



YOUR UTILITY RATE SPECIALISTS

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## POWER NOTES - APPALACHIAN POWER EDITION

### SPRING 2016 ISSUE - POWER NOTES

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### APPALACHIAN POWER OUTDOOR LIGHTING OPTIONS

#### Outdoor Lighting – Schedule OL

This rate schedule offers a variety of sodium vapor, mercury vapor and metal halide lights. The rate includes a fixed monthly charge that covers the cost to buy, install and maintain the lights and poles as well as the energy that is consumed by the lights.

Unfortunately, Appalachian Power does not yet offer an LED lighting option under this rate. This will hopefully change as LED lighting becomes the new standard for efficiency and light quality in coming years.

### LED LIGHTING FOR YOUR HOME

LED bulbs for light fixtures and lamps are readily available. They directly screw into the fixture. The bulbs are easy to install and will last for many years.

You will spend less time buying and replacing bulbs once you switch to LED.

LED lights can be used for both indoor and outdoor lighting. They do not require a warm-up period and provide excellent color rendering.

The price has dramatically dropped for home LED lighting. In many cases, the power provider will heavily subsidize the bulbs in accordance with a state regulatory commission order.

Now is a good time to replace incandescent bulbs in your home with LEDs. The payback on this investment is typically less than one year.

### LED OUTSIDE LIGHTING RATES

In a 2013 Duke Energy rate case, Brian Coughlan, president and UMS founder, testified on behalf of the NC League of Municipalities. He advocated for more pricing options for customers with certain common operating characteristics. The rate case also addressed the need for additional LED outdoor lighting options.

LED lighting options now exist in many power provider service territories and should be available everywhere in a few years. LED lighting is much more efficient than older types of outdoor lighting (sodium vapor, mercury vapor, metal halide, etc.). Converting from an older type of outdoor lighting to LED can result in higher overall light levels, higher light quality and lower monthly costs with no up-front fees.



### UMS ACCEPTS CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

To pay your UMS bill by credit card, please contact Mary Mooney at (888)867-3230 ext. 109.



**Former Lights: Sodium Vapor**



**New Lights: Light Emitting Diode (LED)**



*Pictures shown are of our parking lot lighting before and after the conversion.*

*Note: Light changes from amber to white when changed from sodium vapor to LED.*

**UMS WORKS TO REDUCE CUSTOMER RATES**

Coughlan has testified as an expert witness in various rate cases brought in front of state utility commissions in multiple southern states.

This testimony was on behalf of businesses of all types and sizes, as well as, governmental utility customers.

Additionally, UMS has intervened in several rate cases on behalf of their customers; prompting the creation and change of electric rates to benefit those customers.

**ONGOING REVIEW OF YOUR ACCOUNTS**

When the design and structure of an existing rate is changed or when a new rate is created, UMS reviews our customers' usage to determine if they will benefit from the new or changed rates.

If we find savings opportunities, we will contact the customer and work to implement the savings.

**UMS UPGRADES TO OUTDOOR LED LIGHTING**

This spring, UMS took advantage of the new LED lighting options that exist in the Duke Energy Progress territory.

We converted four sodium vapor lights to four LED lights in the same locations.

- Former Lights: Sodium Vapor
- New Lights: Light Emitting Diode (LED)
- Light Level: Increased about 60%
- Cost: Decreased about \$5/month

REMINDER: Replace your air filters every time you receive this quarterly newsletter!

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