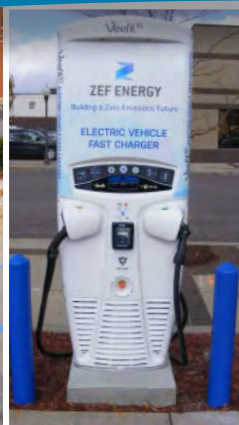




the municipal **Advantage**

PEOPLE...POWER.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020



New Electric Vehicle Chargers Added

New Ulm Public Utilities recently received a share of the Volkswagen air permit violation settlement and used five parking lot stalls in the City-owned parking lot at 1st North and Broadway for electric vehicles (EV). NUPU received one fast charger and two Level 2 chargers with the Volkswagen funds.



In addition to the three new EV chargers, NUPU has two additional Level 2 charging stations located at the corner of 2nd North and German Street across from the Utility office building. The two prior Level 2 charging stations were installed in October of 2017.

From the Twin Cities metro area, Indiana, West Virginia, and Texas, to name a few, numerous people from outside of New Ulm have utilized this EV charging station.

NUPU hopes' to see more visitors to the new EV charging station and while they are here, visit New Ulm and patronize our businesses.

Take Steps to Reduce the Risk of Frozen Water Pipes

Cold weather brings a chance of water pipes freezing and breaking. This risk increases with long stretches of extremely cold weather. Here are some tips to help avoid frozen water pipes in your home.



- Most water service lines enter the home in the basement. Make sure that the basement temperature is at least 55 degrees.
- Expose water pipes to warmer air by leaving cupboard doors open under the kitchen and bathroom sinks to allow heat to enter that space.
- Check for air leaks in your home that could freeze the water pipes.
- Monitor the temperature of your home's water by running the water in a sink closest to your water meter until the water is at its coldest temperature. For example, use a laundry sink in the basement. The water temperature should be

around 45 degrees in the winter. If the temperature drops below 40 degrees, your service line may be starting to freeze up.

- You can help prevent a service line from freezing by letting the water run from a faucet at 1 quart per minute. This would be a pencil size flow of water from your faucet. This results in a flow of about 5,400 gallons in one month and would cost about \$42 for the month above your usual water/sewer usage. The cost to have a contractor thaw a frozen water service is estimated at a minimum of \$400.

The risk of frozen water service lines will continue until the extreme cold passes and the temperature returns to normal levels.



NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES NEWSLETTER

newulmmn.gov • 507-233-2110

NOTICE! CHANGES TO REBATES STARTING JANUARY 1, 2021

\$
REBATE
center

Within the last year and a half, NUPU staff and an external source have been conducting internal and external audits on rebate programs. What was suspected and discovered was that while NUPU was doing an excellent job rebating back to customers, NUPU was not capturing the State-mandated savings from money rebated back to customers. Due to these findings, many rebates will be altered, and some new rebates may be added.

Many rebates and their

applications will be changing beginning January 1, 2021. Such a change is occurring with the Furnace Check and Clean rebate. Currently, \$40 is taken directly off your check and clean from the vendor, and that vendor is then reimbursed by NUPU. Starting in 2021, this rebate will be \$25, and the application must be submitted by the customers. Look for the most recent rebate forms and information by visiting www.newulmmn.gov.

Additionally, NUPU hired OPG-3 to assist with the development and implementation of fillable forms that can be submitted over the world wide web. Look for fillable forms sometime in 2021.

In you have questions regarding changes to rebates, please contact Derek Nelson at 507-233-2110 Ext. 401.



Visit newulmmn.gov or stop in to New Ulm Public Utilities office for the most recent rebate forms and information.

Keep Holiday Time Energy Use Under Control

DEREK NELSON
Energy Services Representative



The holiday season has begun and let the craziness begin! From an inflatable Santa Claus peeking out from a Port-a-Potty and holiday decorating, to family dynamics and food and gift shopping, these days can be a lot more hectic. While many things can seem uncontrollable during this time of the year, one thing that can be controlled is how much energy you consume. Many people will see an increase in their energy consumption during this time of the year due to factors such as holiday lights, cooking and baking, and guests in your home using resources such as showers and laundry.

With all the excitement occurring during this time of year, what can a person do to control or help with keeping energy use down without boycotting the festivities? Below is a short list of opportunities to control energy consumption during the holiday season. To find more opportunities, talk with others to see what they do or explore websites such as energystar.gov or the U.S. Department of Energy at energy.gov.

- ★ LED (light emitting diode) holiday lights are much, much more efficient than the incandescent lights that have traditionally been used. While, at times, LED lights can have an initial higher upfront cost, the savings can easily be captured when a person considers how long during a given night/season they are used. LED lights also last longer and are safer to use than traditional lights.
- ★ When guests arrive, be sure to turn down the thermostat. Many people in a single-family home will increase room temperature. Additionally, the stove/oven may also contribute to room temperature.
- ★ Since cooking was mentioned, use the oven light to check on foods being prepared. Frequently taking a “peek” by opening the oven door will reduce the heat within the stove. This action forces the oven to get back to the pre-set temperature, using more energy.
- ★ If using an electric stove top, make sure to use a pan that makes a contact with the stove top. Using a wobbly wobbly pan will increase cooking time and energy consumption.
- ★ Electronic gifts are always popular. If purchasing an electronic gift, see if it can be purchased with an Energy Star certification. Better yet, purchase gifts that do not use electricity or batteries.
- ★ Use timers on inflatable decorations and lighting. Five to six hours of showing off decorations is plenty of time for others to enjoy your scenery.



DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT STAFF SHARE
IMPROVEMENTS, PLANS,
ACTIVITIES AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS

highlights

New Meter Bar Installation Ensures Better Service

**DAVID
O'BRIEN**
SUPERVISOR
Gas
Department
Supervisor

The New Ulm Public Utilities Gas Department will be installing a new type of gas meter bar late this year or early 2021. This will coincide with our meter changes which we do every 10 years.

This new meter bar will allow us to change the gas meter with no interruption to the gas supply. What does this mean for you, the customer? Once a house has this type of meter bar installed, we will no longer need to schedule appointments to enter that house. Everything can be done outside.

This past summer we added two new district regulating stations that will provide a more stable line pressure during high demand periods.

We also increased the size of the regulators at our main regulating stations, the Hutchinson Interconnect located on the KC Road, and Goosetown station at Center Street and Valley Street.

We can now supply the natural gas for the entire city through one set of regulators, leaving the other set as a backup.

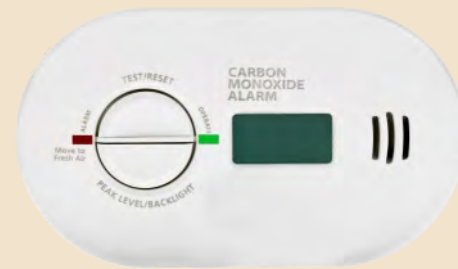


**LIKE &
FOLLOW
US ON
FACEBOOK!**

f Search City of New Ulm New Ulm Public Utilities, then like and follow. Keep up to date on employment opportunities, City happenings, NUPU rebates and money-saving tips, announcements, and other need-to-know information!

Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide, so make sure appliances are working correctly. CO can be generated from fireplaces, furnaces, generators, power tools, hot water heaters, cooking appliances, gas clothes dryers, charcoal grills, vehicles, and lawn mowers. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include: headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea, and fatigue.



Every year more than 400 people die in the U.S. from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning and nearly 5,000 others are treated for CO poisoning. CO exposure especially affects unborn babies, infants, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with anemia or a history of heart disease.

- 1) Have your furnace cleaned and checked, including chimneys and vents, by a qualified service technician.
- 2) Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home near your bedroom.
- 3) If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- 4) During and after a snowfall, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- 5) Gas or charcoal grills, kerosene heaters and generators can produce CO — only use outside.
- 6) Never use a gas range or oven for heating.

CO detectors are just as important as smoke detectors and should be installed in a central location near each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes, or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound. Test CO alarms at least once a month and replace batteries every year. CO detectors with a digital read-out and UL listed 2034 are recommended. For your safety, you may want to use a battery operated CO detector in your fish house also.

If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move everyone to a fresh air location and call the New Ulm Public Utilities Gas Department.

Emergency Gas or CO calls

During business hours: 507-359-8264

After hours: 507-359-8204

Anytime: 877-868-3636



MEETING NOTES

ENERGY AWARENESS

- Quorum not met. No meeting.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AUGUST

- Recognized Greg Kuehn, Assistant Supervisor at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, as Employee of the Month for July 2020.
- Home Purchaser's Frequently Asked Questions Brochure was established and approved.
- Joel Johnson, Operational Chief/Plant Operations in the Water/Steam Department, retired after nearly 30 years of service.
- 20th Street South Lift Station and Wastewater Treatment Plant Pump Replacement Project was approved.

SEPTEMBER

- Recognized Kevin Mathiowetz, Lead Heavy Equipment Operator/Welder in the Water/Steam Department, as Employee of the Month for August 2020.
- Received and order filed the Integrated Resource Planning Study from Black and Veatch Corporation.
- The 2021 Energy Assistance Program Agreement with MVAC (Minnesota Valley Action Council) was adopted.
- Changes to the NUPU CIP (Conservation Improvement Program) were approved.
- Authorized the City Manager to accept and sign the OPG-3 Statement of Work for energy rebate forms solutions in the amount of \$27,195.

Outstanding in Their Field

★ Employees of the Month

Tim Macho started his career with the City of New Ulm as a custodian in 2013 and transferred to New Ulm Public Utilities as the Metering Collector in 2015.

TIM MACHO
Metering
Collector
Administration
Dept.



Tim's job with the Utility is comprised of reading the meters for NUPU through the drive-by automated meter reading system.

He is also responsible for all service orders, such as move-ins and move-outs, re-reads, and shut-offs for non-payment. Shut-offs are a difficult part of the job, but Tim brings compassion and understanding that makes a difficult situation more manageable.

He has a calm and easygoing personality which helps him defuse situations. He strives for accuracy and detail, an important part of collecting readings which ensures customers get accurate bills. We are very lucky to have an employee such as Tim, and are thankful for his service.



KEVIN MATHIOWETZ
Lead Heavy
Equipment
Operator/Welder
Water Dept.

Kevin comes with a construction background and is a skilled heavy equipment operator with many years of experience, which is invaluable in the Water and Steam Department. He has been employed by New Ulm Public Utilities since October 2015.

Kevin can be counted on to come to work ready to dig. He holds a Minnesota class "C" water operator's certificate and has been working inside the Water Treatment Plant learning the skills necessary to be able to fill in at the plant when necessary.

Kevin is an employee who likes to joke with other employees and thus improves the work atmosphere.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES

Visit newulmmn.gov for details and to apply. Select CITY DEPARTMENTS and then HUMAN RESOURCES. To apply for an opening, complete an online application by clicking "Apply" at the top of the job announcement and then clicking "Create an account." You may access a free public computer at the New Ulm Public Library.



"It is great to have public owned utilities. Without it, there would be many who would have to go without. Better in numbers!"

—Mary Kissner

Public Power Week Winners



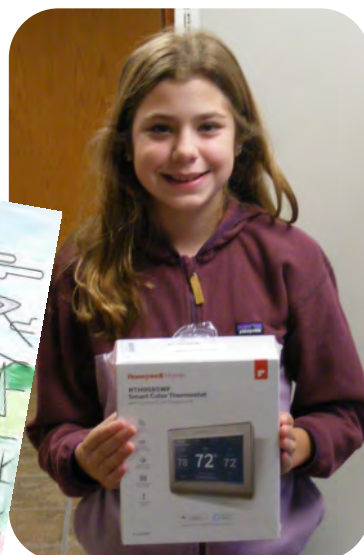
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NUPU did not hold a Public Power Week event this year. However, we still wanted to do something nice for our customers to celebrate the fact that we are community-owned and proud to provide exemplary service.

This year we held a contest to win a wi-fi smart thermostat. Entries either needed to answer the question "What are the benefits for customers and community

of having a publicly owned utility?" or submit a colored drawing that was attached within the September-October newsletter. A random drawing was done to select the winners.

The winner who answered our question was Mary Kissner. The coloring contest winner was Natalie Foster.

NUPU would like to thank all the customers who submitted answers and drawings for this year's Public Power Week event.



Natalie Foster

Gas Appliance Problems? CALL US FIRST!



The New Ulm
Public Utilities

Gas Department provides a service you may not be aware of. When you experience a problem with the operation of a gas appliance, call the Gas Department first at 507-359-8264 during work hours or 877-868-3636 anytime. We will send a service technician to make sure the problem is not with the gas supply, at no charge to you. After the Technician has checked the gas meter and regulator for proper operation, it may be necessary to contact a qualified repair person to service your appliance. We do not make any adjustments or repairs.

If you call an appliance repair person or plumber before calling us and the problem turns out to be the gas meter or regulator, you will not be reimbursed for the appliance service call.



"Rebate programs from New Ulm Public Utilities help us save money, energy and the environment! Plus we get cash back!"



● **PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT**
\$20 Rebate

● **ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES**
Clothes Washer \$50
Electric Clothes Dryer \$50
Dishwasher \$25
Refrigerator or Freezer \$30
Compact/Dorm Refrigerator \$10
Room Air Conditioner \$25

● **LED HOLIDAY LIGHTS**

\$5 in Chamber Dollars for the purchase of LED holiday lights costing \$5 or more per string. Maximum rebate of \$25 in Chamber Dollars



Take me to your Space Heater!

Despite what is said about some electric heater's exclusive design or space-age technology, **they will not save you money** on your heating bill. All electric space heaters have the same efficiency no matter the wattage or "futuristic" design. For New Ulm customers, heating with **natural gas and steam is the most cost-effective way** to heat your home.

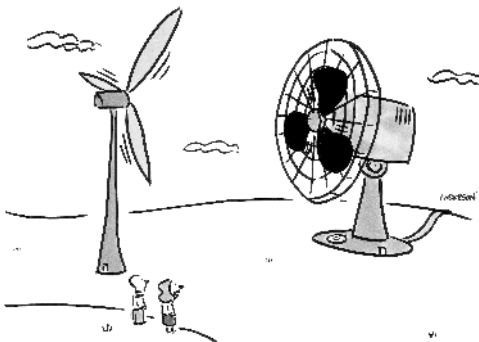
"A Watt is a Watt No Matter What!"



**HUMOR
POWER!**



"OK, who set the thermostat to 33?!"



"I dunno, kind of defeats the purpose, doesn't it?"

October Was Fire Prevention Week— It's Never Too Late to Have an Escape Plan.

Plan and Practice
your Escape™

Not every hero wears a cape.



Why is it important to have a family escape plan?

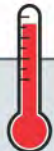
Fire is FAST!

In less than 30 seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill your home. Fire spreads too quickly and the smoke is too thick. There is only a short time to escape.



Fire is HOT!

Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. If you inhale this super-hot air, it will scorch your lungs.



Fire is DARK!

Fire starts bright, but quickly makes black smoke and complete darkness. If you wake up to a fire you may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find your way around your home.



Fire is DEADLY!

Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. The odorless, colorless fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door. You may not wake up in time to escape.



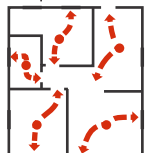
For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.

Our Home Fire Escape Plan



Fire department number: _____

Example



Outside meeting place



How to make a home fire escape plan:

- Draw a map or floor plan of your home. Show all windows and doors.
- Mark two ways out of each room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan.
- Write the emergency telephone number for the fire department on your escape plan.
- Practice your plan at least two times a year.



Just for FUN!

New Ulm Public Utilities encourages kids of all ages to learn about safety, saving energy, saving money, and environmental awareness.

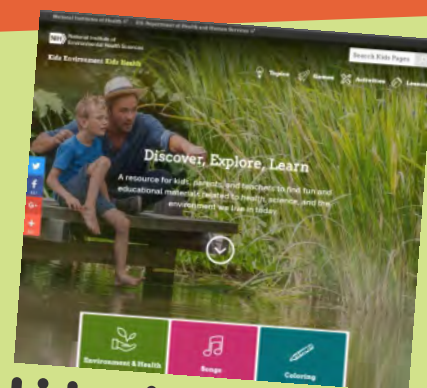
Find lots of interactive games, puzzles and activities for all ages on the following websites:



climatekids.nasa.gov



eia.gov.kids



kids.niehs.nih.gov



energystar.gov

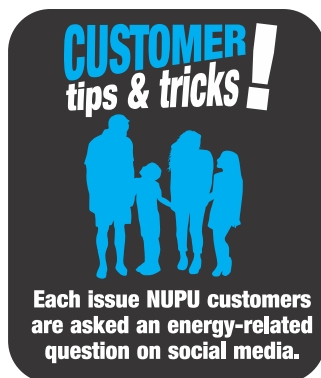


GREAT WEBSITES FOR KIDS

gws.ala.org

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO STAY COZY IN WINTER WITHOUT RAISING YOUR ENERGY BILL?

- ★ **Dena:** Visit relatives in Arizona.
- ★ **Lisa:** Cooking, baking, and a warm blanket.
- ★ **Fawn:** Hoodies, slippers and a lap blanket.
- ★ **Caci:** Hot tea and coffee, all times of the day.
- ★ **Katie:** My spoiled dog will bug me if the electric blanket isn't on. She paws at me until I follow her and she leads me to the chair with the electric blanket. She'll look at the chair, then me, then back at the chair. I'll turn the blanket on and she jumps up and wraps herself up in it.
- ★ **Lynda:** Extra blankets.
- ★ **Dee:** Light a few candles. The house will smell better and the flame puts out heat. Put on heavy clothes. Don't be afraid to wear fingerless gloves at home, especially if arthritis is a problem. Also get the humidity into the comfort range.
- ★ **Lorraine:** Wear a sweatshirt and drink some hot chocolate.



- ★ **Kelly:** Electric blanket!
- ★ **Cherise:** Warm blanket, snuggling with my kiddos, standing by the vents when the furnace comes on.
- ★ **Virginia:** Hot cocoa, hot tea, warm fuzzy slippers and fuzzy blankets. Bake cookies. Keep doors shut in rooms I'm not using.
- ★ **Becky:** Layers of clothes, a couple blankets, and my cuddly Westie, Nigel.
- ★ **Jenna:** Snuggle with my husband and have a drink.
- ★ **Debra:** Coffee and a blanket.
- ★ **Carolyn:** Make sure the blankets nearby are either wool or down-filled! Drink hot tea!
- ★ **Linda:** Instead of raising the thermostat I stay toasty warm covered with an electric blanket.
- ★ **George:** Stay longer in the fish house—it's warmer in there.
- ★ **Jerin:** We shut our doors to the rooms to keep them warmer.



New Ulm Public Utilities
310 1st North Street
New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MANKATO, MN
PERMIT 609



the municipal
Advantage

NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES
310 1st North Street

MAIN NUMBER	233-2110
Billings & Connections	359-8259
Administration	359-8264
Electric Distribution Dept	359-8295
Gas Dept	359-8289
Material Distribution Center	233-2134
Power Plant Chief Engineer	233-2128
Power Plant Operator	233-2129
Utilities Director	359-8264
Wastewater Treatment Plant	359-8360
Water/Steam Dept	359-8279
AFTER HOURS ALL CALLS	359-8204