

City Light goal reached: 10% saving

City Light customers have done it — they're saving electricity at better than the 10 per cent rate Northwest power officials had requested.

The utility today said that consumption for the last 30 days was 10.5 per cent below predicted use. Energy use for the 30 days ending May 13 was 9.8 per cent below forecasts.

Pacific Northwest utility leaders, along with City Light and other power agencies, called for a 10 per cent savings in energy use in February when it became apparent that the prolonged drought would cause water-supply and power problems.

Seattle's conservation efforts were slow at first; only in the past two months has the rate of savings increased significantly.

The calculations are corrected for weather conditions. They do not include electricity used by four major industrial customers, including one electric boiler at The Boeing Co., one electric furnace at Northwest Glass, an electric boiler at Seattle Steam and the furnaces at Bethlehem Steel.

They have been excluded because consumption varies greatly from week to week, depending on market conditions and production schedules, City Light has said.

Some members of the City Council last week expressed concern at the deletion.

As a result, City Light today reported that the rate of conservation including the energy consumed by the four would have been 10.8 per cent for the same 30-day period. Seattle Steam has shut down its new electric boiler because of the energy surcharge tentatively approved by the City Council last week.