



A Clean Energy Future

Options for Independence, Mo.

November 2014



Sierra Club Beyond
Coal Campaign

Background

Electric utilities face many challenges, including how to meet the growing consumer demand for clean, renewable energy options, and opportunities to lower consumer energy consumption through efficiency programs.

There are a wide range of ideas, opinions and options on how to meet this demand.

This paper, prepared by the Sierra Club, is a general survey of initiatives and programs by several Midwestern municipal or cooperative electrical entities to address two particular topics: renewables and energy efficiency.

This paper is timely because the Independence City Council unanimously adopted a resolution in July 2014 calling for a study of renewables and rates.

The paper contains not “pie-in-the-sky” ideas, but actual programs and initiatives undertaken by Midwestern electrical utilities – six of them in Missouri.

Independence Power & Light (IPL) – among the 100 largest municipal electric companies – provides electrical power to approximately 51,000 customers.

IPL has made sound and important investments in wind, has assisted some ratepayers with small-scale, rooftop solar systems, has discussed utility-scale solar options, and has some limited but not well-promoted consumer energy efficiency programs.

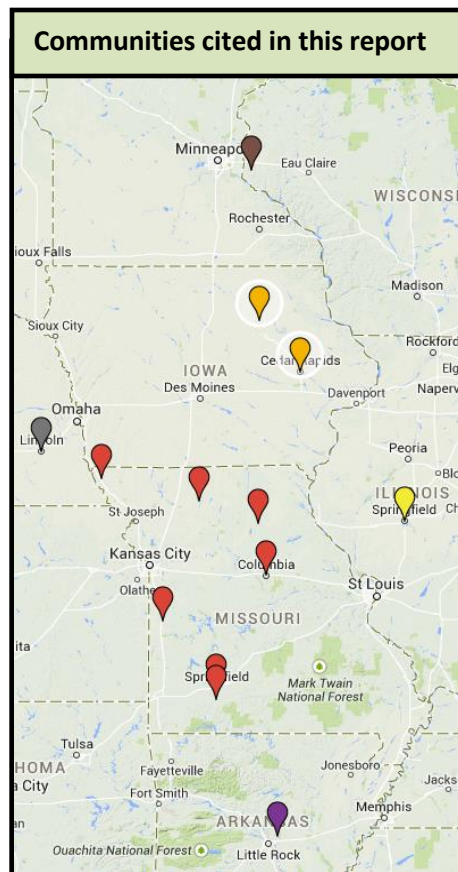
The growing community conversation on energy options surrounding the July 2014 clean energy resolution provides an excellent opportunity to add to innovative approaches embraced by IPL such as its LED street lights and its commitment to construct energy efficient new administrative offices on the former campus of the Medical Center of Independence.

We hope this general survey can contribute to this ongoing important discussion.

For additional information or to help update this booklet, please contact:

Andy Knott
Beyond Coal Campaign
andy.knott@sierraclub.org
(314) 803.4695

John Delurey
Beyond Coal Campaign
john.delurey@sierraclub.org
(781) 439.7272



Cover: Top, Smoky Hills Wind Farm along Interstate 70 in Kansas' Ellsworth and Lincoln Counties which supplies Independence about 5% of its electrical power; Bottom, a solar installation on an Independence business.

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1. **Renewable Energy**

1.1. **Solar Energy**

1.1.1. **Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic**

Municipal Utility Solar Project – Trenton, MO

The city of Trenton, Missouri is considering a solar photovoltaic project on 14 acres of land in Northern Trenton that would save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars. MC Power, a Lee's Summit solar installer, would purchase the property at \$70,000 and would assist with financing of the project. A preliminary cost benefit analysis for the City of Trenton shows the project paying for itself in less than 10 years. At 10 years, the total costs are estimated at \$748,000 while the benefits would amount to nearly \$1.1 million. That margin only increases: at 20 years, the project will only have cost the city \$881,000 and will have brought Trenton \$1.8 million in benefits. The largest direct benefit from the proposed solar farm project is a savings of about \$45,000 a year in power wheeling fees Trenton Municipal Utility would not have to pay because of the solar energy. Additional benefits come from property taxes and the tipping fee from a transfer station that would be built alongside the solar farm. "The City of Trenton would not be responsible for the solar panels." Economic Development Committee Chairman, Travis Elbert, said, "the City has very little risks."

More info at: <http://www.kttm.com/kgozfm/modules/news/article.php?storyid=13410>

Municipal Utility Solar Project – Macon, MO

The city of Macon, Missouri will have a large municipal solar array installed by the end of 2014. In excess of 3 MW, this solar array will feed into a network of municipal utilities through the Missouri Public Energy Pool. The project is being managed by MC Power - a Lee's Summit based solar installer that has been installing municipal utility projects across the state.

More info at: <http://www.heartlandconnection.com/news/story.aspx?id=1101007>

Municipal Utility Solar Project – Butler, MO

The municipal utility at Butler, Missouri created a solar array with a capacity in excess of 3 MW to provide power to public utilities across the state. In March, 2014 the project began delivering solar power to the 35 member cities of the Missouri Public Energy Pool through a Power Purchasing Agreement with MC Power Companies.

More info at: <http://www.publicpower.org/Media/daily/ArticleDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=41308>

More info on page 12 at: <http://www.mputa.org/lib/files/201402.pdf>

Municipal Utility Solar Project – Springfield, MO

The municipal utility of Springfield, Missouri negotiated a Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) with Strata Solar for a 4.95 MW solar farm on 40 acres of utility-held land within city limits. This is currently the largest solar farm in Missouri and is estimated to be enough to power about 902 homes in Springfield annually for 25 years.

Ratepayers have the option to have their power exclusively sourced from the solar array by paying a 20-year fixed rate that is slightly higher than the current electrical rate. As conventional electrical rates continue to increase, this fixed rate will become substantially lower over time relative to those increasing rates, and the ratepayer will see increasing savings over the life of the project.

More info at: <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2014/07/18/missouris-largest-solar-farm-producing-power/12844029/>

More info on page 12 at: <http://www.mpu.org/lib/files/201402.pdf>

Municipal Utility Solar Project – Nixa, MO

In Nixa, Missouri, a proposed solar panel array would save the city an estimated \$2,785,317 over the lifetime of the project. The project will be fully financed by a third-party solar company (Strata Solar) with the municipal utility paying a rate schedule that will be dramatically lower than predicted rate increases over the next two decades.

More info at: <http://www.nixa.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=2941>

1.1.2. Solar Rebate Programs

Solar PV Rebate – Columbia Water and Light - Columbia, MO

Columbia, Missouri offers a \$500/kW (\$0.50/watt) rebate with a maximum amount of \$50,000 to all sectors (Commercial, Residential, Nonprofit, State Government, Federal Government). Rebates often also include minimum specifications for the qualifying equipment. Columbia requires a 15-year manufacturer's warranty on panels, 2-year warranty on grid-tied sine wave inverters. Must meet all applicable UL, IEEE, and NEC certifications.

More info at: <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Rebates/solarsystems.php>

Solar PV Rebate – City Water, Light, and Power - Springfield, IL

CWLP, the municipal utility serving Springfield, IL has the SOLAR REWARDS program which offers rebates at \$1,500/kW (\$1.50/watt) of up to \$7,500 per household and \$15,000 per business to CWLP electric customers who install solar photovoltaic systems at their residential or commercial facilities.

More info at: <http://www.cwlp.com/eso/rebates/solarrebate.html>

Solar PV Rebate – Lincoln Electric System - Lincoln, NE

Lincoln, Nebraska provides a rebate program that attempts to better assess capacity in providing a rebate. Their rebates depend on the type and orientation of the solar equipment:

- Southern-facing fixed solar: \$375/kW-DC of nameplate capacity
- Western-facing fixed solar: \$475/kW-DC of nameplate capacity
- Single or dual tracking solar: \$475/kW-DC of nameplate capacity

More info at: <https://www.les.com/savings-energy/solar-net-metering>

1.1.3. Solar PV Loans

Solar Loan – Columbia Water and Light - Columbia, MO

Columbia, Missouri offers a low-interest loan program for homeowners and businesses interested in solar photovoltaic energy. This program provides up to \$15,000 for residential customers and \$30,000 for commercial customers. The interest rate depends on the duration of the loan:

- Up to 3 years: 1%
- 4 - 5 years: 3%
- 6 - 10 years: 5%

More info at: <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Rebates/SolarEnergyLoan>

Property Assessed Clean Energy – River Falls, WI

River Falls Municipal Utilities offers a substantial loan for homeowners interested in solar photovoltaic systems – the loans range from \$2,500 to \$50,000 and may provide up to 100% of the project's cost. The interest rate is fixed at 4% and has a length of 5-20 years. The loan is part of the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, meaning that the loan is repaid through fees on the homeowner's property taxes. Qualifying projects must have energy savings that will accumulate to at least 75% of the project cost.

More info at: <http://www.rfcity.org/index.aspx?nid=679>

1.2. Geothermal

Home improvement Loan, Geothermal – First Electric Coop, Arkansas

First Electric Cooperative in Arkansas provides a low-interest loan program specifically designed to encourage geothermal and heat-pump related projects. The Home Improvement Loan Program allows members to borrow between \$500 and \$15,000 for energy efficiency home improvements associated with heat pumps, First Electric products and portable home generators. The rate is fixed at 5.75% and the repayment can occur over five years from installation.

More info at: <http://www.firstelectric.coop/products-and-services/home-improvement-loans>

Geothermal Heat Pump Rebate – Lincoln, NE

Lincoln, Nebraska provides a rebate program for geothermal heat pumps:

- Geothermal Heat Pump (12 EER to 13.9 EER): \$150/ton
- Geothermal Heat Pump (14 EER to 17.99 EER): \$500/ton
- Geothermal Heat Pump (18 EER to 20.9 EER): \$750/ton

- Geothermal Heat Pump (21.0 EER or higher): \$1,000/ton

More info at: <http://www.les.com/SEP/>

Geothermal Heat Pump Rebate – Springfield, MO

Rebates of up to \$1,025 for Energy Star air conditioners and heat pumps. Residential, multi-family and residential new construction are eligible. Four-page application form.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-hvac.htm>

1.3. Solar Thermal

Solar Thermal Rebate – Columbia, MO

The city of Columbia, Missouri offers \$400 for electric customers or \$800 for natural gas customers to switch to solar water heaters.

More info at: <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Rebates/solarsystems.php>

Solar Thermal Rebate – Linn County, IA

Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative Association (Linn County RECA) is a member-owned cooperative in Iowa. Owners of both new construction and existing buildings are eligible for a \$500 rebate for solar water heaters. The water heaters must have an auxiliary tank of at least 40 gallons and the solar water heater must be Energy Star rated.

More Info at: <http://www.linncountyrec.com/energy-efficiency/incentives/current-incentives>

Solar Thermal Rebate – Waverly, IA

The city of Waverly, Iowa provides a rebate through the Waverly Light and Power utility for solar thermal projects. The municipal utility offers \$30/sq. ft with a maximum rebate of \$3,500. Solar Hot Water Heater system must be new and undamaged flat-plate or evacuated-tube collectors. Solar thermal equipment must be certified by the SRCC with manufacturer's warranty

More info at: <http://wlp.waverlyia.com/environment/harnessing-the-sun/solar-water-heater.aspx>

1.4. Wind

Municipal Utility Wind Investments – Rock Port, MO

The city of Rock Port, Missouri is entirely powered by four wind turbines installed in 2008. These four turbines exceed the energy needs of this small town - excess electrical generation is sold to Missouri Joint Municipal Utilities.

More info at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080715165441.htm>

2. Energy Efficiency

2.1. Residential Programs

2.1.1. Rebates and Incentives

Installation of Efficient Air Conditioners & Heat Pumps – Columbia, MO

Rebates ranging from \$50 to \$1,600 depending on efficiency rating and size of unit. Rebates awarded on first-come first-serve basis while funds are available. Two-page residential rebate application form.

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Conservation/rebateprograms.php>

Home Performance Rebates – Columbia, MO

Qualified Columbia Water & Light residential customers participating in the Home Performance with Energy Star program can be eligible for the following rebates:

- Replacing windows & doors: Up to \$500
- Adding insulation: Up to \$500
- Reducing air leakage: Up to \$420
- Reducing ductwork leakage: Up to \$300
- Efficient heat pump: \$200 (plus air conditioner/heat pump rebate discussed above of up to \$1,600)

Several project-specific requirements apply.

More info at:

<https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Rebates/homeperformancerebates.php>

New Home Energy Star Rebates – Columbia, MO

\$1,000 rebate available.

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Rebates/newhomeNRGstar.php>

Insulation Upgrade Rebate – Springfield, MO

Provides 20% rebate up to \$300 of the total cost of upgrade. Two-page application form.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-insulation.htm>

Home Performance with Energy Star Program – Springfield, MO

Comprehensive whole-house approach to improving home energy efficiency. Several components are eligible for rebates:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Rebate</u>
Home Energy Assessment	\$250 - \$300
Air Sealing	50% of cost, up to \$150
Install Efficient Lighting	50% of cost of each light, up to \$50 Install
Efficient Windows & Doors	\$50 per window and door, up to \$200
Duct Sealing	50% of cost, up to \$100

Two-page application form.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-homeperformance.htm>

Programmable Thermostat Rebate – Springfield, MO

\$15 rebate available. Two-page form.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-therm.htm>

Central Air Conditioner and Heat Pump Rebate – Springfield, MO

Rebates of up to \$450 for Energy Star air conditioners and heat pumps. Residential, multi-family and residential new construction are eligible. Four-page application form.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-hvac.htm>

Energy Star Certified New Home Rebate – Springfield, MO

Rebate of 50% of the rating and certification costs, up to \$400. Each ENERGY STAR certified new home is independently verified to be at least 15% more energy efficient than a home built to the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), and features additional measures

that deliver a total energy efficiency improvement of up to 30 percent compared to a typical new home. Several requirements apply. Two-page application form.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-certifiednewhome.htm>

Advance Renter/Landlord Pilot Program - Springfield, MO

This is a pilot program that benefits both renters and landlords. The program is aimed at solving this problem: Renters pay the utility bills – but don't want to pay for improvements to the property they rent; property owners don't pay the utility bills – and don't get the benefit of the energy saving improvements.

The first step is an energy audit. Then City Utilities (CU) will provide an “advance” (or loan) for efficiency upgrades (e.g., insulation, air sealing, and new heating and cooling systems) that must be done by a CU-approved contractor. The advance is then paid back through a monthly Advance Charge on the renter's electric bill. The Advance Charge is predicted to be less than the monthly savings. Four-page application form.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-advancepilot.htm>

2.1.2. Loans

Low-Interest Loan Program – Columbia, MO

Eligible items:

- Air conditioner
- Heat pump
- Insulation (attic, walls, floor joists, ductwork)
- Sealing air leaks
- Windows
- Doors
- Natural gas furnace (with installation of an air conditioner or heat pump)
- Upgrade electric wiring to install insulation
- Heat pump water heater
- Solar water heaters that provide at least 50% of water heating costs

Customers can select terms and interest rate by determining the length of your loan.

- Up to 3 years: 1%
- 4 to 5 years: 3%
- 6 to 10 years: 5%

\$15,000 maximum. The loan program is financed from the enterprise fund of Columbia Water & Light. No general revenue funds of the city, or any other forms of public money, are used by the program. Loans are not available for new construction. Three-page application form. Several project-specific requirements apply.

More info at;

<https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Rebates/HomePerformanceLoans.php>

2.1.3. Low-Income Programs

Low-Income Home Efficiency Programs – Columbia, MO

Eligible projects are conducted free of charge:

- Energy efficiency assessment (determines which upgrades are needed)
- Insulation (attic, wall, rim joist, ductwork and either crawlspace or floor over unconditioned spaces)
- Air & ductwork sealing

Eligibility based on household size and income:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME
1	\$23,340
2	\$31,460
3	\$39,580
4	\$47,700
5	\$55,820
6	\$63,940
7	\$72,060
8	\$80,180

Total income cannot exceed the 200% federal poverty income level

Eligible for homeowners or tenants if landlord agrees. Three-page application form from Central Missouri Community Action.

More info at:

<https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Home/FreeEnergyEfficiencyIncomeQualified.php>

Low Income Window Air Conditioner Exchange Program – Columbia, MO

Free program to exchange air conditioners for new, energy efficient units.

Eligibility based on household size and income:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME
1	\$23,340
2	\$31,460
3	\$39,580
4	\$47,700

5	\$55,820
6	\$63,940
7	\$72,060
8	\$80,180

Total income cannot exceed the 200% federal poverty income level

More info at:

<https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Home/windowairconditionerexchange.php>

2.1.4. Energy Audits and Certifications

On-site Energy Audit – Columbia, MO

Columbia Water & Light offers free on-site energy audits to all residential and commercial customers. Provides energy and water efficiency tips specific for the building. This program ensures that customers receive an unbiased review of habits, equipment and structure issues allowing informed decisions as to where conservation efforts will reap the highest returns.

Onsite visits last about an hour to an hour and a half. Included with the visit:

- A review of electric and water consumption history
- An interior and exterior onsite evaluation
- Review of weatherization materials that will work best for the building's particular needs
- Lifestyle strategies to lower energy usage
- Equipment energy use assessment and payback periods for replacements
- Landscaping tips for keeping building cool
- Eligibility for other Columbia Water and Light conservation programs
- How to clean and maintain appliances

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Home/audit.php>

Online Energy Audit – Columbia, MO

Free online service. Customers complete a do-it-yourself home energy audit and receive a report online. Receive a personalized energy profile with an estimate of your energy costs for equipment and appliances. Learn specific things you can do to be energy efficient.

Includes energy calculator that allows customers to quickly estimate the annual energy use and costs for any of electric equipment or appliances. Includes comparison tool to compare existing heating and cooling system or water heater to a new system and compare the options available. Determines how soon the new system can pay for itself through energy savings.

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Home/OnlineEnergyAudit.php>

Efficiency Score Certificates – Columbia, MO

Similar to efficiency scores on appliances, CWL's Efficiency Score is an official certification program that will show the homeowner and potential buyers of home the value of a home's energy efficiency upgrades

The Efficiency Score is a free service for participants of the Home Performance with Energy Star Program. Certification is conducted by CWL-approved Energy Star contractors.

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Home/EnergyEfficiencyScores.php>

2.1.5. Load Management and Rate Reduction Programs

Reduced Heat Pump Rate – Columbia, MO

Electric customers with heat pumps are eligible for a reduced electric rate. Electric customers with heat pumps help Columbia Water and Light reduce summer peak demand which saves the utility money. This savings is passed on to CWL customers.

The reduced rate is:

Customer Charge:	\$8.45 per month
first 750 kWh:	9.44 cents per kWh
all remaining kWh:	8.024 cents per kWh

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Home/hprate.php>

Load Management Program – Columbia, MO

Electric customers with central air conditioners are eligible to sign up and receive a 3% discount on their summer bills. Columbia's Load Management program uses a proven technology of radio-controlled switches installed on central air conditioners and heat pumps. During periods of peak electric usage, the switches are activated by a radio signal. This turns the compressor motor off for 7.5 minutes each half-hour. Since each switch controls only the compressor, the circulating fan can continue to operate, keeping the home cool and comfortable.

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Home/load.php>

2.2. Commercial Programs

2.2.1. Rebates and Incentives

Installation of Efficient Air Conditioners & Heat Pumps – Columbia, MO

Rebates ranging from \$570 to \$3,010 depending on efficiency rating and size of unit. Owners and/or tenants are eligible. All commercial and industrial customer classes are eligible. Only

HVAC replacement are eligible. Pre-approval required. Rebates awarded on first-come first-serve basis while funds are available. Two-page commercial rebate application form.

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Business/commercialrebates.php>

Lighting Incentive Program – Columbia, MO

Pays commercial customers \$300 for each kilowatt of electricity that a new, efficient, lighting system saves. Upgrades eligible for low interest loans. The Maximum amount of a lighting rebate for a single project or combined projects at one location is \$22,500 or a 75 kilowatt reduction, whichever is lower. A customer with a larger lighting project can request a rebate through the Columbia Water & Light Director. Only indoor projects eligible. Three-page application form. Pre-authorization required.

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Business/lightincentive.php>

Programmable Thermostat Rebate – Springfield, MO

\$15 rebate available. Two-page form.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-therm.htm>

Commercial Lighting Rebate – Springfield, MO

Rebate of up to \$10,000. Rebates eligible for high bay and exterior lighting upgrades, LED exit sign upgrades and occupancy sensors. Process involves completion of application and worksheet, and an on-site inspection by CU prior to commencing the project. Five-page application and two-page worksheet.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-comlight-rebate.htm>

2.2.2. Loans

Commercial Energy Efficiency Loans – Columbia, MO

Low interest loans available for several items:

Energy efficiency assessment

Air conditioner

Heat pump

Natural Gas Furnace (with Air Conditioner or heat pump)

Lighting

Solar water heater

Customer can select terms and interest rate by determining the length of loan:

Up to 3 years: 1%

4 to 5 years: 3%

6 to 10 years: 5%

Only property owners eligible. Energy assessment must be conducted by certified consultant. Maximum \$30,000 loan. Other requirements apply. Two-page application form.

More info at:

<https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Business/CommercialEnergyEfficiencyLoans.php>

2.2.3. Energy Audits and Certifications

Infrared Inspections – Columbia, MO

CWL will perform infrared audits for commercial and industrial customers. Multiple benefits include detecting poorly performing electrical and mechanical equipment, allowing repairs before unscheduled shutdowns might occur. Audits also detect energy leakage in building envelopes.

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Business/infrared.php>

Air Leak Detection Program – Columbia, MO

Program available for commercial and industrial customers that use compressed air systems. Correcting leaks in these systems saves money on electric bills, extends equipment life and increase productivity. Compressed air usage in an industrial facility's manufacturing process can account for 20% to 30% of total energy consumption. CWL will perform these inspections using ultrasonic leak detecting equipment and provide report to the customer.

More info at:

<https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Business/leakdetection.php>

Commercial and Industrial Energy Audits – Springfield, MO

City Utilities offers free audits conducted by CU staff. The customer is provided with an analysis of their historic usage, as well as a detailed report following the audit that identifies potential energy or water saving items.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-comaudit.htm>

Commercial Lighting Analysis – Springfield, MO

City Utilities offers free lighting analyses conducted by CU staff. Included with the findings are suggested retrofit options, as well as estimated return on investment calculations.

More info at: <http://www.cityutilities.net/conserve/pgm-comlight.htm>

2.2.4. Load Management and Rate Reduction Programs

Load Shedding Discount Program – Columbia, MO

Incentive program for voluntary curtailment of loads. Available to commercial and industrial customers that have at least 250 kilowatts of demand during July and August, with exceptions for customers on certain electric rates. When peak electric days occur, Load Shedding program participants are asked to reduce their electric demand for a three hour period, between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Incentive is in form of a credit of \$36.00 per year for each kilowatt based on the average demand reduced during requested periods. A maximum of 50% of the customer's normal base load demand, prior to load shedding, is allowed in load shedding incentives. CWL will install first demand recording meter; aggregate load shedding customers responsible for paying for additional meters. Customers also responsible for installing telephone line for the meters. Two-page agreement form.

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Business/shedding.php>

2.2.5. Special Programs

City Green: The District – Columbia, MO

The City of Columbia Office of Sustainability and Columbia Water & Light have received a Climate Showcase Communities grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The project worked cooperatively with downtown businesses and building owners to reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions in the downtown area. There were three phases to the project involving the participating businesses::

Energy benchmarking: an assessment of past energy usage and comparison to other businesses in the District and nationally.

Energy audits were conducted on approximately 70 buildings.

Energy retrofits: 51 energy efficiency projects with a 10 year or less payback period are either in progress or were completed.

More info at: <https://www.gocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Business/ClimateShowcase.php>