

LANSING BWL CONNECTIONS

FEB 2026



A Century of Growth: How a Post-WWI Lansing Sparked a New Era of Power

In the years following World War I, Lansing was changing at a pace that would have been hard to imagine a decade earlier. Automobile manufacturing at Olds and REO was booming, thousands of returning soldiers were re-establishing their lives and the city's population swelled. Streetlights, civic buildings and new industrial facilities all pressed for more reliable, modern power. By 1921, electricity demand in Lansing had surged far beyond what the city's older, aging generating stations could reasonably supply. Between 1915 and 1921, the city's energy consumption doubled.

To meet this challenge, the Board of Water and Electric Light Commissioners proposed an ambitious solution: construction of a new, innovative 55,000-kilowatt power station on a nine-acre property donated by Olds Motor Works. The site, already home to a dam and small hydro station, was ideal for what would become the Moores Park (later Eckert) Station. The price tag was significant and required voter approval through a public bond issue for \$1,650,000.

The new plant was expected to use only half the coal consumed by the older stations, which would be shipped in hopper-bottom cars from West Virginia, burned in boilers equipped with radiant-heat superheaters to boost performance. Rates, which had risen during wartime inflation, could return to their prewar levels: 7.5 cents for the first 50 kWh and 5.5 cents for the next 950 kWh.

On August 30, 1921, Lansing voters approved the bond by a decisive 3-to-1 margin. In 1924, the first unit came online, marking the beginning of a new era in

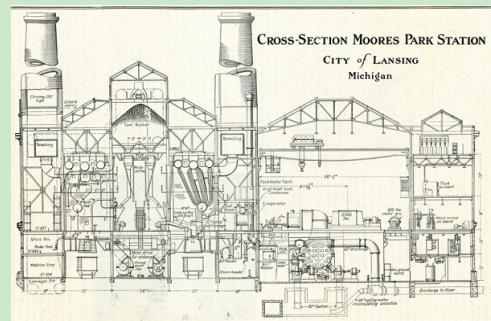
Lansing's electricity supply. The Moores Park/Eckert Station went on to serve the community for nearly a century.

2024 electric sales totaled roughly 2 million MWh, or about 2 billion kWh: more than 50 times the energy consumed in 1921. The Eckert Station that once represented cutting-edge capacity began ramping down in 2016 at a 337 MW generating capacity, over six times its original output, before finally retiring in 2020.

In 2024 alone, renewable generation produced 449,733 MWh for BWL customers, a milestone that would have been unimaginable to the engineers from a century ago.

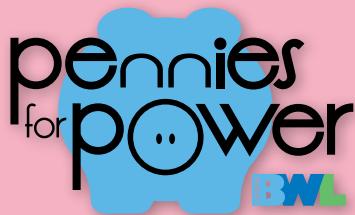
From coal cars arriving from West Virginia to modern solar fields and wind turbines, Lansing's energy story has always been one of growth, adaptation and forward momentum. The bond paper signed in 1922 and the cross-section drawings of Moores Park remain powerful reminders: every generation builds the foundation for the next.

To learn more about BWL's history and where we are today, visit lbwl.com/141.



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Pennies for Power helps provide shut-off protection for BWL customers who are struggling to make ends meet.

Learn more and sign up online at lbwl.com/pennies.

Report Outages

Power, Downed Line or Streetlight

866-710-8222

Outage Center

lbwl.com/outagecenter

BWL Mobile App

lbwl.com/app

Water Emergencies

517-702-6490

Medical Alert Form

If in-home medical equipment depends on electricity, sign up for our medical alert list. Call 517-702-6006 or go to lbwl.com/medicalalert.

Shut-off Protection

BWL customers at risk of shut-off are now eligible for Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) funding assistance, and may also qualify for a winter protection payment plan. Seniors 65 and older, and low-income customers who sign up for a winter protection plan, are protected from electric shut-off during the heating season. Additionally, active military customers may be eligible for extended payment arrangements to prevent service disruption. Contact 211 for payment assistance information or the BWL to inquire about a payment plan.

Clean Your Clothes Without Cleaning Your Wallet

You have to do laundry, but you don't have to settle for equipment that wastes energy and money down the drain. Heat pump clothes dryers offer an energy efficient alternative to standard dryers, in addition to a load of other benefits. Pair a heat pump clothes dryer with an ENERGY STAR® certified washer for a whole cycle of savings!

Compared to standard dryers, heat pump dryers are:

- **Efficient:** Heat pump dryers can reduce energy use by at least 28% compared to standard dryers, leading to reduced energy costs.
- **Easy to Install:** Because they don't require a vent, heat pump dryers can be installed in any room with electricity and a water source.
- **Gentle on Clothes:** Heat pump dryers dry clothes at a lower temperature, which means less wear and tear on your items.

Hometown Energy Savers® Rebates

BWL residential electric customers can save on upfront costs with rebates for qualifying washers and dryers! Earn a \$100 rebate on qualifying ENERGY STAR electric heat pump clothes dryers and get \$25 cash back on qualifying ENERGY STAR washers and dryers. Visit lbwl.com/appliances for rebate details and applications.