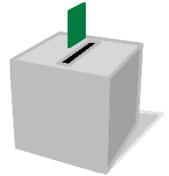
For Mail:
PO Box 190
Stowe, VT 05672

Come Visit Us At:
435 Moscow Rd
Stowe, VT 05672

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8am – 4pm



Substation Upgrades



On Town Meeting Day, March 1st, 2022, the Town of Stowe Electric Department (SED) will be asking for approval by Australian Ballot from the town residents for a 20-year bond not to exceed \$4,000,000. The funds will be used for critical upgrades to Stowe's largest substation, the Wilkins Substation, which carries more than 50% of the load and serves 2,318 of our 4,430 total customers. This substation also serves critical infrastructure for Fire, Police, Rescue, Emergency Shelter, the High School and Elementary School, Town offices (incl. garage, the Water & Sewer Department) and downtown Stowe.

Currently the Wilkins Substation has 2 transformers. The two are both very close to capacity. The funds from the bond will be allocated for equipment including a new power transformer for the Substation, regulators and a recloser. Design, permitting and engineering to accommodate the new equipment will also be paid for with the bond. Finally, SED will need to add a 3rd circuit to the Wilkins Substation. This would accommodate peak back-up of the Houston & Lodge Substations, increased system reliability, and to allow capacity for future growth.

A 20-year bond from the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank would have the lowest possible impact on Stowe customers rates. We encourage everyone to attend the informational meeting held virtually, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022 at 5:30pm with any questions you may have. Please go to the Town of Stowe's website (www.townofstovevt.org) for details on how to attend online or by phone. As always, SED welcomes any of our customers to contact us by phone (802-253-7215) or email (stowe_electric@stoweelectric.com) with any questions and/or concern. If you would like to visit our office at 435 Moscow Road, please contact us to schedule an appointment.

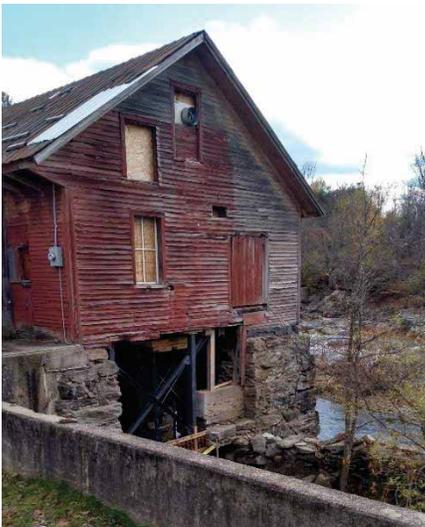
Moscow Mill Update

During the fall, you probably noticed activity at the Moscow Mill at Smith Fall's. We are happy that our wall stabilization project was successfully completed. This will help us plan for the restoration of the mill and continue to support college students in completing capstone research projects at the site.

How Can You Help?

We are looking for photos and historical documents related to Moscow Mills. Please share this information with Michael Lazorchak at 802-253-7215 or mlazorchak@stoweelectric.com.

If you are interested in a tax-deductible donation specifically toward the restoration of the Mill, please contact Ellen Burt at 802-253-7215 or eburt@stoweelectric.com for more information.



Considering a heat pump?

Heat pumps are heating and cooling units that extract warmth from the air then circulate the air inside (for heating) or outside (for cooling). This uses less energy than standard systems, like a furnace, that warms up or cools the air inside your house. Replacing a traditional indoor heating system with a heat pump could save you as much as \$948 annually.

Window-mounted or split-unit heat pump systems can be used in an apartment or a couple rooms in a home.

Heat pumps become less efficient in colder temperatures: heat pumps can operate at 100% efficiency down to 0°F, 80% efficiency down to -13°F, and generally shut off at -18°F.

For more information about heat pumps and rebates visit: <https://www.stowelectric.com/programs/rebate-programs> and <https://www.encyvermont.com/products-technologies/heating-cooling-ventilation/heat-pumps>.

Herbicides & Vegetation Management

You might have seen the notice letter regarding herbicide use within Stowe's utility corridor. This notice is required by the Vermont Public Utility Commission (PUC). Please know that Stowe Electric and VELCO do not apply herbicides within Stowe. If you would like to receive notification should any herbicide policies change, please return the form to us.

Stowe developed our vegetation treatment program to maintain the safety of our distribution system. We have a goal to achieve a 5-year tree-trimming cycle for sub-transmission lines and a 7-year cycle for our distribution lines. We are required to maintain a 50-foot corridor for aerial distribution and 100-foot corridor for aerial transmission that is free of vegetation and trees that could interrupt your electric service. For more information on Right-of-Ways, easements, and planting trees and vegetation near electric lines, please call us or visit our website.

Check out our website!

Did you know our website contains lots of information and resources for you?

Visit <https://www.stowelectric.com/> to read about:

- Rebates & Incentives
- Current Outages
- Electric Rates
- Vegetation Management
- Net Metering Information
- Public EV Charging
- Nebraska Valley Solar Farm real time production
- Commissioners' Meeting Agendas & Minutes

The following forms are also available to download:

- Rebate Forms
- Line Extension Application
- Service Application
- Service Application for Net Metering
- DigSafe Authorization

Pay & View Your Bills Online!

Create a customer account to easily make payments, sign up for autopay, view your usage and monthly bills, and sign up for e-billing.

Going Solar

Are you considering solar? Please give us a call first to discuss options.

Solar is an important electricity generation resource. Projects can range from Stowe Electric's own 1MW solar field to residential arrays.

If you want to take advantage of Net-Metering, you will require approval from the Public Utility Commission, and you will need to consider the costs to interconnect your solar system. This can include regulatory and power engineering costs, upgrades to residential transformers, meter installation, and electric service upgrades.

When investing in reducing your electric consumption or before investing in a solar system, here are some things to consider: How old is your roof, should you replace your roof first? Have you completed an energy audit to determine upgrades to your home's weatherization? Have you considered purchasing energy efficient appliances?

Then when you are ready to contact solar installers, consider asking 1) How much will the electrical service and panel upgrades cost? 2) Can you lease or buy panels, 3) What are the battery storage options? 4) Is ground-mounted solar a better option?

Your billed usage will be reduced by the total kWh you generate. However, the current NM rates for a typical residential solar system with a capacity of 15kW or less are:

If you transfer the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to us:

Charge of \$0.01 per kWh generated

If you choose to retain the RECs:

Charge of \$0.04 per kWh generated

The credit for excess generation (such as in summer when your system generates more power than your actual house usage), is \$0.15608 per kWh. You will have 12 months to use this generation credit to "pay" for your kWh usage.

Under the 2021 Net Metering regulations, the \$14.71 customer charge and the VT Efficiency Vermont charges are considered **non-bypassable charges** and need to be paid on a monthly basis, even if your net-metering credits stored toward future kWh use is higher than this amount.

For more information, call us at (802) 253-7215, and visit:

<https://www.stowelectric.com/programs/net-metering-information> and <https://puc.vermont.gov/electric/net-metering>.