

# Currents

CITY OF  
BURBANK



**WATER  
AND  
POWER**

## POWERING THE FLOW OF LIFE TODAY & TOMORROW



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# POWERING THE FLOW OF LIFE TODAY AND TOMORROW



DAWN ROTH LINDELL  
GENERAL MANAGER

Building and maintaining the infrastructure we all rely on.

## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER Dawn Roth Lindell

For more than 100 years, Burbank Water and Power (BWP) has embraced innovative solutions to ensure that Burbank residents and businesses receive high-quality and reliable water, electric, and fiber services. As we look to the future, the actions we take now will determine what the City of Burbank will be like in 100 years. Everything from the quality of life of our residents, the prosperity of our communities and businesses, and the reliability of our infrastructure, all depend on what we do now.

The time has come for BWP to take meaningful strides in addressing this generation's greatest challenge—climate change. The team at BWP is comprised of passionate problem solvers. We are committed to creating the strongest future possible for the next generation of Burbank families, and the best way to accomplish that is through sustainability. BWP is currently developing a long-term strategic plan to meet the state mandate of 60% renewables (like solar and wind) by 2030, and the City's plan to be greenhouse gas (GHG)-neutral by 2040.

BWP is currently developing a long-term strategic plan to meet the state mandate of **60% renewables (like solar and wind) by 2030, and the City's plan to be greenhouse gas (GHG)-neutral by 2040.**



BWP takes changes to our electric and water rates and charges very seriously. Adapting to climate change, increasingly severe droughts, and addressing our infrastructure needs requires our rates to reflect the increasing costs of providing water and power. In order to meet our community's largest challenges, it is necessary for BWP to propose a 6% increase in electric rates and a 9% increase in water rates beginning July 2022.

**To keep up with inflation and obtain renewable energy, BWP is increasing electric rates by 6%. Current inflation is running at 7.5%-8.5%.** This investment is necessary to combat global warming, which has been driving extreme weather patterns in our region. In recent years we have been hit with wildfires that burn longer and wider, and face persistent drought conditions. Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our electric supply is necessary to slow down these impacts and is in alignment with the City's plan to be GHG neutral by 2040, with which we must comply.

**We need to increase water rates by 9% to maintain and modernize our infrastructure.** Burbank already has 30 miles of pipeline that is over 100 years old. Over the next 20 years, that will climb to over 176 miles of 100+ year-old pipe if we only replace it at our current rate. BWP needs to increase our pipe replacement rate, complete critical maintenance on our aging assets, and replace a local reservoir made of wood that is no longer compliant with today's seismic regulations and American Water Works codes. BWP needs to invest in core maintenance on our infrastructure to protect our water supply and to continue delivering the reliability our customers depend on and expect from BWP.

**BWP continues to do its part by finding more than \$25 million in savings this past year to help mitigate cost pressures.** We ask for your support in helping us ensure we are successfully able to deliver sustainable, reliable, and affordable utility services.



## OUR MISSION AND VALUES

We define our higher purpose as powering the flow of life, today and tomorrow. This frames for us the critical role that BWP plays in the lives of every person who lives, works, and plays in Burbank. And as always, we continue our strong, caring customer connection with our community that only a city-owned, not-for-profit utility like BWP can provide.

BWP recently refined its values and established core behaviors that we want everyone at BWP to exhibit.



**1. FIND A WAY**  
Drive to get it done



**2. CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE**  
Be curious, learn, improve, repeat



**3. INCLUDE OTHERS**  
Care, connect, collaborate, and create with intent



**4. BE RESPECTFUL**  
Safeguard one another, our community, and the environment



**5. DELIVER THE FUTURE**  
Innovate with insight and purpose

BWP is committed to maintaining its hallmark of fiscal responsibility as we move forward together. We ask for your support in helping us ensure we are successfully able to deliver sustainable, reliable, and affordable utility services to continue to power the flow of life in Burbank today and tomorrow.

DAWN ROTH LINDELL  
GENERAL MANAGER



# BWP'S INFRASTRUCTURE BY THE NUMBERS

A little maintenance goes a long way. Just as you'd want to replace your home's roof when it gets too old or make sure your car's oil is always changed, we want to take care of our city's utility infrastructure to prevent small problems from turning into huge ones. For a city like Burbank, that means big effort and big numbers. Here are just a few facts and figures to illustrate exactly how much we do to keep our city running.

EVERY YEAR, BWP REPLACES

**250+**

new utility poles

**85,000+**

feet of cable and wiring

**120+**

transformers

BWP HAS INSTALLED

**73**

total EV charging ports across 17 sites

**26**

public EV charging ports this fiscal year

THERE ARE

**150**

ONEBurbank fiber internet customers, including major studios

**130**

miles of fiber connected across Burbank

OVER

**25,000**

water quality tests are conducted annually, or about 68 tests a day

**160**

different chemicals and contaminants that Burbank's water is tested for

**75.72%**

of total street light luminaries have been converted to LEDs

BWP MAINTAINS

**276**

miles of water pipes

**14**

steel storage tanks

**8**

concrete reservoirs

**55**

million gallons total capacity for potable water storage

OUR COMMUNITY HAS

**30,099**

customers registered for an online account

**24,571**

customers enrolled in paperless billing



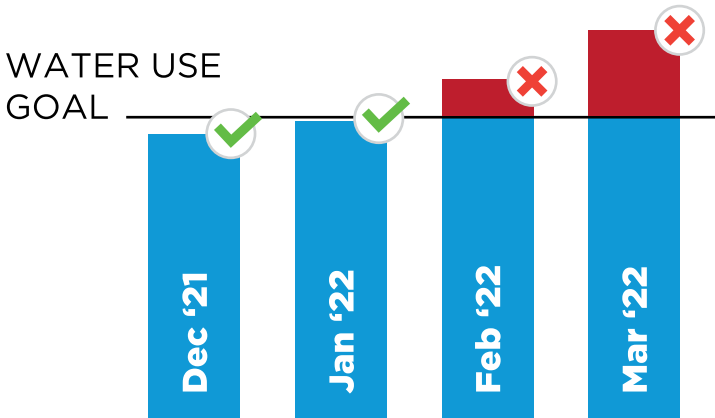
Sign up for an online account or opt into paperless billing at [BWP-Currents.com/my-bwp](https://www.burbankwaterandpower.com/my-bwp)

# GREAT START ON DROUGHT RESPONSE! LET'S KEEP IT UP!



Burbank residents and businesses did a great job on water conservation in December and January, cutting water use so the city met Governor Gavin Newsom's voluntary request to use 15% less water.

But we can't get too comfortable: we used too much water in February and March and exceeded our water use goal, according to BWP's water experts.



Burbank's water use per month

## LESS WATER = LESS HYDROELECTRICITY, GREATER RISK OF WILDFIRES

California is in the third year of a historic drought, which is pushing all of us to do more when it comes to using water wisely.

The winter snow season started off well in December, but there has been virtually no new snow or rain since late December. Water reservoirs around the state and the West generally have fallen to extremely low levels. Lake Oroville, from which Burbank gets some of its water, is about 50% full. Last year, water levels there were so low that electricity could not be generated by the lake's hydroelectric generators.

Other major reservoirs in the West that supply Burbank with water or power, including Lake Mead

and Lake Powell, also have fallen so low that they, too, have had to stop generating electricity. Lake Powell is about 25% full. Lake Mead is about 33% full and stands at the lowest water level since it was built nearly nine decades ago.

BWP thanks all the residents and businesses that reduced their water use in response to the drought. Reduced watering of lawns and corporate campuses was the biggest contributor to the water savings.

Richard Wilson, BWP's Assistant General Manager for Water, said, "We really appreciate our customers' water-reduction efforts. We want you to know that BWP is working right alongside you to reduce its water use."

This illustrates the so-called "water-power nexus" in the West, where hydroelectric generators produce power for the region. When lake levels fall, there is less water and electricity to go around.

And a warmer, drier climate increases the danger of wildfires in California and across the region. Water conservation in our community will help ensure that there will be enough water to fight wildfires.

## BURBANK'S OUTDOOR WATERING SCHEDULE

Burbank is currently in Stage II of the Sustainable Water Use Ordinance, which reduces outdoor watering to three days per week, on **Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday**, from April to October. The move to Stage II was in response to the governor's call last July for a voluntary 15% reduction in water use from 2020 levels. The state could add further limitations on outdoor watering if Burbank does not meet its 15% reduction target.

"We really appreciate our customers' water-reduction efforts."

RICHARD WILSON, BWP'S ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER FOR WATER

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP SAVE WATER

In addition to following Burbank's outdoor watering schedule, there are a variety of rebates and programs available to help you save water. Last year, BWP increased the value of rebates for installing water-efficient equipment. **For example:**

REBATES	CURRENT	NEW
Flow Monitoring Device (new)	\$100	\$150
High-Efficiency Clothes Washer	\$85	\$150
Premium High-Efficiency Toilet	\$40	\$100
Rotating Nozzle	\$2 each	\$5 each
Weather Based Irrigation Controller	\$80	\$100
Soil Moisture Sensor System	\$80	\$100

And we continue to offer rebates to residential customers who want to change out their thirsty lawns for drought-tolerant plants. We encourage customers to visit our website to participate in our water-saving programs and to find information on how you can save water.



Learn More

Learn more at  
[BWP-Currents.com/water-rebate](https://www.bwp-currents.com/water-rebate)



## IF WE'RE IN A DROUGHT, WHY IS DEVELOPMENT CONTINUING?

Some residents have asked how Burbank is able to build new homes if there is less water available due to the drought.

Burbank is in a housing shortage. About 100,000 workers commute to Burbank from other cities each day on buses, cars, and trains. Many of those workers would move to Burbank if housing were available. More homes are being built to alleviate that so that more people who work here can also live here.


Every five years, Burbank and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) submit to the state our Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), which analyzes projected water demand and additional water supplies for the next 20 years under various conditions, including multiyear droughts. For the most recent plan, for the years 2025-2045, BWP includes all of the city's housing units projected by the Community Development Department.

This plan also assessed how new housing, especially apartments and condominiums, will utilize more water-efficient appliances that meet the latest building efficiency codes.

You can learn more about the UWMP at [BWP-Currents.com/urban-water-management-plan](https://www.bwp-currents.com/urban-water-management-plan).



# HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE WATER



With one of the driest winters in California on record, the drought shows no signs of lifting. Now is the time to make investments, big and small, to ensure the reliability of our water supply. Here are five things you can do to help save water.

### Watering Schedule

Watering is allowed before 9 am or after 6 pm and up to 15 minutes per irrigation station on the days noted below.

Hand watering is allowed at any time.

Stage	Apr - Oct
I	Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday
II	Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday
III	Tuesday & Saturday
IV	Tuesday
V	Saturday
VI	No Days

**1** Follow Burbank's three day per week outdoor watering schedule and only water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from April to October. Burbank is currently on Stage II of the Sustainable Water Use Ordinance, limiting outdoor irrigation to conserve water during a drought. Because landscape irrigation is one of the biggest uses of water around the home, limiting your outdoor watering days is a simple way you can save water. Learn more at [BWP-Currents.com/stage-2-facts](http://BWP-Currents.com/stage-2-facts).

**2** Run only full loads of dishes and laundry. Holding off on washing full loads of dishes and laundry can save up to 35 gallons of water per week.

**3** Take shorter showers. Our friends at BWP have created a playlist that you can use to time yourself when taking a drought-friendly shower. [BWP-Currents.com/shower-playlist](http://BWP-Currents.com/shower-playlist).



**4** Sign up for WaterSmart. Saving water starts with knowing how your home is using it. Sign up for BWP's WaterSmart online portal to see your incremental water usage and get personalized tips to save water around your home. Sign up at [BWP-Currents.com/watersmart](http://BWP-Currents.com/watersmart).

**5** Participate in BWP's Home Improvement Program. The program offers a variety of water- and energy-saving improvements to Burbank residents and multifamily property owners at no cost. Participants may be eligible to receive a sprinkler system check and controller programming, showerheads, faucet aerators, and high-efficiency toilets. Call BWP's authorized contractor, Synergy, at (747) 277-1599 to schedule an appointment or complete the online form at [BWP-Currents.com/hip-signup](http://BWP-Currents.com/hip-signup).

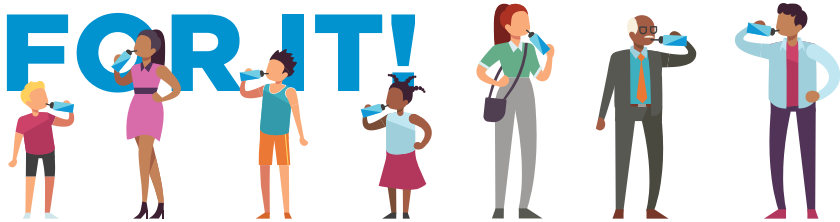
**6** Fix leaks on your property. The most common leaks occur in toilets, irrigation systems, pipes, water appliances, and fixtures. For tips on how you can spot leaks on your property, visit [BWP-Currents.com/leaks](http://BWP-Currents.com/leaks)

**7** Replace your turf grass with drought-resistant landscaping. With water supplies stressed by the drought and climate change, residents are encouraged to switch out their ornamental grass with California native landscaping that uses less water. You can get a \$2 per square foot rebate to replace your grass. Get more details at [BWP-Currents.com/turf-rebate](http://BWP-Currents.com/turf-rebate).



 Find additional water conservation programs and tips at [BWP-Currents.com/conserve-for-tomorrow](http://BWP-Currents.com/conserve-for-tomorrow)

# EVERYONE IS THIRSTING FOR IT!



As temperatures rise, hydration becomes more important. But rather than buying a single-use bottle of water, schools and businesses now have the opportunity to install hydration stations and get a rebate from BWP.



To find out if you are in a DAC go to [bwp-currents.com/dac-map](http://bwp-currents.com/dac-map)

That way, everyone can stay hydrated with clean and accessible water while cutting back on single-use plastic bottles.

For a limited time, BWP is providing rebates to commercial customers with an active BWP water account located in Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) for the purchase and installation of a hydration station. Rebates are available for up to \$1,500 for the purchase of the water bottle filling station and \$1,000 for its installation.

According to the California Environmental Protection Agency, DACs are the most pollution-burdened and vulnerable communities in the state, based on a quantitative method to evaluate multiple pollution sources and stressors, and vulnerability to pollution.

If you aren't sure if your business is located in a DAC, you can email the BWP Conservation team at [BWPConservation@burbankca.gov](mailto:BWPConservation@burbankca.gov) to confirm your eligibility for the Hydration Station program.


Health experts recommend drinking eight 8-oz. glasses of water daily. But when you're out of the house, access to clean and accessible water can be tricky. Sure, there are convenience stores on many street corners. But buying a single-use plastic water bottle means you have to dispose of it.

Installing a hydration station in a school or business can be a step forward on two fronts: personal health and environmental protection.

Millions of plastic water bottles could be removed from Burbank's waste stream if there was wider adoption of reusable water bottles.

Hydration stations are fast, easy-to-use, and can refill water bottles of all shapes and sizes. Many airports have them. Now, your local gym, coffee shop, and school can have one too, if they are located in a DAC area!

More than **16,700,000** single-use plastic water bottles could be removed from the waste stream if **everyone in Burbank** switched to using reusable water bottles!

 Learn more about the Hydration Station Rebate at [BWP-Currents.com/hydration-stations](http://BWP-Currents.com/hydration-stations)



# CHARGING YOUR EV AT HOME DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SLOW

In this rapidly-changing automobile market, we're all learning about the benefits of Electric Vehicles (EVs)—they reduce pollution, can be powered by renewable energy, and require less maintenance. However, we're also becoming familiar with one of their main drawbacks—charging them at home can take a long time.

*It doesn't have to be that way!*

We have revamped and expanded our Residential EV Charging Station Rebate Program to give Burbank residents even more power and flexibility over their EV home charging experience. Installing a dedicated home charger will improve the speed and efficiency of charging your EV's batteries. If slow home charging has been a point of frustration for you, or if you have been unwilling to purchase an EV because of worries about slow home charging, then this rebate is what you've been waiting for.

## RESIDENTIAL EV CHARGING STATION REBATES FOR ALL BURBANK RESIDENTS

The Residential EV Charging Station Rebate Program is available to all Burbank residents, including tenants of multifamily residences such as apartments or duplexes. We want Burbank's EV future to belong to everyone regardless of where they reside.

BWP offers increased rebate amounts to residents located in a Disadvantaged Community (DAC). The California Environmental Protection Agency identifies a DAC as being the most pollution-burdened and vulnerable areas based on potential exposures to pollutants, adverse environmental conditions, socioeconomic factors, and the prevalence of certain health conditions. To find out if you live in a DAC and qualify for the increased rebate amounts, visit our Residential EV Charging Program webpage and enter your address in the interactive map.

To find out if you are in a DAC go to [bwp-currents.com/dac-map](http://bwp-currents.com/dac-map)



*Installing a dedicated Level 2 Charger can reduce the time it takes to completely recharge your EV by more than 50%.*

## REBATES FOR EV CHARGERS AND ELECTRIC PANEL UPGRADES

Residential customers can get up to a \$1,250 rebate to help cover the costs for the charging station and an electric panel upgrade if needed. Customers living in a DAC area of Burbank can qualify for increased rebate amounts of up to \$1,500 with an electric panel upgrade.

	Standard Charger	Smart Charger*	Panel Upgrade	Maximum Rebate
Non-DAC Customer	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$1,250</b>
DAC Customer	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>

\*Smart stations have Wi-Fi/network capability (with an active subscription to an EV charging network) and offer functions to optimize charging.  
Rebates are available for up to two chargers per household. Rebate recipients must sign up for 12 months of Time-of-Use (TOU) billing.

## UPGRADING YOUR PANEL UPGRADES YOUR HOME

Adding a dedicated EV charging station (or station) to your residence may require upgrading your electric panel. As part of the application process, a qualified electrician will evaluate your home and determine whether you need to get an upgraded panel. If you do, then BWP will be able to offer you the additional panel upgrade rebate.

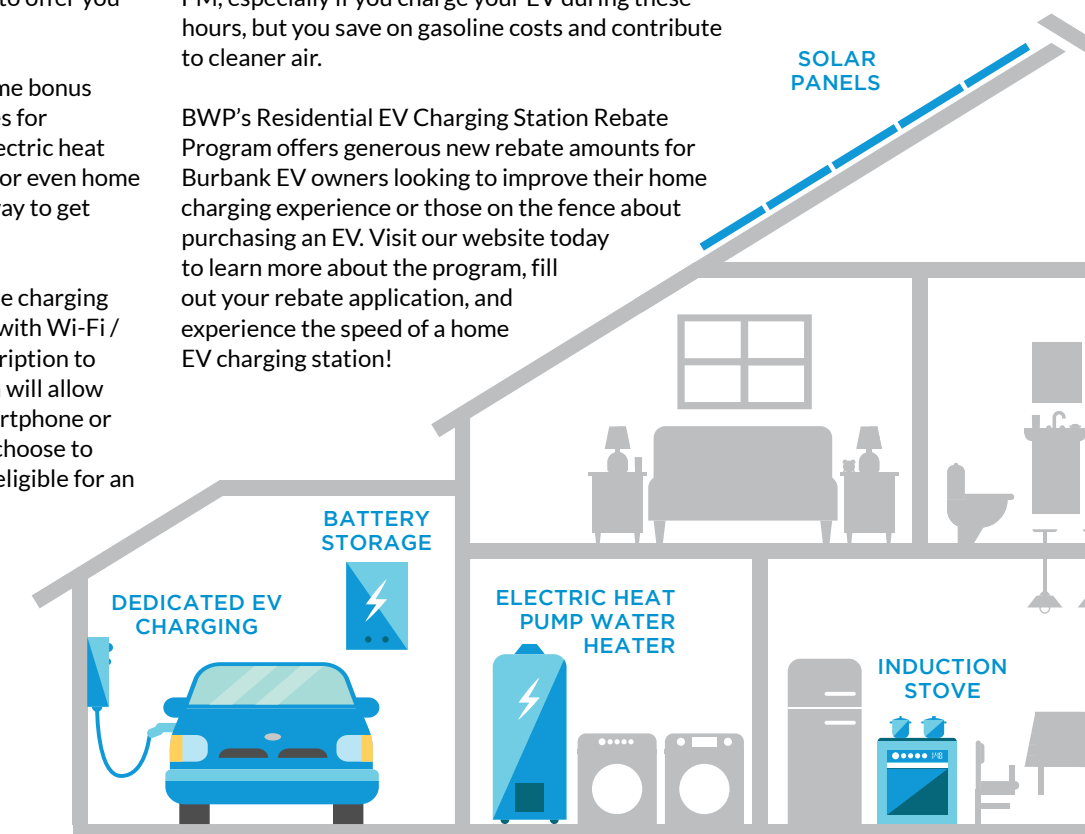
An upgraded panel also comes with some bonus benefits. It may open new opportunities for electrification in your home, such as electric heat pump water heaters, induction stoves, or even home solar and battery storage. It's a great way to get started on your electrified future.

If you're looking to maximize your home charging experience, consider a "smart" station with Wi-Fi / network capability and an active subscription to a qualified EV charging network, which will allow you to track charging data on your smartphone or other mobile devices. Customers that choose to install a smart charging station will be eligible for an increased rebate.

The Residential EV Charging Station Rebate Program requires participants to switch to BWP's time-of-use (TOU) rate for a minimum of 12 months. With TOU, your electric usage is billed at a rate that varies based on the time of day and the season. This rate promotes shifting electric use to when renewables (sun, wind) are plentiful or when the overall demand for energy is lower.

The TOU rate provides the lowest energy cost if you charge your vehicle after 11 PM. With a Level 2 charging station, your EV will be fully charged by the time you need it in the morning. Your household energy costs may be higher between 8 AM and 11 PM, especially if you charge your EV during these hours, but you save on gasoline costs and contribute to cleaner air.

BWP's Residential EV Charging Station Rebate Program offers generous new rebate amounts for Burbank EV owners looking to improve their home charging experience or those on the fence about purchasing an EV. Visit our website today to learn more about the program, fill out your rebate application, and experience the speed of a home EV charging station!



*An upgraded electric panel may be necessary in order for you to install an EV charger*



To learn more about the charging at home, go to [BWP-Currents.com/charge-at-home](http://BWP-Currents.com/charge-at-home)





# HELP IS AVAILABLE

Assistance Programs are still available to Burbank residents who need help paying their utility bills.

If you have been financially affected by COVID-19, you may still be eligible for help. We've assembled key assistance programs offered by BWP and other agencies that can help with your utility bill.



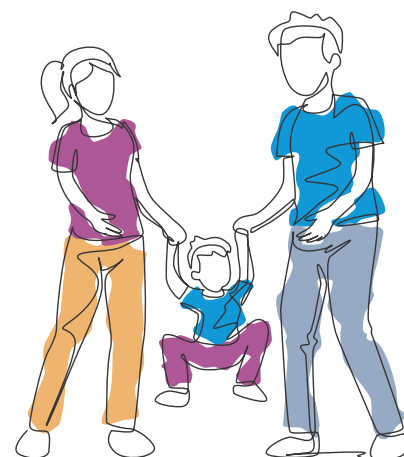
## ● LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps eligible low-income households by providing a one-time credit of up to \$1,000 toward their utility bill. The program also provides these households with free energy-efficiency upgrades.

The Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) and the Maravilla Foundation administer the program. Interested customers may apply to PACE or Maravilla directly, according to their ZIP codes.

**PACE** (91505-91506)  
(213) 353-3982

**Maravilla** (91501-91504)  
(323) 869-4500



## ● CA MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM

The California Mortgage Relief Program uses federal Homeowner Assistance Funds to help homeowners get caught up on their housing payments. The program is open to all eligible Californians who are currently experiencing pandemic-related hardships and have fallen behind on their housing payments. The program is free, and the funds do not need to be repaid.

Learn more at [camortgagerelief.org](http://camortgagerelief.org).

## ● BWP PROJECT SHARE

The Project Share program provides payment assistance of up to \$100 bill credit to income-qualified customers. LIHEAP and Project Share use the same eligibility guidelines, so you can use your LIHEAP application supporting documentation to expedite the processing of your Project Share application. The Burbank Temporary Aid Center (BTAC) administers Project Share. Call BTAC at (818) 848-2822 ext. 1000 to participate.

## ● WE'RE HERE TO HELP

BWP is your community-owned utility and works to always be there for you. If you are having difficulty paying your bill for any reason, please reach out to us. We are here to help.

(818) 238-3700 | [BWPCustomerService@burbankca.gov](mailto:BWPCustomerService@burbankca.gov)

## ● BWP LIFELINE PROGRAM

BWP's Lifeline Program offers income-qualified customers a reduced rate as well as exemptions from the monthly customer service charge and the Utility User's Tax (about a 40% discount).

In addition to income qualifications, applicants must meet one of the following requirements:

- Someone in the household is at least 62 years old.
- Someone in the household is permanently disabled.

Learn more at [burbankwaterandpower.com/my-home/lifeline-program](http://burbankwaterandpower.com/my-home/lifeline-program).

## BWP IS NAMED WINNER OF IDC GOVERNMENT INSIGHTS' FIFTH ANNUAL SMART CITIES NORTH AMERICA AWARDS

On March 21, 2022, BWP was named a winner in IDC Government Insights' fifth annual Smart Cities North America Awards (SCNAA). BWP was recognized for its ONEBurbank fiber optic infrastructure program in the Economic Development category. The ONEBurbank program provides reliable high-speed internet to local businesses, government facilities, and public schools by maximizing the use of BWP's fiber optic infrastructure.

The award recognize the progress North American municipalities have made in executing Smart Cities projects, as well as providing a forum for sharing best practices to help accelerate Smart City development in the region. To learn more about the awards program visit [BWP-Currents.com/smart-cities](http://BWP-Currents.com/smart-cities)



## IDC Smart Cities

North America Winner 2022



## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SPEEDS?

### THE DANGERS OF SPEEDING:



Traffic fatalities related to vehicle crashes in the United States spiked 24% in 2020 compared to 2019, and 2021 is on the pace to be even worse.

### SPEEDING CAN LEAD TO:

- Reduction in reaction time to potential dangers
- Greater loss of vehicle control
- Reduced effectiveness of seatbelts and airbags
- Increased degree of crash severity

CITY OF BURBANK

POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Calling all Student Artists!



### THE 2023 "WATER IS LIFE" STUDENT ART CALENDAR CONTEST IS NOW OPEN!

BWP invites students in grades K-12 to enter the "Water is Life" student art contest, sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and BWP.

**Deadline July 1, 2022**

### Prizes

BWP will select 9 total winners from the following three categories (K-5th grade), (6-8th grade), and (9-12th grade) that will move forward to the MWD regional competition.



Interested students can learn more at:

[BWP-Currents.com/art-contest](http://BWP-Currents.com/art-contest)







ONEBurbank is a suite of BWP fiber-optic services offered to Burbank businesses looking for exceptionally fast and reliable bandwidth. Visit ONEBurbank at [ONEBurbank.com](https://www.oneburbank.com).

Artistry in Sound is an Emmy award-winning post-production sound studio headquartered in Burbank since 2016 with an additional location in Atlanta. The studio specializes in sound for film, television, gaming, and web projects and has worked on some of Hollywood's biggest feature film and television productions.

With his background as an award-winning supervising sound designer and re-recording mixer, founder and owner Ken Johnson formed a creative talent team with over 100 years of collective industry experience. Combining low overhead and a dynamic business model the studio calls "Sound Without Boundaries," Johnson's team pairs projects with sound editors and re-recording mixers and utilizes the best dubbing stage options based on a client's geographical preference and budget. Having the ability and flair to work with even the tightest project budgets, the studio pushes the creative boundaries of soundtrack innovation to deliver consistently exceptional sound for every client.

**Mr. Johnson shares the experience of Artistry in Sound with BWP's ONEBurbank fiber service:**

We found ONEBurbank through a referral, and we knew it would be the right fit for Artistry in Sound after we heard so many wonderful stories about ONEBurbank's reliability and reputation for providing exceptional service to its customers. ONEBurbank supports us in our mission to deliver the best sound to every client, every time, no matter the budget by providing us with fast, dependable, and efficient internet. This gives us the ability and capacity to do our job with the best resources possible.

Remote collaboration has become an essential part of our everyday workflow, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. By choosing ONEBurbank as our internet service, we enjoy a stable and sustainable network that allows us to stream media and send files to our clients who are located throughout the country. We are looking forward to a long and successful relationship with ONEBurbank.

We welcome another satisfied ONEBurbank customer! For more information on Artistry in Sound, check out [artistryinsound.com](https://www.artistryinsound.com).



**KEN JOHNSON**, Founder and Owner of Artistry in Sound



The Burbank City Council took a step toward fewer power outages and reduced risk of wildfires when it voted 5-0 on January 11, 2022, to ban the sale of mylar or metallic balloons filled with helium or other lighter-than-air gas. Mylar balloons may be sold if they are filled with air only and attached or mounted to a post or decorative structure at the point of sale.

Mylar balloons, which have metallic coatings, are the leading cause of power outages in Burbank. Since 2000, those balloons have come into contact with BWP's electric lines over 200 times. One mylar balloon has the potential to leave hundreds of residents and businesses in the community without power for up to an hour or more.

"Mylar balloons are fun, but over the years, they have caused hundreds of power outages in Burbank," says Jeannine Edwards, Assistant General Manager of Sustainability, Marketing, and Strategy at Burbank Water and Power (BWP). "Our goal is to work with the community to help prevent power outages caused by mylar balloons. If you must have balloons filled with helium, you can always use latex balloons. Those don't conduct electricity. Otherwise, we look forward to seeing all of the creative ways our community will use mylar balloons filled with air."

"Mylar balloons are fun, but over the years, they have caused hundreds of power outages in Burbank."

**JEANNINE EDWARDS**  
Assistant General Manager, Sustainability, Marketing, and Strategy

Various other cities in Southern California have passed similar ordinances or are considering them. The California legislature is also considering a draft bill on this matter. Nearly a dozen states have banned the release of mylar balloons. Electric utilities across California report that mylar balloons coming into contact with electric lines or equipment continue to pose a risk of power outages, explosions, downed power lines, wildfires, and damaged infrastructure.

We understand mylar balloons are popular ways to celebrate Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, sporting events, and graduation parties.



For more information on the Mylar Ordinance Visit [BWP-Currents.com/mylar-balloons](https://www.bwp-currents.com/mylar-balloons)









# WATER AND POWER

Please use water  
and energy wisely.

PRSRSTD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Van Nuys, CA  
Permit No. 72

ECRWSS

Postal Customer



## THERE'S MORE TO CURRENTS

Check out the online expanded version of  
Currents for a deeper dive about the stories  
in this issue. ***BWP-Currents.com/more***



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