

INSIDE:



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Peninsula Light Company News

# lights

## The Seven Co-op Principles

At PenLight, our goal is to serve our members with integrity, dedication, respect and innovation. These core values are what drive our employees to achieve excellence in serving our members. In addition to our own cooperative's values, PenLight adheres to the same seven principles that all cooperatives follow, which guide our decisions—from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. While we set aside the month of October to celebrate what it means to be a member-owned cooperative, these seven principles remain strong year-round and form what we believe to be the cornerstone of service to our members.

- **Voluntary and Open Membership.** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- **Democratic Member Control.** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.
- **Member Economic Participation.** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.
- **Autonomy and Independence.** Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- **Education, Training and Information.** Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.
- **Cooperation Among Cooperatives.** Cooperatives serve members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.
- **Concern for Community.** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

**THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES**  
**ONE** VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP  
**TWO** DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL  
**THREE** MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

**FOUR** AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE  
**SIX** COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES  
**SEVEN** CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY  
**FIVE** EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Graphic by Ruralite Services



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Standing, from left, Jessica, Shelley, Jaciqui Jo, Ashley, Heather, Michelle, Marie, Alissa, Rubie. Seated, from left, Kat and Cathy

### DON'T FORGET THOSE HIDDEN NUMBERS!

Every month, five randomly chosen account numbers are hidden in Lights. If you spot yours, call **Cathy** at **253-857-1525** and receive a \$50 credit on your next bill.

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Peninsula Light Co.  
The power to be...

To find the most up-to-date community calendar information, please visit the following resources:

- **Gig Harbor Tourism and Communications Office** – [www.gigharborguide.com](http://www.gigharborguide.com)
- **Pierce County Library System** – [www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar)
- **Harbor History Museum** – [www.harborhistorymuseum.org/events](http://www.harborhistorymuseum.org/events)
- **PenMet Parks** – [www.penmetparks.org](http://www.penmetparks.org)
- **Key Pen Parks** – [www.keypenparks.com/events](http://www.keypenparks.com/events)
- **Downtown Waterfront Alliance** – [www.gigharborwaterfront.org/annual-events](http://www.gigharborwaterfront.org/annual-events)
- **Harbor WildWatch** – [www.harborwildwatch.org](http://www.harborwildwatch.org)
- **Key Peninsula News** – [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

## Thank You, Member Services Team!

Whether starting service, paying your bill, making payment arrangements, or moving to a new residence or business location, our member services team is ready to help. Did you know our team receives an average of 4,500 calls a month? That's a LOT of conversations. Every year, during the first week of October, we host a weeklong tribute to our member services representatives to celebrate their tireless commitment to all who call Peninsula Light Co.

"Every time an MSR, as we call them, answers the phone, the first thing that is said is thank you," said Jafar Taghavi, PenLight's CEO. "We are

grateful for the way each team member reflects our values of integrity, innovation, respect and dedication."

During the past few years, we have added new ways to help you manage your PenLight account online. However, sometimes you may require the assistance of a member services representative. Our member services team is dedicated to providing you with service excellence every time you call PenLight. If you would like to recognize a member services representative who has gone above and beyond to help you, email your story to us at [MemberServices@penlight.org](mailto:MemberServices@penlight.org).

## Gig Harbor BoatShop Turns 10!

The Gig Harbor BoatShop, a maritime nonprofit organization located in downtown Gig Harbor, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this October. The BoatShop was founded a decade ago after a community grassroots effort emerged to save the historic Eddon Boatyard from demolition.



Since then, the BoatShop has opened its doors to the public and engaged thousands of people through educational and hands-on programming offered annually at the historic boatyard that still operates today.



The BoatShop provides public benefit and keeps local maritime heritage alive at Gig Harbor's working waterfront, which features classic vessels of Puget Sound like the Veteran—a Skansie-built purse seiner that was launched in Gig Harbor nearly a century ago.

More information about Gig Harbor BoatShop, its history, upcoming events and the work it does in the community can be found at [www.gigharborboatshop.org](http://www.gigharborboatshop.org), or by contacting the BoatShop at (253) 857-9344.

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## Can a Free Dinner Lower Your Energy Bills?

Not long ago a member asked: "I recently received a post card inviting me to attend a free dinner and hear about ways to lower my utility bills. Should I purchase the products this company is offering?"

Look out for energy-saving products that are too good to be true. Often these products are pitched over a "free" dinner at a local restaurant. One group sells a "special" type of insulation, air ventilation and other products that claim to significantly lower utility bills.

Remember, energy-saving products or programs that work sell themselves. To save energy in your home, try one of these less expensive, proven tactics:

- Replace your incandescent bulbs with LEDs.
- Plug all electronics into smart power strips.
- Keep the lint screen clean in your dryer.
- Beef up your home's fiberglass or foam insulation.
- Install programmable thermostats and keep your house at lower temperatures at night and when you are away.
- Upgrade inefficient electric baseboard or wall heaters with a ductless heat pump.

- Carefully evaluate solar powered attic vents. They can be helpful in the summer, but are not effective in the winter and may draw moist, heated air from your house into the attic in the winter.
- Get bids from local contractors before signing any agreements.
- Anytime electricity is involved, hire a licensed electrical contractor to make sure the equipment is installed safely.

Before you buy a high-priced energy-saving product from a seminar or sign up for a program that sounds too good to be true, please think twice. If you decide to attend one of these free dinners, we would be interested to know what you think. Please shoot us an email at [EnergySpecialist@penlight.org](mailto:EnergySpecialist@penlight.org).



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## Are You Ready to Electrify Your Ride?

There are about 33,000 electric cars cruising the roads of Washington State, and more added every day. With dozens of makes and models to choose from, it's getting easier to choose an electric car for your next vehicle purchase.

### What's the cost of operating an electric vehicle?

According to the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute, the average cost to operate an electric vehicle in the United States is \$485 per year, while the average for a gasoline-powered vehicle is \$1,117. Ultimately, the cost to drive an electric vehicle comes down to your daily driving distance and the type of charging you use. Although you don't pay at the pump to fill your car with gas, the electricity used to charge the battery in your EV does count towards your personal electric bill, assuming you charge at home. Generally speaking the Pacific Northwest has some of the lowest rates for electricity in the country.

### What does it cost to install a charging station at my home?

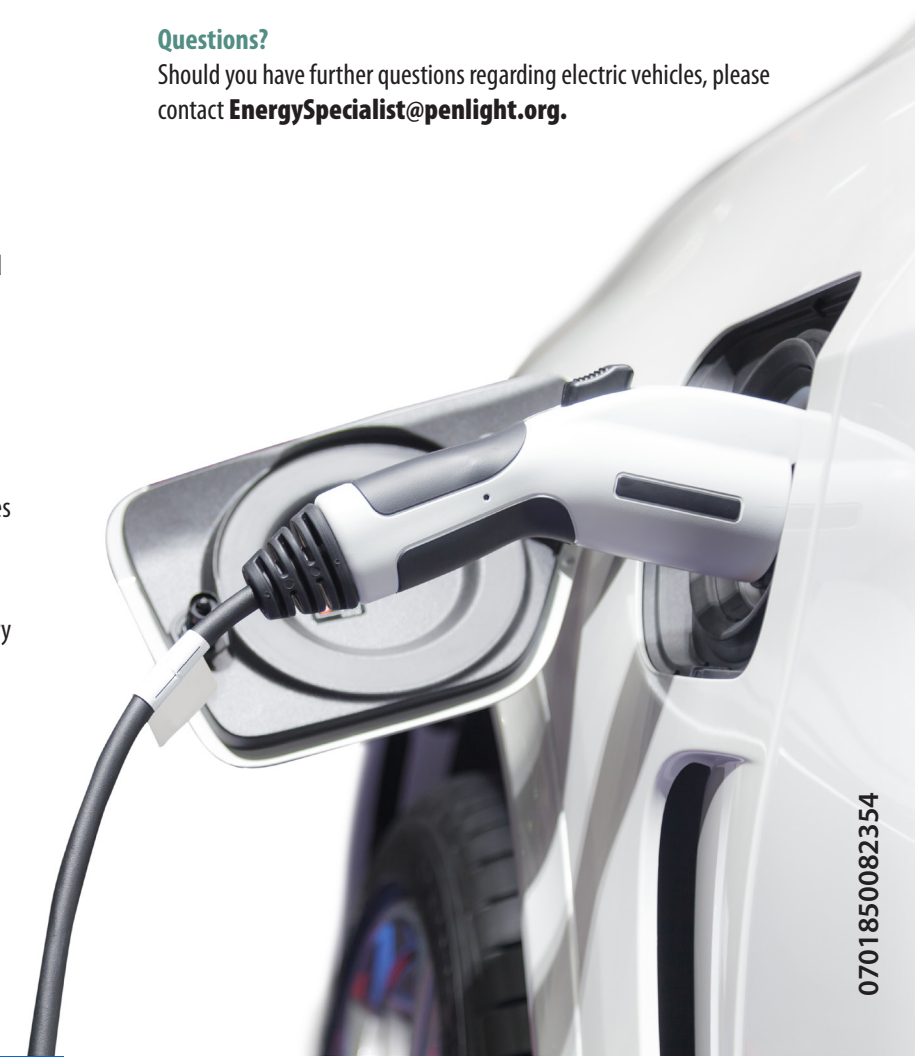
We get this question a lot, and it's hard to answer because the costs vary depending on where you're installing a charging station and the type of charging station you choose. Unfortunately, there are not standard prices for installation fees. Contact a licensed electrical contractor for a cost estimate.

### Does PenLight offer incentives to install a charging station, or special rates for charging an electric vehicle?

PenLight does not have any incentives at this time for EV owners; however, we are currently analyzing whether there are cost effective options for our members. We will keep you posted.

### Questions?

Should you have further questions regarding electric vehicles, please contact [EnergySpecialist@penlight.org](mailto:EnergySpecialist@penlight.org).



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## PenLight is Committed to Clean Energy, Which Means Clean Air

We are glad to give you information about electric vehicles, and background about how to create a healthy electric vehicle marketplace. Because most of the Pacific Northwest's electricity comes from hydropower and other renewable sources, this is a great region to own an electric vehicle. When you drive an EV on the Peninsulas, you are trading fossil fuels—gasoline and diesel—for clean energy from hydropower, wind farms and solar power. Only 2 percent of PenLight's electricity comes from fossil fuel-powered plants. When you choose an electric vehicle, you are definitely using less fossil fuels than a traditional gasoline or diesel-powered car.

