



BUSINESS

Connections

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Just ask Electric Boat

Electric conservation is good for the bottom line

Electric conservation is good business. Just ask the Electric Boat Shipyard, one of Groton Utilities' largest customers.

With the help of GU's electric energy conservation program, Electric Boat recently installed efficient lighting in one of its most important production buildings in order to cut energy costs and improve its bottom line. As a result, EB is on track to lower electric bills by some \$20,000 in the first year alone.

The project began when GU's energy experts visited EB and identified lighting that should be replaced with more efficient electric lighting technology. This qualified them for generous rebates from Groton Utilities.

The conversion to efficient fluorescent lighting will reduce the company's load by 26 kilowatts, or 250,000 kilowatt-hours per year. This

amounts to annual savings of about \$20,000. Combine that with rebates from Groton Utilities totaling more than \$35,000, and Electric Boat will

recover about 50 percent of the project cost of more than \$100,000 in the first year.

Jeff Cohen of EB's Process Engineering says this is only the beginning. Other facilities are scheduled to be retrofitted in the months ahead. In addition, he says, EB will be

looking at more complex ways to save energy.

Upgrading your company's lighting from inefficient incandescent technology to more cost-effective fluorescent lighting is one of many ways to cut your company's energy bills. Groton Utilities has a variety of programs to help your company save. For more information, see the savings story on page 2 and/or visit our website at grotonutilities.com.



Our electric energy conservation program helped EB make lighting improvements at this production building that will save about \$20,000 a year in electric costs.

GU can help you save energy and money

Groton Utilities can help your company save energy and money through a variety of programs that can be custom-tailored to meet individual needs. It's easy to get started—just visit our website at grotonutilities.com.

Click on the icon, “Energy Conservation Programs.” Next, go to the bottom of the page and click “Commercial & Industrial Programs.” You'll find information about programs aimed at saving on lighting, air conditioning/heat pumps, high efficiency motor replacement, vending and door heater control, distributed generation and onsite energy, and demand response.

You are also welcome to call us at 446-4000 and speak with a member of our staff who can guide you through the process of moving your company's expenses into a lower range. Don't hesitate. The quicker you take action to help your business, the quicker we will



be able to show you how to cut your monthly energy costs for an improved financial picture.

HOW THE PROGRAMS ARE FUNDED

In August 2005, the Connecticut Legislature enacted a comprehensive energy bill that Governor M. Jodi Rell signed into law. This action was in response to rising energy prices and serious constraints in Connecticut's electric transmission and distribution systems.

As part of the law, Connecticut municipal electric utilities, including Groton

Utilities, are offering rebates and incentives to its electrical customers who implement energy-saving measures in their homes and businesses. Groton Utilities' energy conservation programs, rebates and incentives became effective January 1, 2006.

Groton Utilities is collecting incentive funds from its customers through a surcharge of one mil per kilowatt-hour billed on each customer's monthly electric bill. This is one-tenth of a cent. These funds are used to provide cash incentives to Groton Utilities' energy consumers who invest in energy-saving equipment and retrofits.

Those participating customers who conserve electricity by making energy conscious investments help to reduce all Groton Utilities' customer energy costs by reducing electricity demand during peak summer and winter periods.

Don't gamble with electric safety

Because electricity is such a routine part of our daily lives, it's easy to forget that it can also be dangerous. Make sure that all employees—as well as outside contractors—follow these safety practices to minimize the risk of accidents and injuries:

• **Call before you dig.** Call 1-800-922-4455 at

least two working days before beginning any project that involves digging, no matter how shallow or deep. The Call Before You Dig system will notify utilities in your area who will mark the locations of underground lines you need to avoid. Lines are often where you least expect them. Hitting one could cause service interruptions

or, even worse, someone could be seriously hurt. Calling first not only makes sense, it's also the law.



• **Look around your business.** Take a few minutes to visually locate the outside electrical equipment serving your facility. Then tell all employees to avoid both overhead lines and ground-level equipment such as

padmount transformers. If something changes or doesn't look right, call us at 446-4000.

• **Keep clear of power lines.** Plan jobs carefully to avoid contact with overhead power lines. Keep equipment such as booms, ladders and antennae at least

10 feet away from overhead lines and never use metal poles or ladders near power lines. Stay clear of substations and transformers, too.

• **Never touch or go near a fallen power line.** Always assume all lines are live and dangerous. Stay away and call us for help at 446-4000 anytime.

• **Identify the circuits served by fuses,** circuit breakers or disconnect switches and record them in the electrical panel directory so you can cut power quickly in case of emergency. Circuit breakers and fuses should be the correct size for each circuit's current rating. If you do not know the correct size, have an electrician identify and label the size to be used.

Business profile

Say hello to Sousa's Seafood and Suds

There's a new business in town, and the faces of this business may be familiar. The business is a restaurant. And the name, Sousa's Seafood and Suds, may give you a hint. Does the Portuguese Fisherman sound familiar? Yes, the Sousa family is back, and they are in Groton City.

Sousa's Seafood and Suds now replaces what the locals used to know as the Sea Roamer, a neighborhood bar. The

Sousa family has brought their vast experience and reputation to 110 Poquonnock Road just a short distance from the Five Corners and up from Electric Boat.

What's cooking? Well, seafood, of course. The menu is filled with familiar items from the sea. You'll find their renowned classic, Sousa fish and chips (choice of cod or flounder), or if you

prefer, fried whole belly clams. With French fries and cole slaw, of course. Then there's the chowder—New England style with its clear broth. You may have trouble getting past these few items, because you will simply just want

of May and has had a soft opening. Word of mouth will likely grow their business without too much trouble. The odds are pretty good that once you go there, you're going to come back.



The Sousa group is at the ready to serve you fresh, delicious seafood. Come by their new place, Sousa's Seafood and Suds, at 110 Poquonnock Road in the City of Groton. Shown are, from left, Bob Jr., Diane, Mary Ann, Bob Sr. and Zack. (Photo by Peter Grills)

The restaurant is owned and operated by the Sousa family. There's Bob Senior and Mary Ann, Bob Junior and several grandchildren. You'll find Bob Senior holding court most of the time. Mary Ann and Bob Junior are usu-

ally found in the kitchen, putting that

special Sousa touch on all that good food. If you need a libation, err drink, to wash down the food, there's beer, wine and choices from the bar. Oh, yes, Sousa's Seafood and Suds opens for lunch at 11 a.m. and the kitchen doesn't close in the evening until around 10. Oh, well, more or less.

ally found in the kitchen, putting that special Sousa touch on all that good food.

Businesses embrace new TVC services

More and more businesses are experiencing the freedom of local choice when it comes to high-speed Internet and cable television service. Since going live more than two years ago, Thames Valley Communications (TVC) has found a strong acceptance for its new services in the local business community.

Whether you're looking for a high quality, reasonably priced Internet connection, music in your business or a cable television connection, you'll find a new world of service from TVC, Groton Utilities' Cable TV and High-Speed Internet Division.

"Businesses are interested not only in price, but also in quality of service,"

said David Lee, TVC's Chief Operating Officer. "We believe TVC is meeting these two important demands of the local business customer."

Want to experience the freedom? Call TVC at 446-4009 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays—Thursdays until 7 p.m. Customer Service is also open 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Holiday Closings

Our offices at the City Municipal Building, including Customer Care and Thames Valley Communications, our Cable Television Division, and Project Management and our Operational Sections, located at The Julio H. Leandri Operations Complex on Poquonnock Road, will be closed for these upcoming holidays:

Monday, September 4

Labor Day

Monday, October 9

Columbus Day

Friday, November 10

Veterans' Day

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 24

Post Thanksgiving Holiday

Our operations crews for both water and electric are available on an emergency basis during holidays. If you experience an electrical outage or a water main break, call us at 446-4000, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Normal business activity for all three Groton Utilities' Divisions, including electric, water and cable television, is conducted weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Customer Service is also open until 7 p.m. on Thursdays and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Groton Utilities hopes you and your family have enjoyable holidays. But, please drive safely. **And, yes, don't forget to buckle up!**



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Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statement
Federal and State law prohibits employment discrimination. It is the policy of the City of Groton to comply with the laws which prohibit discrimination as to race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, marital status, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, history of mental disorder, mental retardation or any other legally protected class.

Water report mailed

Groton Utilities' Water Division continues to meet all federal and state water quality standards, as detailed in our annual water quality report mailed to all customers this summer. In short, our customers continue to drink the best!



If your business did not receive its copy, you can get one at our Customer Care Center, 295 Meridian St., Groton. An annual Consumer Confidence Report is required of all public water supply systems as part of the 1996 revision of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Keep electric meters clear

Please remember to keep electric meters clear of growth and any other obstructions that might block our access. Remember, if you can't get to your meter, neither can we.

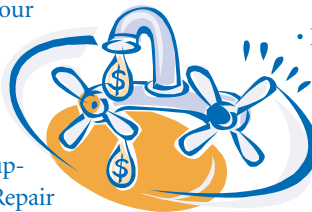
Our meter readers need to reach meters each month for accurate billing. Our operations workers must also access meters for maintenance and repair. Blockages could cause both service delays and safety hazards to our workers.

In addition, obstructions in front of electrical equipment such as pad-mount transformers or handholds can cause delays when restoring electric service. No shrubs, fences, or permanent structures can be placed within 20 feet of the front and three feet of the sides and back of GU's equipment. Groton Utilities has the right to remove these obstructions without notice to the owner.

Use water wisely

Practicing water conservation will not only save money on your water bill, but helps to preserve our water resources. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Check your water supply system for leaks. Repair dripping faucets and toilets that run continuously or leak.
- Check to be sure all water-using equipment is calibrated and operating properly. Discontinue use of continuous flows and reduce other intermittent discharges of water.



- Use water-efficient plumbing fixtures, appliances and other equipment.

- Plan your building's landscaping to include low water-use grasses and shrubs.
- If you have an automatic sprinkling system, have someone check the heads periodically to make sure they haven't shifted direction to spray water on pavement or buildings.

- Make sure workers use a broom, not a hose, to clear sidewalks, driveways, loading docks and parking lots.