

UTILITYSHIELD PROTECTION

As a resident, the City of Coldwater works hard to bring you the best service and products we can. And now, thanks to a new partnership with IGS Energy Home Services, you can get UtilityShield – the best home protection available. You'll be hearing more about UtilityShield as its various products become available in your area, but here are some answers to some common home protection questions you may have.

What is being protected?

UtilityShield protects your peace of mind. Whether you're doing the dishes, taking a hot shower, or cooking dinner, these activities can wear on your home's infrastructure. This wear and tear may eventually cause your lines or systems to fail.

Why do I need protection?

As a homeowner, you are responsible for any repairs needed on your lines and pipes when they fail. Most homeowners insurance policies won't cover these failures and the repairs can be costly. As always, maintenance and repairs to utility-owned lines and poles will always be handled by the City of Coldwater regardless if you choose to add additional protection.

Why UtilityShield?

When issues arise, they can cause a lot of stress and worry. We've partnered with IGS Energy Home Services to bring you the best home protection plans available. With UtilityShield, when a covered item fails or leaks, they contact a trusted local contractor to investigate the issue, pay for the covered repairs, and guarantee those repairs for a full 12 months.

Keep an eye out for more news and offers about this exclusive opportunity.

If you have any questions, contact IGS Home Energy Services at 888-608-1236 or visit UtilityShield.com/Coldwater.



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Dates to Remember

Dec 23 City Offices Closed
26 City Offices Closed
30 City Offices Closed

Jan 2 City Offices Closed
28 Icefest - Downtown Coldwater



One Grand St | Coldwater, MI 49036
517.279.9531 | www.coldwater.org

BETWEEN THE LINES

Volume 8 | Issue 4



**NEW WEBSITE
COMING SOON**
www.coldwater.org



POWERING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

It's that time of the year again... time to grab that dusty old storage container from your attic and begin the rigorous process of untangling and checking your old light strands. There's a good chance that you'll spend about as much time locating your spare bulbs to replace the burn't out ones as you will attempting to patch the inevitable hole in your inflatable Frosty.

When it comes to buying new lights, most people tend to phase out the old ones as they go bad rather than replacing strands that still work. In general, the cost of operating these lights is relatively inexpensive, but how much are we really saving by not switching to a light that was made this past decade? Let's evaluate:

Calculating Electricity Usage Cost

(For our calculations we are using 11.3 cents per kWh, the average price of electricity according to EnergyStar.gov.)

1. Know your wattage: Find how many total watts you will be using
2. Multiply times 0.001 to find kilo-watt hour (kWh)
3. Multiply by 5 hours a day to find kWh/day
4. Multiply by 30 days to find kWh/season
5. Multiply by 11.3 cents to calculate cost

Below you will find a few comparisons between incandescent bulbs and LED's.

Average Usage (People notice your holiday spirit.)

Decorations	Incandescent Watts	LED Watts
1 Wreath	21	4
1 Garland	42	4
10 Strings of Light	408	48
2 Outdoor Decorations	164	38
Total Cost/Month	635 = \$10.78	96 = \$1.63

Heavy Usage (Cars slow down when they drive by.)

Decorations	Incandescent Watts	LED Watts
500 ft String on Roof	3,500	480
200 ft String in Yard	1,400	192
15 Strings for Walkway	612	72
30 Strings for Trees	1,224	144
1 Wreath	63	14
Total Cost/Month	6,799 = \$115.26	903 = \$15.32

These comparisons prove two things: the cost of lighting your home for the holidays can be considered minimal (unless you're the Griswold's); and LED's use up to 10 times less energy than its predecessor.

It's important to keep in mind that this example exceeds decorative lighting and can be assimilated with



every fixture in your house and every light on the street. To put it simply, if you haven't changed your bulbs in 10 years you're losing money. The same goes with

appliances. Saving money by keeping a 30 year old refrigerator alive will end up hurting you when it comes to the overall usage.

Dishing out the money for new lighting and appliances is the hard part. That's why the CBPU offers a number of rebates and incentives to help offset these costs. Visit www.coldwater.org for more information. Happy Holidays!

Griswold Usage (Cars line up to watch the show.)

Decorations	Incandescent Watts	LED Watts
95 Icicle Lights	6,056	458
800 ft String on Roof	5,600	768
500 ft String in Yard	3,500	480
15 Strings for Walkway	612	72
10 Strings for a Tree	408	48
30 Strings for Two Trees	1,224	144
150' Spool of Rope Light	378	120
5 Motifs	554	277
Total Cost/Month	18,332 = \$310.73	2,369 = \$40.15



Purchase up to 6 LED Holiday Light Sets between November 1 and December 31st, and you can receive a CBPU Rebate of \$3 per set!

PREVENTING FROZEN PIPES

Frozen water pipes are not life threatening. However, frozen or broken water pipes do cause damage to homes each winter. If pipes in the walls are not properly insulated, they can freeze and rupture (an eighth-of-an-inch crack in a pipe can release up to 250 gallons of water per day; soaking floors, rugs and furniture). In order to prevent the mess and aggravation frozen pipes cause, one can practice the following steps:

Before Cold Weather

- Locate and insulate pipes that are most susceptible to freezing. These pipes are typically near outer walls, crawl spaces or attics.
- Wrap pipes with heat tape (UL approved).
- Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.
- Disconnect garden hoses as well as shutting off and draining the water from pipes leading to outside faucets.



When it's Cold

- Let hot and cold water trickle at night from a faucet on an outside wall.
- Open cabinet doors to allow more heat to reach un-insulated pipes under a sink or appliance near an outer wall.
- Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.
- Make sure you and your family knows how to shut off the water in case pipes burst. Stopping the flow of water can minimize the damage to your home. Call a plumber and contact your insurance agent.
- Never try to thaw a pipe with an open flame torch.
- Always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.

If you cannot determine the cause of loss of water pressure during freezing conditions, call the CBPU's water department at (517) 279-4805 between 8am – 4pm (M-F). The water service may be frozen underground at the street during prolonged periods of cold weather, especially if there is little snow cover. In this case, the CBPU will make arrangements to thaw the water service.