NEW YEAR, NEW INNOVATION

Thank you, 2015!

Every day around the world new innovations are being launched to help us make the world a better place and our day to day lives a little easier. Here are a few from Popular Science’s list of 2015 Innovations of the Year we think are worth watching!

DRAG & DROP ENGINEERING

If Lego had a 21st-century facelift, it would look a lot like SAM, a new kit where the building blocks are electronic modules (or SAMs: sensor actor modules), which wirelessly communicate with each other over Bluetooth. SAMs are either motors, lights, switches, or sensors, and appear as drag and droppable icons on the SAM app, allowing users to easily make everyday objects part of the “internet of things”, but with one major advantage: there’s no coding required. In SAM Labs’ tests, children, students and adults – many of whom had never worked with electronics before – made wonderful things within two hours.

WWW.SAMLABS.ME

SOLAR ROADWAYS

Solar Roadways has taken the first step to creating the world’s largest solar panel: The company uses tempered glass and photovoltaic cells to create intelligent, energy-harvesting pavement, complete with built-in heating elements for melting ice and LEDs for signage. The technology is still in its infancy, but with funding from the Federal Highway Administration and an Indiegogo campaign, the company finished a prototype parking lot in Idaho earlier this year.

WWW.SOLARROADWAYS.COM/INTRO.SHTML

GROW LIGHTS FOR BUMPER CROPS

This year, Green Sense Farms (GSF), a vertical-agriculture project in Indiana, achieved a monumental goal: It out-produced a traditional farm of comparable size for the first time. By using Philips LEDs, indoor farmers can grow all year round—and researchers are working on customizing light spectrum and intensity for each crop. Because the lights are cool, they can sit close to plants, ensuring uniform illumination even when crops are grown vertically, enabling farms to plant more per acre.

WWW.GREENSENSEFARMS.COM
LITTLE INNOVATIONS THAT PACK A BIG PUNCH

Every day there is new technology being developed to help us manage our homes, businesses and lives just a little better. Here are a few of Popular Mechanics 2015 Innovation Picks. Please note that while we aren’t personally endorsing the use of any one product, we do think it’s great to stay up to date with what’s out there that can help you keep your energy costs in check! For a full list of Popular Mechanics 2015 Product Innovations, visit BESTOFWHATSNEW.POPSCI.COM

A WAY TO MAKE YOUR HOUSE RUN SMARTER

This year saw a surge of smart, web-connected appliances, designed to help you manage everything from your energy costs to your security. One of Popular Mechanics 2015 innovation picks was the WeMo Maker, that lets tinkerers retrofit intelligence onto any device. The four-inch square contains a processor and a Wi-Fi radio, and with a little wiring, it connects to nearly any device with a DC switch. That means doogie doors, sprinklers, electric blinds, and other low-powered devices can finally be controlled with a smartphone. This cost is about $80. Made by Belkin

SCIENCE INNOVATION FOR KIDS!

KNEX MIGHTY MAKERS GOING GREEN.

This new line was created with the goal of empowering young girls. Each set is story driven and proven to engage girl builders, which in turn encourages an appreciation of STEM skills.

AGES 7 MONTHS – 10 YEARS. $16.99

OWI 14-IN-1 SOLAR ROBOT

This cool little solar powered robot can be transformed into 14 different robot modes. Powered by the sun - no batteries required, it includes two levels of building skill levels so the beginner and experienced robot builder will be equally engaged.

AGES 8-15 YEARS $38.99

MAKEY MAKEY

Your child lost his Nintendo game controller? No problem. With this easy-to-use kit, he can make a new one with playdoh, lead from a pencil, bananas or apples. How, you ask? He just has to connect the object he wants to use as his command button to the controller board, program the board to associate that object with a button on the keyboard, then make a connection between the object and the board. The computer will think that he actually typed a key. This genius game is for the child with boundless creativity.

AGES 8+. $69.95

OUR TOP POWER-ON STRATEGIES

While our power system has been designed and maintained to withstand small storms and interruptions, sometimes New England’s severe weather, accidents and other unforeseen events and can result in loss of power to our customers. At Unitil, our job is to restore your service quickly and safely. Here’s a quick look at our 5-step process:

1. Is everyone safe? When large storms hit, ensuring public safety becomes our first priority both during and immediately after the storm’s impact. Stay clear of downed electrical wires, as they could still be energized and need to be made safe for emergency responders – and eventually the public – to travel safely.

2. What’s the damage that needs to be fixed? Once public safety is ensured, we begin the process of damage assessment, obtained through customer reports, municipal reports and physical inspection.

3. What’s the best way to proceed? What should be done first, second, and third? From here, a strategy is developed to restore electrical service as quickly as possible, focusing first on critical care facilities, municipal emergency operation centers and large blocks of customers. This restoration process begins with transmission lines, then substations, followed by main service lines, secondary service lines and finally any remaining individual homes and businesses.

4. Start the Repair! Repairs to the transmission lines and distribution substations typically result in the largest number of customers being restored together. However, as restoration continues, the damage becomes more localized, requiring a greater number of resources and time to restore a fewer number of customers. Smaller blocks of customers are restored next, followed by those customers with damage to their individual service drops.

5. And always, keep talking and listening to you! You can also report an Outage and track restoration on our Outage Map, available online at UNITIL.COM/RESTORE. Take a look inside to see what’s new!

To see a video on how we restore power or gas during an outage, visit: UNITIL.COM/RESTORE

THE BENEFITS OF NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is one of the most versatile and dependable sources of energy available. Compared to other energy sources, natural gas offers many advantages:

• Affordable – Natural gas is one of the best values in today’s energy market. Clean burning natural gas heating equipment means less maintenance, repairs and the associated costs. Low operating costs can improve your home’s value and salability.

• Convenient – Natural gas is delivered directly into your home from underground pipelines as you use it. You’ll never have to worry about running low or storing fuel on your property.

• Abundant Domestic Supply –You’ll rest easy knowing that over 90% of our nation’s natural gas comes from right here in North America with no dependence on unstable foreign nations.

• Environment Friendly – Natural gas is a clean-burning fuel compared to other fossil fuels such as coal and oil. Choosing natural gas is better for the environment, because it helps avoid increases in pollutants, such as greenhouse gas emissions, acid rain, smog, solid waste, and water pollution.

• Versatile – Natural gas does more than heat your home:

- Gas water heaters are efficient and affordable.
- Gas stoves offer the fastest, most precise cooking temperature.
- Gas dryers dry clothing more quickly, so they use less energy and are gentler.
- Natural Gas fireplaces offer area heating and ambiance.
- Natural gas emergency generators keep your home running when you lose power.

Act now to ensure natural gas will heat your home this winter!

Call Now! It’s not too late to save all winter!

1-888-486-4345

WWW.UNITIL.COM/NATURALGASHEAT

MASSACHUSETTS GAS & ELECTRIC: 1-888-301-7700
MAINE GAS: 1-866-933-3821
NEW HAMPSHIRE GAS: 1-866-933-3820
NH CAPITAL ELECTRIC: 1-800-852-3339
NH SEACOAST ELECTRIC: 1-800-582-7278
You can also contact us online. Fill out our online form and we’ll respond to your request as soon as possible.
Visit us at: WWW.UNITIL.COM/CONTACT

GENERAL CUSTOMER SERVICE INQUIRIES

If you are happy, we are happy! Here is some helpful information from our Customer Service team. And remember, you can visit unitil.com anytime to track energy usage, review past payments and pay your bills right online!
JANUARY: CARBON MONOXIDE AT ITS WORST?

Don’t let the New Year bring new dangers to your home. January is an excellent time to re-educate yourself and your family, because while carbon monoxide is completely odorless and impossible to see, it is entirely possible to prevent!

- Be alert for symptoms:
  - Flu like illness, headaches, nausea or vomiting
  - Cherry-red lips
- Be alert for indicators:
  - Excess humidity or condensation
  - Stale indoor air
  - Soot/water collecting around appliances or vents
- When using a generator, make sure it properly vents outside
- Never use a charcoal or gas grill indoors
- Have all fuel burning appliances, flues, vents, and chimneys checked regularly

- Install and maintain carbon monoxide detectors

If you do experience symptoms, open windows and doors to get fresh air. Seek medical attention. Later, call your fuel supplier or licensed heating contractor for an emergency inspection.

IN THE UNITED STATES AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE DIE EACH DAY

*from carbon monoxide poisoning in the month of January —three times the fatality rate recorded in July and August*”

2008 STUDY BY THE FEDERAL CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Visit the OUTAGE CENTER!

WWW.UNITIL.COM/OUTAGE-CENTER

Prepare for the unexpected, get outage and restoration updates in your area, or find out more about how we restore power.

- Report an Electric Outage Online or call us toll-free at one of the numbers below.
- Gas Emergencies are serious. If you suspect a leak or have a Gas Emergency, call one of our toll-free hotlines below.

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<tr>
<th>GAS EMERGENCIES</th>
<th>ELECTRIC OUTAGES</th>
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<tr>
<td>ME: 1-866-900-4460</td>
<td>NH CAPITAL: 1-800-852-3339</td>
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<td>NH: 1-866-900-4115</td>
<td>NH SEACOAST: 1-800-582-7276</td>
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Follow us on Twitter for real-time outage updates.

WWW.TWITTER.COM/UNITIL

Like us on Facebook to get useful tips and information.

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/UNITIL

Visit the Electric Outage Map

Real-time, current system information.

View real-time updates as to current electric outages, customers impacted and percentage of customers affected in a given community. Visit the Outage Map online at: WWW.UNITIL.COM/MAP