



# NEWS RELEASE

## MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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### **MMWEC Launches “Connected Homes” Program**

LUDLOW, Mass. – April 23, 2020 – Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), the joint action agency for municipal utilities in Massachusetts, is launching its “Connected Homes” program this Earth Week, to allow residential customers to better manage connected devices in their homes while reducing their carbon footprint.

Connected Homes is offered through MMWEC’s residential energy conservation service, the Home Energy Loss Prevention Services (HELPs) program. HELPs is working with the company Virtual Peaker, a software platform, to allow customers of participating municipal light plants (MLPs) to leverage the technology of smart appliances and devices into cost savings for the light department and its customers. At the same time, the program allows MLPs to better manage their electric load, reduce costs and keep rates low.

By enrolling a smart device in the Connected Homes program, customers agree to allow their light department to make brief, limited adjustments to their devices during times of peak electric demand, such as temporarily reducing the charging rate of an electric vehicle during peak hours. Customers will be informed of possible adjustments in advance via email, and will be given the choice to opt out of each adjustment. Customers who participate are given a rebate check or bill credit. Potential devices which may be enrolled, depending on the MLP, include home batteries, electric vehicle chargers, electric hot water heaters and mini-split controllers.

Through participation in Connected Homes, the growing number of customers moving toward electrification can easily and conveniently manage their home’s energy use, by adjusting the device’s energy usage remotely, or by setting an automatic schedule.

Joseph Coles, MMWEC’s Energy Efficiency Program Manager, said MMWEC is excited to bring this new offering to customers of its participating MLPs.

“As more customers purchase smart devices for their homes, along with an increasing trend toward electrification, a service like Connected Homes represents the logical next step in our mission to meet the evolving needs of MLPs and their customers,” Coles said. “This assists light departments looking for new ways to manage electric loads, while their customers help the environment and save money.”

Participating municipal utilities include those located in Groton, Holden, Holyoke, Ipswich, Marblehead, Paxton, Princeton, South Hadley, Sterling, Wakefield, and West Boylston. For more information, visit [munihelps.org](http://munihelps.org)

MMWEC is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1975 and authorized to issue debt to finance a wide range of energy facilities. MMWEC provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state’s consumer-owned municipal utilities. It has 20 municipal utility members and 28 project participants. As one of 83 public power joint action agencies in the United States, MMWEC uses the strengths of working together, greater efficiency and economies of scale to help its members provide superior service at the lowest cost.

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