



## Earth Day 2014

### 26th Annual Seedling Giveaway

*Courtesy of Traverse City Light & Power*

**Saturday, April 26, at the Sara Hardy Farmer's Market**

In 1988, Traverse City Light & Power (TCL&P) held the first annual seedling giveaway at the Bayside Power Plant in celebration of Earth Day. Seedlings were given away to customers and community members and that tradition continues today. 2014 marks the 26th year TCL&P has celebrated Earth Day with a seedling giveaway.

This Earth Day, pick up a free eastern white pine (*pinus strobus*) seedling, courtesy of TCL&P. The seedlings will be available beginning at 8 a.m. until they are gone on Saturday, April 26, at the Sara Hardy Farmer's Market (Union and Grandview Parkway) in downtown Traverse City. Each seedling is potted and ready for planting.

This Earth Day marks the 26,000th tree given away by TCL&P as part of its efforts to support the community and the environment. TCL&P has also given away seedlings to local school children and youth groups over the years. In total, TCL&P has given away over 150,000 seedlings to customers, community members and local organizations.

### Facts about the Eastern White Pine

The white pine grows to a height of 50 to 80 feet, with a width of up to 50 feet. A long-lived tree, it normally attains a life span of 200 years and may reach 450 years, according to the U.S. Forest Service.



### Friendly Reminder

When planting your new white pine seedling, or any other trees, remember not to plant them under or near power lines. If necessary, only plant low growth shrubs and bushes under power lines.

## RecycleSmart Events

### Clean Out Your Files Week

April 21 - April 27, 2014

This is a no-cost opportunity for businesses to dispose of unwanted paper materials. American Waste will be donating the use of a recycling container at the Sara Hardy Farmers Market parking lot (Cass and Grandview Parkway). Accepted material includes newspapers, magazines, old files, office paper, and unwanted mail.

For information visit [RecycleSmart.info](http://RecycleSmart.info).

### Free Compost

Saturday, April 26, 2014 | 8:00 a.m. - noon  
(or until gone)

Self-serve, self-haul compost is yours free at the Sara Hardy Farmer's Market parking lot (Union Street and Grandview Parkway), courtesy of the City of Traverse City & Grand Traverse County Resource Recovery (RecycleSmart). Bring your own shovel and container.

For information visit [RecycleSmart.info](http://RecycleSmart.info).

### TART Trails Work Bees

Saturday, April 26 | 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate Earth Day with TART! TART is hosting trail work bees in many locations along the trail network. Work bees take place snow, rain, or shine so please dress appropriately. Participants will learn about TART and the trail from Trail Ambassadors and perform light maintenance such as picking up trash, sweeping leaves and sticks, and trimming trees. Bring your own tools such as gloves, rakes, shovels, brooms, trash bags, and clippers. To participate, meet at one of the following locations:

- **Leelanau Trail at Cherry Bend Road Trailhead**
- **Boardman Lake Trail at Hull Park**  
(behind the library)
- **Boardman Lake Trail at 10th Street Trailhead**
- **Boardman River Trail**  
(meet at S. Cass Rd. & Keystone Rd. dam trailhead)
- **Three Mile Trail at Parsons/Three Mile Road**
- **TART Trail at Four Mile Road**  
(meet at Einstein Cycles)
- **TART Trail at Bunker Hill Road Trailhead**
- **Gardening at the Vasa Pathway Trailhead**

For specific information on what each trail work bee will be doing and for up-to-date information, visit [traversetrails.org](http://traversetrails.org).

### Coming Soon - New Utility Bill Design

In the next few months, you will notice that the design of the Traverse City utility bill will be changing. This change stems from a recommendation in the Hometown Connections Efficiency Study TCL&P had commissioned in 2013. The challenge that TCL&P faces, like many Public Power systems that bill for other utilities such as water and sewer services, is that the bill can quickly become busy and confusing. The new look will highlight Traverse City Utilities and utilize the City of Traverse City's logo and colors. TCL&P is a department of the city and will be represented as such in the new design. TCL&P hopes that this change will assist customers in better understanding and reviewing their monthly utility bill.

### Transformer Clearing

Believe it or not, spring is right around the corner, which means yard work will begin shortly. As a friendly reminder, please remember that bushes, trees, and other plants should not be planted in front of or around transformers — the green electrical box that may be in your yard. Typically there is a sticker on the transformer which indicates this. Please be aware that TCL&P crews need direct access to these boxes in case of an electrical outage or emergency. Having a clear path to the transformer assures that TCL&P crews can safely and quickly restore electric service in the event of an equipment failure. TCL&P is not responsible for any damage done to vegetation or obstacles that may obstruct access to the transformers. Thank you for your cooperation as TCL&P works to provide reliable service to all customers.



## Did You Know...

Did you know that electronics such as clocks, microwave ovens, and cell phone chargers consume energy when they are plugged in — even if they are not in use? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while they are turned off. Fortunately, it is easy to combat these “phantom loads” and slash your home energy consumption. Simply unplug electronics, chargers, and appliances when they are not in use or plug them into a smart power strip, which stops power flow when the appliance is switched off. TCL&P offers a \$10 incentive for purchasing a smart power strip. See [tclp.org](http://tclp.org) for more information on the incentive and other ways to save energy.

### TCL&P Mission:

To provide the Public Power benefits of safety, lower rates, high reliability, local control, and exceptional customer service to the City, its residents, and all TCL&P customers.

## Executive Director's Update

Soon, Traverse City Light & Power's customer count will be increasing. This is due to an agreement that the Michigan Public Service Commission approved in 1994 between TCL&P and Consumers Energy. The basis for the agreement is to reduce the duplication of electric service distribution facilities within the city limits of Traverse City.

Under this agreement, TCL&P purchased all of the electric distribution facilities of 15Kv or less within the city. These facilities include poles and underground conductors, but exclude certain electrical lines, distribution facilities used to service excluded customers, substations, 7,200 volt transformers, and meters.

Over the last twenty years, TCL&P and Consumers Energy have completed two phases of the customer switchover process and shortly will begin the third and final phase. Per the agreement, all electric customers within the city limits of Traverse City must be served by TCL&P, with a few exceptions, by September 2014. Over the spring and summer, TCL&P crews will be working to change over all electric services.

TCL&P is happy to begin providing the Public Power benefits of safety, lower rates, high reliability, local control, and exceptional customer service to these new customers. As always, TCL&P will also continue to provide these benefits to the City, its residents, and all existing customers.



*Tim Arends*

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Executive Director



**TRAVERSE CITY  
LIGHT & POWER**

Investing Our Energy In You

1131 Hastings St. | Traverse City, MI 49686  
Main Office and 24-Hour Service: **922-4940**  
Billing & Account Questions: **922-4431**  
**Now available: Paperless billing!**

See the Home Energy Saver and L&P Energy Smart Program at: [tclp.org](http://tclp.org)



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