

April is national Dig Safely Month

April is designated as national Dig Safely Month, and Central Hudson reminds anyone planning to dig to first call 811, the toll-free Dig Safely hotline, so that underground utility lines and equipment can be marked and properly identified prior to the start of excavation. The service is provided at no cost to the caller.

Underground utilities can be located on both public and private property, so calling 811 prior to any excavation work is critical. This toll-free national calling service connects excavators to their regional One-Call center that alerts utilities, municipalities and other parties of the intention to excavate at specific sites so that the lines can be properly marked.

Due to circumstances caused by the current pandemic, minor delays may occur in marking out facilities. However, no work may be performed until all municipal and utility providers have responded by either marking the lines or indicating that the area is clear. Marking work areas in white will aid locators in understanding the work location and allow for timelier markouts.

Once the lines are marked, workers must stay clear of the

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EnergyCentral

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION OR TOPICS APPEARING IN THIS EDITION, CONTACT ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS **JOE JENKINS**

PHONE (845) 486-5840
 EMAIL JJKENKINS@CENHUD.COM

EARTH DAY

CENTRAL HUDSON HELPS REDUCE EMISSIONS, PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT



Customers' 2020 savings equate to nearly \$12 million in energy costs

In Celebration of Earth Day, Central Hudson is reminding customers about the many ways they can reduce carbon emissions and help protect the environment through energy efficiency programs offered by the utility.

“Central Hudson is proud to help our customers conserve natural resources and protect the environment through our full suite of energy efficiency programs,” said Charles A. Freni, President and CEO of Central Hudson. “Thousands of customers have already seen how these programs can pay for themselves while helping New York State achieve its nation-leading clean energy goals.”

In 2020, energy efficiency measures

taken by Central Hudson’s customers saved an annualized 81.7 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and more than 91,000 dekatherms of natural gas, equating to nearly \$12 million in energy costs. Since 2009, customers enrolled in Central Hudson’s energy efficiency programs cumulatively save nearly \$76 million annually, reducing energy demands by enough to power more than 45,000 homes and avoiding more than 946 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year, or the equivalent of removing 91,000 cars from the road or planting nearly 446,000 acres of forest.

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Earth Day: Programs save nearly \$76 million annually

EPA Recognition

Central Hudson was recently named an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year for exceptional efforts in promoting and educating its customers on ENERGY STAR® certified products. It is the second consecutive year Central Hudson has been awarded the EPA's highest honor. EPA recognized Central Hudson for substantially increasing customers' energy-saving impact by nearly doubling measures to promote ENERGY STAR certified LED lightbulbs, which lead to the purchase and distribution of more than 2.8 million bulbs by and to customers since 2016 and for promoting Heat Pump Water Heaters.

Energy Leadership

There are many ways Central Hudson protects the environment:

- Solar installations within the utility's service area are among the highest in New York on a per-capita basis, with more than 10,300 systems installed by residents and businesses with potential to supply the average electricity use of up to 25,000 homes while reducing carbon emissions by 40,000 tons.
- Central Hudson customers can subscribe to a share of the electricity generated by a local solar farm or other source of clean energy through

the Clean Energy Marketplace. Since the start of the program in July, subscribers in the Clean Energy Marketplace have helped offset 3,360 tons of carbon emissions.

- Central Hudson promotes electric vehicles, which are less costly to operate and reduce emissions by 60 to 85 percent. A new Central Hudson program will facilitate the installation of 3,204 Level 2 chargers and 69 Direct Current Fast Chargers within the service area by 2025 through partnerships with municipalities and private developers. Central Hudson is also engaging municipalities and fleet owners in determining the feasibility of adopting select electric cars and trucks, including its own utility fleet.
- Central Hudson aims to facilitate the installation of 12,000 ground or air-source electric heat pumps by 2025. In conjunction with the New York State Clean Heat Program, Central Hudson offers homeowners up to \$1,600 off per 10,000 btus for air-source electric heat pumps and up to \$2,000 off per 10,000 btus for ground-source electric heat pumps. To date, Central Hudson has exceeded its 2021 targets for this program.

- Central Hudson also assists residents and businesses in converting heating systems from oil or propane to natural gas, where available, to reduce energy costs and lower emissions by 30 percent.
- Central Hudson continues to invest in the electric and natural gas systems to modernize the energy delivery infrastructure and enable expanded use of clean resources. State-of-the-art equipment and systems are being deployed to improve the efficiency, durability and reliability of the energy delivery system. These improvements are also critical to integrating the growth of distributed resources such as solar and battery storage.
- Central Hudson is hosting a series of free, live discussions on Facebook with subject matter experts on the strategies and challenges associated with reaching New York State's clean energy goals, as well as what residents can do to help. The debut installment of the series aired on Tuesday, April 20.

For more information on Central Hudson's energy efficiency programs, visit www.CentralHudson.com and click on My Energy then Save Energy & Money. ✨

Dig: Utility lines are located and marked at no cost to caller

"tolerance zone," which is an area two feet plus half the diameter on either side of marked lines where mechanized equipment cannot be used until the underground facility is uncovered by hand digging. If contact with underground facilities occurs, the excavator must contact the 911 immediately and then notify the utility, whether or not the lines appear damaged. Excavators must also understand the type of the underground facilities at

their work location, for example whether natural gas, electric, telephone, water or other lines are present.

Dig Safely New York has developed a comprehensive Excavator Certification Program in Best Practices for Safe Digging. Completion of this course will satisfy New York state legislation that requires contractors and excavation personnel employed by a municipality or utility operator to complete a training and education program.

Additional information about the Dig Safely New York One-Call system and requirements for excavating near marked lines is available at www.DigSafelyNewYork.com; information on the 811 service is available at www.call811.com; and to learn more about contractor safety and working near utility lines, call Central Hudson at (845) 452-2700 or 1-800-527-2714, or visit www.CentralHudson.com/My-Energy/Safety/Dig-Safely/. ✨