

# Lines

THE NEWSLETTER FOR PEPCO CUSTOMERS IN MARYLAND

PEPCO.COM

JULY 2008

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Q: It seems as if there are more power outages in the summer, even when there are no storms. Can hot weather cause outages?*

A. Yes. Summer temperatures cause many customers to increase their air conditioning use. Sometimes, this increase in electricity demand can cause outages. Here's why.

- Increased electricity demand causes power lines to heat and expand. This expansion may result in sagging lines touching tree limbs and branches – which can result in short circuits.

- High electric current can cause cables, switches and other equipment to stretch and can increase the size of minor flaws in insulation and connections.

- Lightning strikes and circuit failures can weaken equipment, rendering it unable to cope with extreme electricity demands.

Pepco can't always prevent heat-related outages and we understand the inconvenience they cause. The good news is that we use a carefully planned approach to restore your electric service as quickly and safely as possible.

## Score Big, Sign up for "My Account" and Win Nationals Tickets

Pepco is giving customers who register for "My Account" a chance to win a Major League Baseball fun night.

Between July 1 and August 15, customers can enter to win four tickets to see the Washington Nationals, plus a gift card to use for food at the game – just by getting smart about home energy use. Our interactive Web tool, "My Account," helps customers learn how to score big savings on their utility bills.

Here's how to enter. Go to [pepco.com](http://pepco.com) and register to use "My Account." You'll need your Pepco bill listing your account number, exact name and current amount due.

That's it, you're automatically entered to win a Nationals Fun Night package – compliments of Pepco.\* Contest winners will be notified by September 1, 2008.

After you've registered, use "My Account" to conduct a free home energy audit to get great tips on saving energy and saving money.

\*Employees of Pepco or its parent company, Pepco Holdings, Inc., may not participate in the contest. See full contest rules on [pepco.com](http://pepco.com).

## Beltway Plaza Hardware Joins Pepco's CFL Discount Program

Pepco proudly welcomes Beltway Plaza Hardware, 6210 Greenbelt Rd., Greenbelt, to our network of Marland retailers offering discounts on energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

A CFL consumes about 75 percent less energy to produce the same amount of light as an incandescent and lasts up to 10 times longer. Less energy used means fewer power plant emissions. And Pepco offers \$1.50 off the price of a single bulb and \$3 on multipacks.

Almost 750,000 bulbs have been sold since Pepco began its discount program in November. That's more than three times our original annual goal of selling 225,000 CFLs.

So join the thousands of Pepco Maryland customers who are saving money, saving energy and saving the environment. Stop by Beltway Plaza Hardware as well as participating Strosniders, Home Depot, and Costco stores in Maryland and purchase your discounted CFL.



## It May Be Time to Recycle that Old Fridge

You may be throwing away up to \$100 every year you keep your old refrigerator plugged in.

Pepco and the U.S. Department of Energy want you to know that any refrigerator built before 1993 is an energy hog. An old fridge uses twice as much energy to keep food cold as newer models.

Replace your old unit with an ENERGY STAR qualified model and save that \$100. Many retailers offer rebates and also will take your old fridge back for proper recycling.

If everyone who purchases a new refrigerator this year chooses an ENERGY STAR model, enough energy could be saved to light every household in the District of Columbia for 20 months.

Visit [www.recyclemyoldfridge.com](http://www.recyclemyoldfridge.com) to calculate how much money your old fridge is costing you, and to find money-saving incentives and recycling options.

We invite your organization to submit a decorated refrigerator that will be displayed at the National Fridge Art Exhibit, August 25 to September 2, at the National Building Museum, 401 F St., N.W.



## Street Lights Go Energy Efficient

Over the next five years, Pepco will replace mercury vapor street lights with more energy-efficient, high pressure sodium (HPS) fixtures.

Federal legislation has prohibited the manufacture or import of mercury vapor lamp ballasts since January 2008.

Crews are expected to complete street light replacements by 2012. There are several benefits to converting to HPS fixtures:

- high pressure sodium street lights use less energy, but produce more light (lumens) than mercury vapor devices,
- the light illumination of the high pressure sodium is a softer, more yellowish light while the mercury vapor is white in color, and
- the illumination from the high pressure sodium lights may reduce the glare for motorists.

This project supports our commitment to saving energy and protecting the environment.



## What To Do In A Vehicle-Utility Pole Crash

Pepco cares about your safety – even while driving. If you are involved in a vehicle–pole crash, please heed the following safety rules.

- If your vehicle leaves the road and hits a pole, stay inside and call 911 from your cell phone, or yell for help.
- Never leave the vehicle until a utility line crew arrives to de-energize the line and tells you it's safe. Tell your passengers this, too.
- In the rare case of a vehicle fire, jump out as far as possible and land with both feet on the ground. Afterwards, shuffle or hop away with both feet touching the ground simultaneously.
- Never touch any downed utility pole or wire. Always assume energized electricity is running through them.
- Stay clear from all areas near any downed poles and/or wires – including the ground, a car, tree or rooftop.
- If you witness a pole accident – or to report a downed wire or other life threatening emergency – call Pepco at 202-872-3432 (TTY: 202-872-2369).

To learn more about safety, visit [pepco.com](http://pepco.com) and click “Safety.”