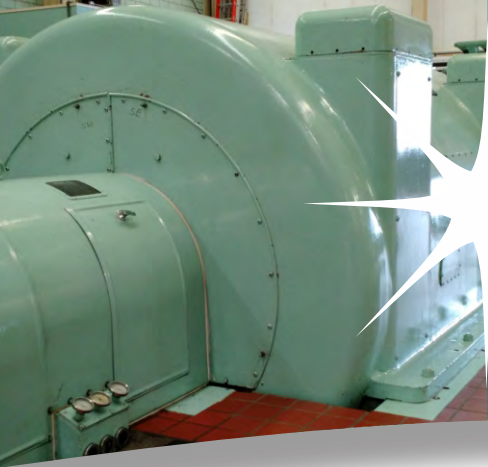




the municipal **Advantage**

PEOPLE...POWER.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

• NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES •

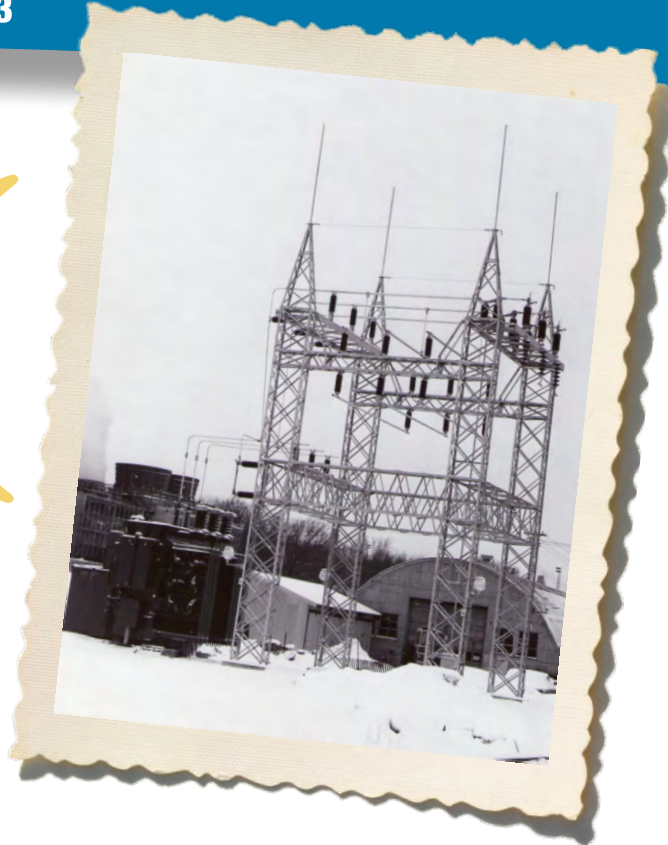


Thank you for 120 Years!

Thank you to our customers and the New Ulm community for their support for 120 years! We look forward to continuing to supply New Ulm with reliable energy services and exceptional customer services. The events celebrating our 120th anniversary were all well attended and showed us the importance of New Ulm Public Utilities' involvement in the community.

With that in mind, we have established a planning committee to explore ways to become an even larger part of the community. We hope to hold a family movie night again going forward and are excited to discover additional ways to show our appreciation to our customers.

This last newsletter of 2023, and the close of the year, brings us to the end of our anniversary commemoration –



but we're not quite done celebrating! Enter our final drawing for a chance to be one of **5 winners to receive \$100 in Chamber Dollars**. No trivia questions – just complete the entry slip below and return it to us by mail, email or in person by Monday, January 15, 2024. **Winners will be selected on January 29, 2024.** Any customer may enter!

WIN \$100 CHAMBER DOLLARS

ENTER TO WIN!

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email : _____ Phone: _____

ENTER TO WIN!

Email to: DerekN@newulmmn.gov and include the information above.
Please note **FINAL DRAWING** in the subject area.

Or mail/deliver to:
New Ulm Public Utilities
310 1st N St, New Ulm, MN 56073

Enter by Monday, Jan 15, 2024 - Must be a NUPU customer to enter.

Sept-Oct Newsletter Article Q & A Winners

Winners of NUPU Water Department article for our 120th Anniversary can pick up their prizes at the New Ulm Public Utilities office at 310 1st North Street.

Of the 64 entries the randomly drawn winners were:

• Norm Weiske • Shirley Jones • Ed Hubly
ReJean Buck • Sarah Steinbach



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NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES NEWSLETTER

newulmmn.gov • 507-233-2110



CELEBRATING 120 YEARS!



On October 4 New Ulm Public Utilities held its last in-person event of the year with a 120th Anniversary celebration at the Electric Distribution Department building. Vehicles, specialty equipment, and other devices were showcased. Many customers who

attended and enjoyed the event were treated to free hotdogs, soda, popcorn, and a can koozie. Free pumpkins were awarded as door prizes.

NUPU Electric Department also demonstrated a hurt man pole top

rescue on four different occurrences during the event.

Hotdogs and hotdog buns that remained after the event were delivered to the local food shelf the following day.

Thank you to those customers who attended this and other events during the past year.



Thank you!

Thanks to all who submitted art and other creative works for publication in our "New Ulm's Got Talent" Rebate & Conservation Calendar 2024 Calendar! Calendars should already have arrived in mailboxes.

Watch social media and upcoming newsletters for the 2025 calendar theme.

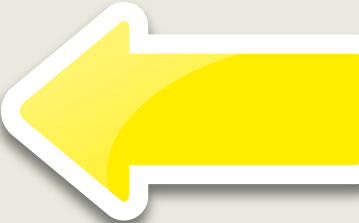


RESIDENTIAL ENERGY AUDITS

Interested
in an
energy
audit for
your
home?
**NUPU HAS
FUNDS
AVAILABLE**



To schedule an audit or for
more information contact:
Derek Nelson
DerekN@newulmmn.gov
507-433-2110 ext 401



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.
- ✓ If your service is prone to freezing or the temperature of the water is below 45, 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.



Renewable Energy Option Available

NUPU now has a renewable energy option for residential and business customers who wish to add renewable energy without the associated costs or are otherwise prohibited from these options.

The Clear Energy Solutions REC Program allows for the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) on behalf of participating customers. RECs are proof that electricity was generated by qualifying clean, renewable facilities such as wind and solar farms, and fed into the electric grid. This program allows us and our customers to support the development of additional renewable energy resources.

When you enroll, REC purchases will offset the portion of your energy that comes from fossil fuels, making your electric usage, in effect, 100% clean and carbon free.

You may select to replace 50, 75 or 100% of your electric consumption with renewable energy. As NUPU already purchases 25% renewable energy for customers, you would only purchase energy above that amount.

Forms and more details for the Clear Energy Solution REC (Renewable Energy Certificate) program is available at newulmmn.gov/567/Clear-Energy-Solutions.

**Or for more information contact:
Contact Derek Nelson, Energy Services
Representative at 507-233-2110, ext 401.**

Increase Efficiency and Save Money as Temperatures Plummet

DEREK NELSON
Energy Services
Representative



A cold winter can bring an equally cold reality: higher heat bills. This winter, keep your costs and energy use as low as possible by following these winter efficiency tips:

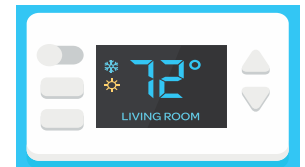
★ Have a heating system checkup and **change your filter** every month or two during winter.



★ Make sure there's **plenty of insulation** in attics and crawl spaces. Check the ductwork that's in your basement or attic. Air leaks in ducts can account for about 20 to 30 percent of wasted heat. If there are leaks or holes in your ducts, use sealant or metal tape.

★ **Check** for gaps and air leaks around doors, windows, outlets, etc. **Seal** these areas with caulk, sealant, weather stripping, etc.

★ Use a **programmable thermostat** to set your temperature lower when you're away to prevent energy waste from heating an empty house. Using a programmable thermostat can help you save about \$180 each year.



★ **Leave space** around heating registers so warm air can easily enter the area.

★ Consider **replacing older heating equipment** with newer, more efficient systems.

★ **Keep curtains open** to let direct sunlight heat the home **during daylight** hours. Remember to **close your curtains in the evening** to reduce drafts.

★ **Turn your water heater down** to the "warm" setting, or to about 120 degrees, to cut back on the energy waste and reduce the likelihood of scalds. Water heating consumes a higher percentage of heating costs than you might think, nearly a fifth.



Winter Tree Trimming Notice

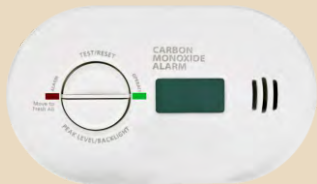
Beginning in mid-December, the Electric Distribution Department began their yearly winter overhead maintenance programs. These programs include tree trimming, hardware tightening and transformer protection upgrades.

When trimming trees around power lines as well as service lines, it is our practice to contact the property owner to discuss the extent of trimming required prior to starting the work. If the attempt to contact the property owner directly is unsuccessful, a tag will be placed on your door with information relating to trimming as well as contact information.

You may submit your questions as well as your permission to trim trees on your property to the Electric Distribution Department by email or by calling 507-359-8295.

SAFETY FIRST!

Every home should have a carbon monoxide (CO) detector in it. CO detectors are just as important as smoke detectors and should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that when accumulating over time can be fatal. **If your CO detector alarms, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door and call the New Ulm Public Utilities Gas Department.** We will send a technician to check the level of CO present and try to locate the source.



ENERGY PROGRAMS FACTS



The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a heating-based program that can help low-income households with a portion of their energy bills. Eligibility is based on household income.

Ways to Apply:

1. Mail pre-printed or blank applications
2. Email Applications to EAP@MNVAC.ORG
3. Fax application to 507-345-2414
4. Online printable application at: www.mnvac.org/programs/energy/
5. Visit mn.gov/home to apply online.

Program Year starts October 1, 2023, and ends May 31 2024.

Other MVAC Programs that assist with Energy Bills/Problems:

■ **EAP Crisis:** Extra benefits for crisis situations such as disconnect notices and running out of heating fuel are available for households that have received Energy Assistance.

■ **MVAC Energy Related Repair Program (ERR)**

■ **MVAC Weatherization Program**

Contact Sheila Ous / 507-345-2407 / sheila@mnvac.org

Or for detailed information and requirements visit:

www.mnvac.org/programs/energy/energy-assistance-eap-2/

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule

(CWR) is a state law that protects residential utility customers from having electric or natural gas service shut off between October 1 and April 30. To protect your service from disconnection you must make and keep a payment plan that you and your utility agree on.

★ REBATE FUNDS NOTICE

NUPU funds for natural gas rebates (furnace, furnace check and clean, programable thermostats) have been depleted. Customers may still submit applications for these rebate types. However, they will not be processed until the beginning of the 2024. Thank you to those who participated in our rebate programs. These programs help to save money and help lower overall utility costs.



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

Brandon started with the Electric Distribution Department in 2019 and holds a Class A Journeyman license. He has a positive attitude and is always willing to work with all co-workers to safely get a project done. Brandon works well with team leaders and has no problem stepping into the leadership role when asked. His experience is an asset to the department.

**BRANDON
DEVORAK**
Journeyman
Line worker
ELECTRIC
DISTRIBUTION
DEPT.



Charlie has demonstrated great organizational skills in helping with issuing, receiving and stocking inventory items. He is always willing to accommodate anyone, and willing to go beyond his duties to help others out. He brings a positive spin to all situations and has a pleasant personality to have at the Municipal Distribution Center, and is well-deserving of this honor.

**CHARLIE
HOFFMAN**
Storeroom
Helper
ADMINISTRATION
DEPT.



★ **MEETING MINUTES**

EAC November Meeting Minutes

- ✓ Received notification the Energy Services Representative spoke at Chamber of Commerce Hot Topics event in November.
- ✓ Received notification the Energy Services Representative spoke at New Ulm Forum discussion.
- ✓ Appointed Jordy Veit Chair of Energy Awareness Commission.
- ✓ Received report on approved submitted GreenStep Cities Best Practices 2.1, 2.5, and 2.3.

NUPU Commission October and November Meeting Minutes

- ✓ Received report on Wastewater Treatment Plant Infrastructure Condition Analysis.
- ✓ Authorize the approval of the quote provided by CDW-G for the purchase of a new Scale Computing Hypercore System
- ✓ Authorize the City Manager to accept the bid from Viking Electric for the Cooling Tower MCC replacement switchgear equipment.
- ✓ Authorize the City Manager to accept the quote from GE Grid Solutions, LLC for two (2) 69kV breakers.
- ✓ Authorize the City Manager to accept the quote from ITEC for a replacement spare PT.
- ✓ Authorize the City Manager to accept the bid from Border States Electric for the Cooling Tower MCC replacement switchgear equipment.



 **LIKE & FOLLOW NUPU
ON FACEBOOK!**

**Find the latest news and
announcements,
department information, rebate
information and forms, along
with employment
opportunities and more!**

LEAD SERVICE LINE LANDING PAGE

www.newulmmn.gov/564/Lead-Service-Line-LSL

NUPU has a new addition to their website. A Lead Service Line (LSL) landing page has been added to help provide useful inform to our customers. Information such as different piping material, health, and other information on what you can do to prevent lead in your home is included on this page.

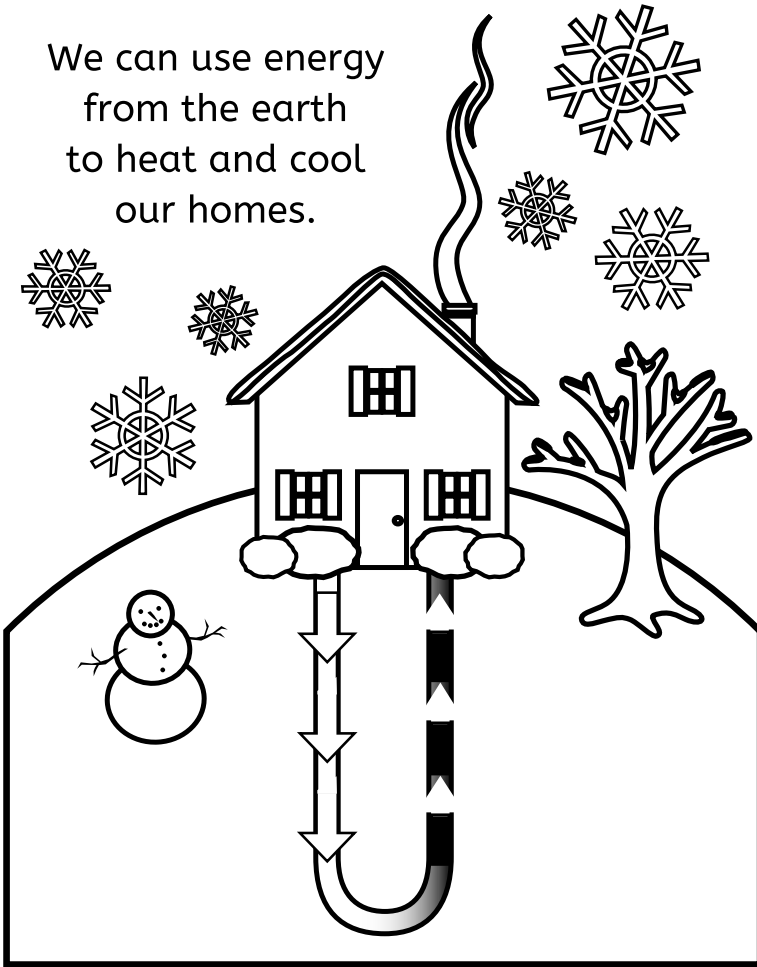


COLORING FUN!

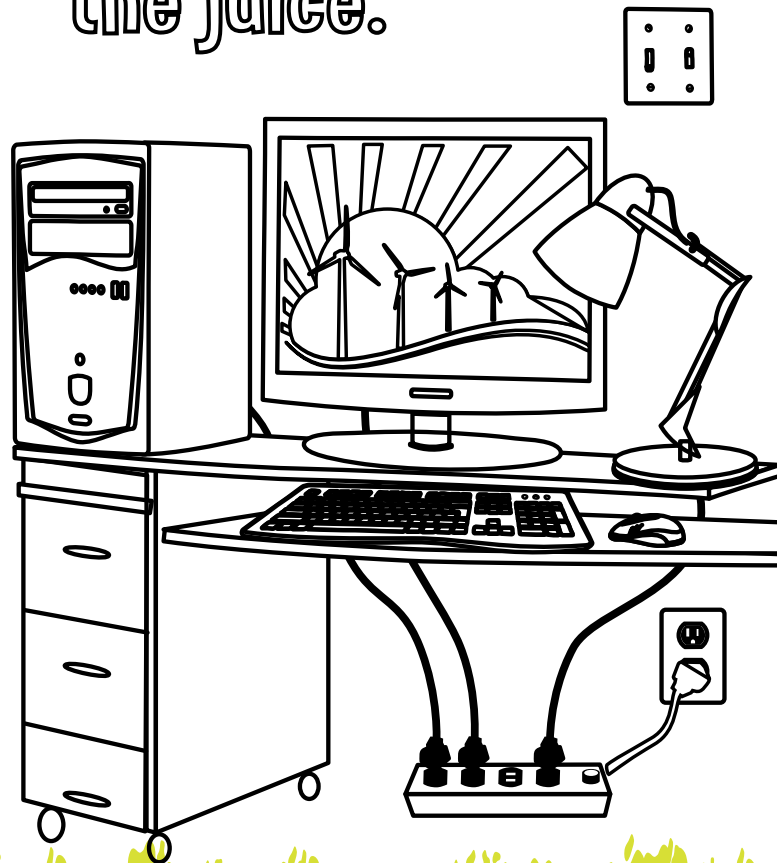


GEO THERMAL

We can use energy from the earth to heat and cool our homes.



Not in use?
Turn off
the juice.



ATTENTION PARENTS! Have your child color the pictures above and we will randomly choose some to be published in future newsletters as space allows.

Send a digital photo or art via email to: derekN@newulmmn.gov or mail or deliver to:

**New Ulm Public Utilities, Attn: Derek Nelson
310 1st N. St., New Ulm, MN 56073**



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
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 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