



March/April 2009

# LIPA NEWS



[www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org)

## Message from LIPA

Despite an unprecedented global economic crisis, I believe it is important for LIPA to move forward with its investment in renewable energy. We must be committed to the notion of weaning ourselves off of our dependence on fossil fuels for the generation of electricity.

LIPA has been leading the way in New York State in this arena. LIPA was recently named among the top ten utilities in the United States with the most solar electricity integrated into its energy mix by the Washington, D.C.-based Solar Electric Power Association.

This year I have increased funding for LIPA's renewable programs. The increase not only expands incentives provided for the residential Solar Pioneer program, but includes the creation of a new Solar Entrepreneur program for businesses and municipal solar installations.

Just last month, the Authority made a recommendation of an award on the Request for Proposals issued last year by LIPA at the request of Governor Paterson for 50 Megawatts of solar energy to be generated on Long Island, which could be installed at school buildings, on commercial and municipal rooftops, along parking lots, atop landfills and at Brownfield sites. The 50MW will be the single largest block of solar energy in New York State. One site could be at Brookhaven National Lab which will also help BNL remain competitive for more research jobs.

Also included in this year's budget is LIPA's new Backyard Wind Power initiative. The new program will provide rebates to homeowners, businesses, municipalities, and nonprofits seeking to harness the power of the wind through the use of land-based wind turbines.

We are not only in an economic crisis but an energy crisis as well. While fuel costs have decreased over the last 6 months, it's only a matter of time before those costs spike upward again. Although the current economic crisis presents a whole new set of challenges for LIPA, we can not make our long-term energy planning decisions based on today's economic conditions. Energy planning must be done with a longer-term vision.

Our demand for energy will continue to grow, despite the current recession, as will the impacts of climate change, meanwhile the supply of fossil fuels will continue to diminish. Whether it be sunlight, water, or wind, there is no better time than now to invest in alternative energy.

Kevin S. Law  
President & CEO

## REPORTING AN OUTAGE?

Sometimes the weather, a car accident, a tree branch falling on a wire or animal contacts can interrupt the electric service at your home.

As a homeowner, we know your main concern is, "when will my service be back on?" For every outage that occurs, there is a process that takes place so that we can safely restore your electricity.

When reporting that your service is off, please be sure to provide us with the telephone number of the location of the outage. After the outage is reported to LIPA, the information is relayed to our field personnel to diagnose and repair the problem. If you would like an update regarding estimated restoration times, let us know and provide us with a contact telephone number for the update. The contact number does not need to be the same as the phone number of the location of the outage.

Once a service person makes a determination of the cause of the outage, our computer system can contact you with an update and an estimate for restoration of service.

We'll do our best to restore service as soon as possible. To learn more about electric outages visit us online at the "LIPA Storm Center" at [www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org) or call 1-800-490-0075.



## HELP FOR THE SIGHT IMPAIRED

If you are having difficulty reading your current electric bill or know someone who is sight impaired, LIPA has a program that provides a large print bill to accommodate special needs customers. Additionally, if someone that you know is blind and reads Braille, LIPA can provide them with a summary of their bill in Braille, along with a regular LIPA statement. To find out more or to enroll in our programs for the sight impaired, call LIPA at **1-800-490-0025**.

## Options for Managing Monthly Costs

These days it seems everyone is looking for ways to better manage their costs. LIPA has a program that can help make your monthly electric bill more predictable, and therefore, easier to budget for. **LIPA's Balanced Billing program** spreads your electric costs evenly throughout the year eliminating seasonal highs and lows, making your household budgeting easier and more predictable. For more information, visit our website at [www.lipower.org/account](http://www.lipower.org/account).

# TAKE ACTION TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

Spring and summer will arrive sooner than you think. Homeowners all across the nation are looking for ways to make their homes more energy efficient and to reduce their costs.

The following programs and services were created to help homeowners take action and with several options to take, you can choose and implement the best recommendations for your home.



## Start Saving Money & Energy Beginning March 1st!

Making improvements to your lighting is one of the least expensive and fastest ways to lower your electric bill. Eleven percent of an average household's energy budget is dedicated to lighting.

ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) use 75% less energy than common incandescent bulbs and lasts 6 to 10 times longer. One 100-watt incandescent bulb used for 10 hours a day would cost over \$70.00 in energy costs per year, compared to one 23-watt replacement CFL, which provides the same amount of light, but costs less than \$17.00 per year to operate. That's a savings of over \$50.00 a year!

Beginning March 1, 2009, LIPA is providing instant rebates at participating retailers of 50¢ per bulb, on select ENERGY STAR qualified bare spiral, compact fluorescent light bulbs. CFLs are available in different sizes and shapes to fit almost any fixture... indoors and outdoors.

Every light bulb or fixture you change to a CFL will:

- Use 75% less energy than a standard incandescent light
- Last up to 10 times longer
- Prevent 450 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions over its lifetime
- Help preserve our energy resources

Make a difference... in your electric bill and in our environment. Visit our Web site at [www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org) for more information on CFLs or call 1-877-654-5472.

## LIPA Cool Homes Program

Before you know it, winter will be gone and you'll soon be making plans for backyard barbecues and summertime activities. Before the summer heat arrives, you can take some steps to make sure you'll stay cool without busting your budget. LIPA's Cool Homes program can help you manage your household budget by reducing your energy expenses.

Learn about "cool" cash rebates and how a properly-sized, quality-installed, energy-efficient, new central air conditioning unit helps you save energy and money. Visit [www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org) or contact LIPA at 1-800-692-2626 for more information and participating contractors.

## LIPA Cool Homes Tune-Up Program

Do you think your central air system needs a tune-up? Check into LIPA's Cool Home Tune-Up program.

A Cool Homes Tune-Up involves a digital analysis called CheckMe!™, performed by a participating contractor, to verify proper refrigerant charge and air flow of your central air system. A trained technician takes a series of measurements to test your unit while it is running. The results are instantly computer-analyzed and needed adjustments are made.

A tune-up on your cooling system can improve energy efficiency, comfort, as well as extend the lifespan of the system.

To learn more about LIPA's Tune-Up program, visit [www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org) or contact LIPA at 1-800-692-2626 for information.

## Looking for Savings in the Kitchen? Get a \$75 rebate for an ENERGY STAR® Refrigerator!

In most households, the refrigerator is the single biggest energy consuming kitchen appliance. Replacing a refrigerator bought in 1990 with a new ENERGY STAR qualified model can save enough energy to light the average household for nearly four months.

Purchase a select qualified ENERGY STAR refrigerator by June 30, 2009 at a participating retailer, complete the rebate form by the deadline, and LIPA will mail you a rebate of \$75.00. For more information on energy efficient products, visit the LIPA Web site at [www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org) or call LIPA at 1-877-654-5472.

## SPRING PLANTING GUIDE

Are you planning to spruce up the outside of your home this spring? The type, location and height of those trees can help improve your safety and electric reliability.

Before planting your tree, consider the tree's ultimate size. When the tree nears maturity, will it be too near your house? Will it obstruct driveways or sidewalks? Will it cause problems for buried or overhead utility lines? You can increase the value of your property and prevent expensive maintenance trimming or potential damage to your home by paying attention to where you plant new trees.

The wise placement of trees can also help keep your home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. When making your selection, it is best to choose shrubs and low-growing trees that are compatible with LIPA's electric lines.

And remember, before you start a planting project, make sure you **Call Before You Dig**. By calling 811, you will be able to get your underground utility cables marked at no cost and help prevent unnecessary repairs and damages.

A little bit of planning can help prevent power interruptions to you and your neighbors. For more information, visit us online at [www.lipower.org/community/tree](http://www.lipower.org/community/tree) or call us at 1-800-490-0025.



## Take the Next Step

We all want to do something to help our environment. The problem is, we're not always sure what course to take to help make an impact. LIPA's paperless billing and payment programs are a step in the right direction.

Join thousands of LIPA customers who are eliminating postage costs, saving the time it takes to process their household bills, and cutting down on the paper cluttering their homes. All while helping to save the environment. LIPA's paperless billing and payment services are safe, secure, convenient and best of all, they're FREE!

So take the next step! Simply visit us online at [www.lipower.org/account](http://www.lipower.org/account) and sign up for e-LERT paperless billing and DirectPay automatic paperless payment services.