

Public Service Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2024 Eclipse: a Teachable Moment for Community Conservation

Today, from approximately 2:15 pm to 4:40 pm local time, solar electricity generation will drop due to the solar eclipse, with at least 80% of the sun blocked across New England. This will reduce total electricity supply on the grid by approximately 50% during the eclipse. To make up for the deficit, the New England grid manager [plans to activate on-demand power generators](#), also known as “peaker plants”. Peaker plants are coal, oil, and gas plants that emit greenhouse gasses, particulate matter and other pollutants, especially during start-up, and operate at large ratepayer expense. An alternative to generating polluting, costly energy is to conserve it. To promote healthy air and cost savings, and to enhance reliability for residents with essential needs, the undersigned members of the [ISO New England Consumer Liaison Group Coordinating Committee](#), encourage electricity users to reduce unnecessary usage during the eclipse. There are several ways to participate, including:

- If able to go outside to experience the eclipse, consider reducing or powering off unnecessary lights and appliances, beforehand.
- If indoors during the eclipse, use only needed lighting and appliances.
- Pre-charge electric vehicles and other battery-containing devices, and if you must, use battery power only during the eclipse.
- Consider pre-conditioning buildings or household air or water temperatures to allow your facility/home to “coast” during the eclipse.
- Enhance diffuse natural lighting by opening window shades.

Most importantly, share your plans and decisions with friends, family, and colleagues. You may email your considerations, plans and experience to ConsumerLiaisonGroup@gmail.com for compilation and a lessons learned report by the New England Grid’s Consumer Liaison Group. Consider posting your experiences to social media using the hashtag #GridEclipse2024.

While there is no elevated risk of power outages during the April 8th eclipse, this rare event presents a teachable moment applicable to periodic occurrences in New England where weather conditions, fuel supply, and patterns of electricity consumption combine to create a condition of high demand relative to supply. Practicing community conservation during the eclipse can build community awareness and empowerment for a healthier, more reliable, more affordable grid.

For 2024 solar eclipse information, see: <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/>.
For New England grid conditions and eclipse forecasts, see www.iso-ne.com/isoexpress/.
For information on a New-England-based Community Conservation pilot program, see www.climatedisobedience.org/demand_response.

This message is brought to you by the undersigned Coordinating Committee members of the ISO-New England [Consumer Liaison Group](#), a federally mandated elected body which serves as an information and communication link between electric ratepayers and the board of the ISO-New England.

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