



the municipal **Advantage**

PEOPLE...POWER.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023

NUPU Offers Additional Forms of Customer Communication

NUPU Facebook Page • Notify Me Module • Nixle Alert Notifications

In an effort for New Ulm Public Utilities (NUPU) to find an additional way to communicate with customers, we launched our own Facebook profile. We want this profile to be a location for customers to receive important information regarding utility rebates, energy saving tips, industry news, and happenings within the utility. We hope that everyone who has a Facebook account follows our page to receive important information in a timely manner.



notifications on any topic through a customized email and/or text message. The Notify Me module allows you to subscribe to email and/or text message notifications from the City/NUPU website Calendar, News Flash, Job Postings, Bid Postings, Alert Center, and Blog modules.

To sign up for the Notify Me module, create an account and find the Notify Me icon on newulmmn.gov, and make sure to be notified on what interests you the most.

Lastly, Nixle Alert Notifications is another means to receive information and alerts, such as emergency notifications, road closings, and other topics. Visit newulmmn.gov (type Nixle in search bar) or local.nixle.com/new-ulm-mn/ to sign up for Nixle Alert Notifications.



NOTIFY ME

If you do not have a Facebook profile and still want to receive important information from us. Consider creating an account on newulmmn.gov and utilize the Notify Me option. When utilizing Notify Me, the utility can send important

NEW ULM'S GOT TALENT! 2024 CALENDAR



New Ulm Public Utilities 2024 Conservation & Rebate Calendar will feature talented customers who paint, draw, sculpt, crochet, quilt, refurbish, restore, build, or otherwise create visual works of art. From dabblers, to amateurs, to professionals may submit photos of their creations.

Only high resolution digital photos will be accepted. If you have prints only of a former project, feel free to take a cell phone photo of the print.

All entries must include your name and brief description of the work (example: Watercolor portrait of Aunt Mary; Restored 1965 Thunderbird), along with any other details you wish to share.



● Email high resolution digital photos to:
DerekN@newulmmn.gov

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 13, 2023 • ANY NUPU CUSTOMER CAN ENTER INCLUDING CITY AND NUPU STAFF!



Follow
us on
Facebook!

NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES NEWSLETTER

newulmmn.gov • 507-233-2110

Overdue water bill? Water disconnected or scheduled for disconnection?

You may qualify to
have your bill paid off.



Apply for Minnesota's Energy and Water Assistance Programs



WHAT IS IT?

The Water Assistance Program pays the water/wastewater bill for eligible households.



WHO IS IT FOR?

Households who are currently disconnected from water/wastewater, or have a pending disconnection, or have a past due bill.



HOW MUCH CAN I RECEIVE?

You can apply for energy and water assistance with your local energy assistance partner. If you are eligible, you can get help with both energy and water bills.



AM I ELIGIBLE?

Household Size	Annual Income
1	\$30,572
2	\$39,979
3	\$49,386
4	\$58,793



mn.gov/energyassistance

- For more information visit:
mn.gov/home
- Para más información visite:
mn.gov/hogar
- Wixii macluumaad dheeraad ah,
booqo: mn.gov/guriga
- Yog xav paub ntxiv, mus saib:
mn.gov/tsev



1-800-657-3710

We want all households to feel safe when applying. We do not record or report the immigration status of any undocumented household members. If a household has a mix of citizens/eligible residents and ineligible residents—for example, those on student visas or undocumented—you may still be eligible for energy assistance, and we encourage you to apply.





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 seasonal temperatures increase.

**If problems arise during the day, call the Water Department at 507-359-8279.
After 4 p.m. call 507-233-2129.**

2023 Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship announced

MMUA is once again offering the Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship for graduating high school seniors who are headed to an accredited post-secondary institution. Started in 1994, the scholarship program was created to encourage young people to consider the value which the municipal utility brings to their hometown.



New Ulm Public Utilities is offering an additional local \$500 scholarship to high school seniors within our service territory. The local winning essay will be sent to MMUA which awards \$5,000 in scholarships through the program each year. The scholarship fund is split into four awards of \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000, and \$500 scholarships, and awarded to essay contest winners who plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution.

Students can submit a 500 to 750 word, typed, double spaced essay reflecting on one or more of the following prompts:

✓ **What is the benefit of a city maintaining local control of its utilities?**

✓ **How does your hometown provide reliable, sustainable, and affordable utility service?**

✓ **How does your municipal utility make life easier for its customers?**

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Students submit their essays to New Ulm Public Utilities. Deadline for submitting an essay to NUPU is April 1, 2023.
2. The local governing body of the utility picks a winning entry to enter the statewide contest, which is then judged by MMUA staff.
3. MMUA announces the four scholarship winners in mid-May.

Reach out to Christian Glanville from MMUA, 763-746-0727, or Derek Nelson from NUPU 233-2110, with any questions. Thank you for supporting this program!

Visit mmua.org/services/tom-bovitz-memorial-scholarship-program for more information.





DEREK NELSON
Energy Services
Representative

Home Energy Tips for Older Adults

Older adults and their family caregivers can take the following actions to stay warm economically and safely this winter season:

- **Find out about financial energy assistance programs:** Many states, counties and cities provide programs that assist older adults with winter heating costs. Your local Area Agency on Aging is a reliable source of information about available community programs and eligibility requirements. Ask about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the Weatherization Assistance Program, and other energy assistance.

- **Look for ways to cut down on winter energy use:** Easy steps to take include using storm windows or inexpensive stretch window film to keep out drafts, using a programmable thermostat to lower temperature automatically, changing furnace filters at least every three months to keep the warm air flowing, and weather stripping or insulating the attic hatch or door to prevent warm air from leaking out of the house.

- **Ensure your health and safety:** In addition to addressing the need to stay warm during winter, consider safety as well. Make sure that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are installed and working properly; water pipes are insulated to avoid freezing and bursting; electrical cords on space heaters are not damaged and do not pose a tripping hazard; batteries and battery-

powered flashlights are available; and a fire extinguisher is ready to use.

Source: Gail Gilman, Family Life Consultant, M.Ed., C.F.C.S. and Professor Emeritus – University of Minnesota at waldn001@umn.edu.

Deadline: May 31, 2023

Minnesota Valley Action Council
Opportunities for people and communities

Help your neighbor.
help your friends
help your family...

Fb: @MVACMankato

2022-2023
THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

A grant for income eligible households to assist in paying heating and electric bills.

Available to homeowners, renters who pay heating/electric costs and renters with heat included in their rent*

MVAC serves the following counties:
Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan

Hablamos español

* Crisis assistance is also available for disconnection notices, shut-offs, and no fuel emergencies.

Assistance with heating unit repairs is available to approved homeowners who have a no-heat situation.

Household income cannot be more than these income guidelines for 3 months:	
Household Size	Income
1	\$7,643
2	\$9,594
3	\$12,346
4	\$14,698
5	\$17,050
6	\$19,401
7	\$19,842
8	\$20,283
9	\$20,724

MINNESOTA VALLEY ACTION COUNCIL
"Community Action: Helping People. Changing Lives"
To request an application:
(507) 345-6822 | (800) 767-7139
Applications available for download at:
www.mnvac.org



Commercial and Industrial Rate Reclassification Changes

New Ulm Public Utilities (NUPU) recently finished the rate reclassification of commercial and industrial customers and has sent letters to customers changing rate classes.

A rate reclassification is conducted yearly during the last few weeks of January. A rate reclassification looks at a customer's usage from January through December of the prior year. All utilities NUPU offer are looked at to verify if reclassification is necessary based on customer usage/

consumption and the rate schedule approved by the New Ulm Public Utilities Commission.

Rate schedules for utilities can be found at newulmmn.gov/438/Utility-Rates-Fees-and-Charges.

A reminder to commercial and industrial customers: reclassifications are **done annually** and can **change** yearly based on usage. If **you** have questions on rates, call **NUPU** at 507-233-2110.





Making Our Homes More Efficient: Clean Energy Tax Credits for Consumers

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Who is eligible for tax credits?

A: Homeowners, including renters for certain expenditures, who purchase energy and other efficient appliances and products.

Q: What do consumers do to get the credit(s)?

A: Fill out IRS Form 5695, following IRS instructions, and include it when filing your tax return. Include any relevant product receipts.

Q: Are there limits to what consumers can claim?

A: Consumers can claim the same or varying credits year after year with new products purchased, but some credits have an annual limit. See the table above.

Q: How do consumers find qualified professionals to conduct home energy audits?

A: Visit energy.gov/energysave/professional-home-energy-assessments.

Q: What products are eligible for tax credits?

✓ Home clean electricity products

- Solar panels for electricity from a provider in your area.
- Home back-up power battery storage with capacity of 3 kWh or greater.

✓ Heating, cooling, and water heating

- Electric or natural gas heat pumps; electric or natural gas heat pump water heaters; central air conditioners; natural gas or propane or oil water heaters; natural gas or propane or oil furnaces or hot water boilers that meet or exceed the specific efficiency tiers established by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency. Eligible products here: cee1.org/node/729.
- Solar water heating products that are certified for performance by the Solar Rating Certification Corporation or comparable entity endorsed by the state government in which product is installed. See: solar-rating.org.

✓ Other energy efficiency upgrades

- Oil furnaces or hot water boilers if they meet or exceed 2021 Energy Star efficiency criteria and are rated by the manufacturer for use with fuel blends at least 20% of the volume of which consists of an eligible fuel. See: energystar.gov/products.

- Panelboards, sub-panelboards, branch circuits, or feeders that are installed according to National Electrical Code and have load capacity of 200 amps or more.
- Insulation materials and systems that meet International Energy Conservation Code standards. See: energy.gov/eere/buildings/building-energy-codes-program.
- Exterior windows that meet Energy Star's Most Efficient requirements. See: energystar.gov/products/most_efficient.

Q: What if I have questions about products, standards, codes or other eligibility referenced above?

A: Ask a trusted contractor, plumber, or electrician.

Q: Where do I get even more detailed information?

A: More information on the energy efficient home improvement credit and residential clean energy property credit is available for tax professionals, building contractors, and others at IRS releases frequently asked questions about energy efficient home improvements and residential clean energy property credits | Internal Revenue Service. See: irs.gov/newsroom/irs-releases-frequently-asked-questions-about-energy-efficient-home-improvements-and-residential-clean-energy-property-credits.

Equipment type	Tax Credit Available for 2022 Tax Year	Updated Tax Credit Available for 2023-2032 Tax Years
Home Clean Electricity Products		
Solar (electricity)	30% of cost	
Fuel Cells		
Wind Turbine		
Battery Storage	N/A	30% of cost
Heating, Cooling, and Water Heating		
Heat pumps	\$300	30% of cost, up to \$2,000 per year
Heat pump water heaters		
Biomass Stoves		
Geothermal heat pumps	30% of cost	
Solar (water heating)		
Efficient air conditioners*	\$300	30% of cost, up to \$600
Efficient heating equipment*	\$300	30% of cost, up to \$600
Efficient water heating equipment*	\$150	30% of cost, up to \$600
Other Energy Efficiency Upgrades		
Electric panel or circuit upgrades for new electric equipment*	N/A	30% of cost, up to \$600
Insulation materials*	10% of cost	30% of cost
Windows, including skylights*	10% of cost	30% of cost, up to \$600
Exterior doors*	10% of cost	30% of cost, up to \$500 for doors (up to \$250 each)
Home Energy Audits*	N/A	30% of cost, up to \$150

*Subject to cap of \$1,200/year



★ **AT YOUR SERVICE** Employees of the Month Honored

Mike has been a great asset to have in the Power Plant. The Utility was called by MISO to have generation on the steam turbines. With no one else available, Mike was able to get the turbines and cooling towers ready to be online by MISO's start time. With his knowledge and ability to get things done, this all went very smoothly. Mike also has been doing an excellent job with the new Maintstar system. Getting all our assets loaded into it so, down the road, things will be much easier to track. Mike's vast mechanical ability is invaluable to the power plant.



Greg started his career at the New Ulm Wastewater Plant as a helper in 1994. He was then promoted to a Class "D" wastewater operator in 1996, chief of maintenance in 2003, and his present position of assistant supervisor of the Wastewater department in 2008. Greg has an outstanding knowledge of all aspects of the plant. He displays great leadership and likes to share his wealth of experience with his cohorts. Greg is detail oriented, and that is displayed with his management, reporting and public relations of the Wastewater's bio-solids program.

MIKE FISCHER
Power Plant
Mechanic
ELECTRIC
PRODUCTION



GREG KUEHN
Assistant Water
Supervisor
WASTEWATER
DEPT.



EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT...



**New Ulm Public Utilities is
celebrating 120 Years of
Municipal Service!**

Watch upcoming newsletters for fun anniversary plans and events!



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

NUPU DECEMBER 2022

- Accepted bid on supply bulk diesel fuel and unleaded gasoline.
- Approved steam rates effective February 1, 2023
- Approved water rates effective February 1, 2023
- Approved wastewater rates effective February 1, 2023
- Adopted New Ulm Public Utilities 2023 budget

NUPU NOVEMBER 2022

- 2023 Schedule of Fees and Charges become effective January 1, 2023.
- Authorized infrastructure condition analysis of Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**So
FAST!
So
EASY!**



There's a new and faster way for customers to submit rebate applications. **Online fillable forms** are available for most rebates offered at newulmmn.gov. If a particular rebate is not available as a fillable form, a PDF of the application is still available on the website.

It is strongly encouraged to submit rebate applications through the online fillable form process. If a person is unable to use the fillable form process, due to lack of internet connection, or means of uploading an invoice, a paper submittal will still be accepted.

Vendors submitting rebate applications for customers must be submitting applications using the fillable-form process. Paper copies of rebate applications are meant for individuals who may not have computer access and/or a way to digitize an invoice.



TIME FOR SOME FUN!



Winter Word Search.

Find the words listed below and mark them.

R	C	L	B	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	Y
M	S	C	O	L	D	U	N	K	G	S	G
I	G	L	O	V	E	S	S	E	O	Q	N
S	A	A	N	W	F	R	O	Z	E	N	B
T	C	R	F	R	E	E	Z	I	N	G	A
Y	O	F	A	S	E	L	B	D	G	R	D
G	A	O	S	E	D	S	O	C	K	S	G
K	T	G	O	C	H	I	L	L	Y	E	E
P	A	G	B	I	T	S	C	A	R	F	R
T	Y	Y	M	J	A	C	K	E	T	D	G

COLD

JACKET

SCARF

FROZEN

FREEZING

COAT

SOCKS

MISTY

CHILLY

SWEATER

GLOVES

FOGGY



New Ulm Public Utilities Commission Members:

• Kim Williams • Sean Fingland • Shannon Hillesheim • Mary Ellen Schanus • Seth Visser



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
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023 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