



the municipal **Advantage**

PEOPLE...POWER.

MARCH-APRIL 2025



HAPPY EARTH DAY

APRIL 22

Knowledge is power. Here is information that is helpful for you and your family to stay informed and make wise decisions.

Earth Day celebrates its 55th anniversary. There are many ways to celebrate, be involved, and make a difference for our planet on Earth Day and every day.

● **Shop locally.** Buy from local shops for clothes, buy from local craftspeople to accessorize your outfits and use a neighborhood tailor for adjustments if available.

Earth-friendly benefit: Buying clothes locally reduces carbon emissions from shipping while supporting your local economy.

● **Go natural.** Buy clothing made with natural fabric fibers instead of synthetic fabrics. Natural alternatives to synthetic fabrics include cotton, linen, bamboo, flax, jute, silk, wool, and alpaca. Also look into low impact materials such as Modal and Lyocell. Avoid polyester, nylon, spandex and acrylic. These materials are made from petroleum, a high-emission fossil fuel.

Earth-friendly benefit: You'll reduce the amount of microplastics in rivers and oceans that come from synthetic fibers that shed during washing.

● **Don't throw it out.** Donate. One person's trash is another's treasure. Donate unwanted clothing to thrift stores or local shelters instead of throwing them out.

Earth-friendly benefit: You'll divert waste from landfills while supporting your local community.

● **Shop secondhand.** Buy pre-owned clothing from thrift shops, consignment shops, vintage sources, and online resale shops.

Earth-friendly benefit: You'll be reducing impacts on the environment and waste from the overproduction of new merchandise.

● Bees play a massive role in pollinating the plants that we eat. A single bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers in a day. Approximately 75% of the world's crops depend on pollinators. In North America, bees help with the production of at least 90 crops.

● There are 20,000 distinct bee species around the world, with 4,000 of them in the United States alone. From 2006-2015, approximately 25% fewer species were found. Under the best scenario, thousands of

Continued to page 2...



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NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES NEWSLETTER
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...Continued from page 1

bee species have already become too rare. Ultimately, a decline in bee diversity driven by either increasing rarity or irreversible extinction will affect the pollination of wild plants and crops and have broader ecological and economic consequences.

● Microplastics in different forms are present in almost all water systems in the world, be they streams, rivers, lakes, or oceans. There is more microplastic in the ocean than there are stars in the Milky Way.

● Many animals at the base of the food chain eat microplastics. These animals are then consumed by larger predators, potentially leading to the accumulation of microplastics and associated contaminants up the food chain.

References:

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At times, frequent questions are asked by customers of NUPU throughout the year. Below are some of these questions with their explanation.



Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging

Q: I recently purchased an electric vehicle. Does NUPU have different rates for charging my vehicle?

A: Currently, NUPU does not have a different rate for charging an EV than anything else at your residence.



Q: What is the best time to charge my vehicle?

A: Some utilities may have a "Time of Use Rate" to encourage EV owners to charge their vehicle at a particular time of the day, such as, late at night and the early hours of the morning. NUPU however, does not have a "Time of Use Rate". As a result, a customer could charge their vehicle during any portion of the day at the same price.

Q: Will "Time of Use Rates" be established at NUPU for EV charging?

A: Currently NUPU is not looking into "Time of Use Rates". This could change at some point after our current PPA (Purchase Power Agreement) ends or is extended. NUPU purchases enough power to meet the city's electrical needs. If this changes, NUPU would likely consider "Time of Use Rates".

Q: Does the utility offer any rebates or incentives for installing an EV charging equipment?

A: NUPU does not currently have a program or incentive for customers installing an EV charging station at their home or business. This may change in the future, especially if a "Time of Use Rate" is established.

Q: Are there any public EV charging stations in New Ulm?

A: Yes, there are two stations on City-owned properties in New Ulm. These locations are located at 127 North German Street (across from German Park) and 2nd North Street (City Hall parking lot).



★ MEETING MINUTES

NUPUC February

✓ Received and order filed the presentation from Kris Swanson of Bolton & Menk, Inc. on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Plan.

✓ Conducted public hearing on Wastewater Treatment Plant facilities plan.

✓ Authorized the City Manager to approve the quote provided by Intradyn for a 2TB archiving Appliance with 3-year support.

✓ Authorized the City Manager to sign the proposal from HDR Engineering, Inc for general engineering services for 2025.

✓ Authorize the City Manager to accept the quote from R.E. Carlson for the replacement condensate pipe.

✓ Received and order filed the quote from Upward Hoist Installers LLC. for the replacement of the Water Department shop hoist.

✓ Authorized the City Manager to accept the proposal to develop a well rehabilitation plan for Wells 20 and 21 from Carlson McCain.

✓ Received and order filed the quote from Parallel Ag to purchase a 2025 Polaris Ranger XP.

✓ Authorized the City Manager to approve the purchase of a 2025 Ford F150 4x4 Super Crew XL Pickup from Chuck Spaeth Ford, Inc.

✓ Authorized the City Manager to accept the proposal from Electric Pump, Inc. for pumps and wet well piping and accessories, slab replacement, and mobilization and installation of the Indian Point Lift Station Complete Rehabilitation.

✓ Authorize the City Manager to accept the proposal from Bolton & Menk for the Repair of Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfalls.

✓ Approve the year-end budget carryovers for the year ended December 31, 2024.

NUPUC March

✓ Approved grade changes for exempt level positions.

✓ Authorized the City Manager to accept the state bid from North Country GM for a 2025 GMC Sierra 3500HD.

✓ Approved remaining year-end carry overs from December 31, 2024.

✓ Authorized the City Manager to accept the proposal from In Control, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA).

✓ Authorized the City Manager to sign the proposal from Power Systems Engineering (PSE) for the preliminary routing study for the Airport Industrial Park.

2026 REBATE & CONSERVATION CALENDAR Minnesota Vacation Memories

New Ulm Public Utilities 2026 Conservation & Rebate Calendar will feature your Minnesota vacation adventures. Any year is accepted, from childhood memories to recent trips to anywhere within the state. All seasons highly encouraged.



Submit high resolution digital photos or prints. If submitting prints, make sure they are identified as to whom they belong.

All entries must include your name, where the photo was taken in Minnesota, along with any other details you wish to share. If people are in the photo, naming them is optional.

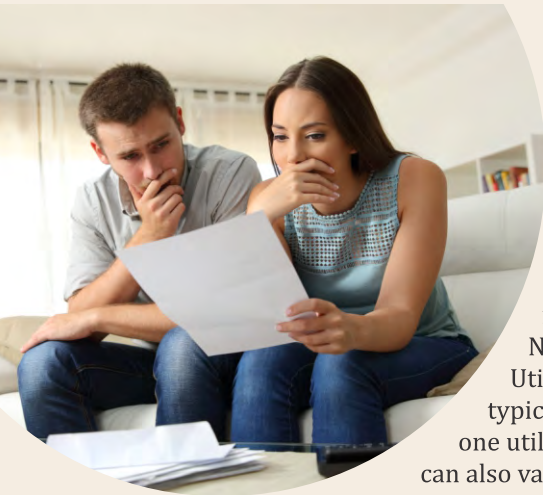
DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
ALL NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES CUSTOMERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.

- Email high resolution digital photos to:
DerekN@newulmmn.gov
- Mail or bring prints to NUPU office:
310 1st N. St., New Ulm, MN 56073

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Before you begin any excavation project, call your Gopher State One-Call Center at 1-800-252-1166 or 811 for locate requests. This service is available to you, free of charge, so that you are aware of any underground utilities before you dig.





Taking the Confusion Out of Your Utility Bill

Utility bills can be confusing no matter what community you live in. Utility bills from New Ulm Public Utilities (NUPU) typically have more than one utility on its bill. This can also vary depending

whether the bill is for a renter, homeowner, or a business. However, most utility bills generally have water, wastewater, natural gas, and electricity on the statement. Other bills, such as for an apartment rental may only have electricity, depending on what is included in the rent.

The example on the right hand page is designed to help you understand a NUPU residential utility bill. Let us first look at the items in **RED LETTERING**. These items are what a customer is paying for (water, gas, electricity, and wastewater) and are collected by the utility. To help the utility know where assets are located, each meter is given a number that is specific to a location until it is removed for servicing or upgrades. On your utility bill the column in **GREEN** is your meter number for each utility having a meter at your location. Meter numbers are not random and are generally stamped, engraved, or printed on a sticker located on the meter from the manufacturer.

The purpose of any meter is to track the usage of the customer for proper billing. Each month data is collected from the meter and compared to the previous months read to calculate the usage. Your usage from each meter is located on the bill in **BLUE LETTERING**. Some individuals may notice that subtracting their previous usage from their current usage does not equal the consumption listed on the bill. Why is that the case? This is caused by the usage multiplier, which is colored **ORANGE** on this bill.

Usage multipliers are used to properly calculate actual consumption of energy (electricity) or volume (water) and scale down large numbers. Take for instance the usage multiplier of "1" on the water portion of the utility bill. The number "1" represents 1,000 gallons of water. Since water is billed in 1,000-gallon increments, a consumption such as "5" on the water portion of your bill equals 5,000-gallons used. Residential electric meters also have a usage multiplier of "1" but represents 1 kWh (kilowatt hour) used (1:1 ratio).

Below is a list of items already discussed and other items within the utility bill.

1. **Water Base Charge**- monthly fee for water meter replacement or upgrades to meter.

2. **Water Usage Charge** is for every 1,000 gallons used during a billing period.
3. **Gas Base Charge**- monthly fee for gas meter replacement, upgrades, and damaged meters.
4. **Gas Usage Charge** is for natural gas used per month and is billed in CCF (one-hundred cubic feet).
5. **Fuel Adjustment Charge**- calculated monthly and based on the monthly purchased gas from NUPU supplier which also includes commodities and transportation cost. This fee can be either increased or decreased each billing month by the amount that the actual purchased gas rate exceeds the base rate per CCF of gas which is built into rates.
6. **Btu Adjustment**- This charge is for the heat content of the natural gas. Btu (British Thermal Unit) is a measurement of the heating value of natural gas. The heat content of natural gas can change depending on the consumer demand of other elements within natural gas. If other elements such as ethane, butane, propane, etc. are extracted during purchasing it effects the heat content, which effects the Btu adjustment on a bill.
7. **Electric Base**- charge for meter replacement and upgrades.
8. **Electric Usage**- electricity used during a month in kWh (kilowatt hour).
9. **Energy Acquisition Adjustment (EAA)**- calculated for electric rates on an annual basis. The EAA is calculated using the projected fuel and purchased power costs for the year as determined by our budget. The energy charge is increased or decreased by the projected annual cost of energy purchased from our suppliers.
10. **Wastewater**- Wastewater sent to treatment plant during the month per 1,000 gallons. This fee is calculated during November through April so irrigation, water of gardens, etc. are not factored into the calculation.
11. **Public Safety Light**- Taken from electric meter charge when established and reduced electric meter charge. Collected by but not utilized by the utility. This fee bypasses NUPU and goes directly to the City of New Ulm for streetlights.
12. **City Water and Sewer Infrastructure Charge**- Helps pay for aging underground pipes that are used by customers which eventually need replacement. This fee bypasses NUPU and goes directly to the City of New Ulm.
13. **Mandatory MN Water**- State mandated fee from the State of Minnesota. This fee bypasses the NUPU and goes directly to the State of Minnesota.
14. **Sales Tax**- Bypasses NUPU and goes directly to the city, county, and state agencies.
15. **Storm Sewer**- Bypasses NUPU and goes directly to the city. Used to sustain the future maintenance and development of the storm water utility infrastructure.





New Ulm Public Utilities
100 N BROADWAY
NEW ULM, MN 56073
(507) 359-8259

Residential Customer
1111 East St.
New Ulm, MN 56073

*Bill Example

Account Number	AMOUNT DUE
01-111111-01	\$252.00
Due Date	After Due Date Pay
3/5/2025	PAID BY DRAFT
Account Name	
Residential Customer	
Service Address	
1111 East St.	
Amount Enclosed	

☐ To enroll in automatic bill payment from your checking or savings account, please check the box and complete the form on the reverse side.

CUSTOMER ACCOUNT INFORMATION - RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS

Service Address	Account Number	Bill Date
1111 East St.	01-111111-01	2/18/2025

Service		Meter Numbers	Current Reading 2/3/2025	Previous Reading 1/1/2025	Usage Multiplier	Rate	Charge
1	WATER BASE						19.00
2	WATER USAGE k/gals	40361720	807	804	1	3.80	11.40
Total Water							\$30.40
3	GAS BASE						10.00
4	GAS USAGE	4304577	5554	5438	1.12	.78892	102.56
5	ccf FUEL ADJ					-.08531	-11.09
6	BTU ADJ						8.49
Total Gas							\$109.96
7	ELECTRIC BASE						12.25
8	ELECTRIC USAGE kwh	69702318	70407	69824	1	.1174	68.44
9	ENERGY ACQ ADJ					.02959	17.25
Total Electric							\$97.94
10	WASTEWATER k/gals						13.38
11	WASTEWATER BASE						15.00
Total Sewer							\$28.38
12	PUBLIC SAFETY LIGHT						5.50
13	CITY WATER INFRASTR...						5.50
14	CITY SEWER INFRASTRU						5.50
15	STORM SEWER R						3.25
16	MANDATORY MN WAT...						0.81
Total Miscellaneous							\$20.56
MN Sales Tax							\$8.15
Actual Total Bill							\$295.39
AMP Adjustment							(\$43.39)
Payment Due							\$252.00
ACCOUNT BALANCE							\$0.00
Payment Due 03/05/25							\$252.00
PAID BY DRAFT							
Reserve Balance			\$377.62				

If you'd like to pay over the phone, using your debit or credit card, please call 1-833-309-4326. Thank you!



★ AT YOUR SERVICE

Employees of the Month Honored

Joe Weber has his first class journeyman license and has been employed by the New Ulm Public Utilities Electric Department for over five years. Joe works well with his co-workers and is very safety conscious. He is willing to help where he is needed and this was demonstrated when other Communities were needing mutual aid. Joe stepped up when called to go. Joe is an asset to the Electric Department.

JOE WEBER
Journeyman
Line Worker
Electric
Department



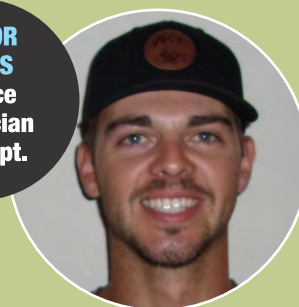
Janeen is a valuable member of our team in the Power Plant, and shows this in many ways. Her experience and knowledge help make her and excellent trainer of new boiler workers as they get their footing in the plant. Her abilities to help in the lab, or to assist the Operator when it is needed are assets as well. Always on time, being willing to fill in when needed, and her good attitude make Janeen a well-deserving recipient of this honor.

JANEEN ALLEN
Boiler
Operator
Power Plant



Baylor has done an excellent job of completing his required Operator Qualifications certificates, and his Class A Commercial drivers license in a timely manner. Baylor is always ready to help with a project and is eager to learn more about the operation of the department. His plumbing skills are also very valuable to the department. I appreciate his hard work and his effort to make the department a better place to work. Baylor is very deserving of this award.

BAYLOR KRAUS
Service
Technician
Gas Dept.



Leyton Ludewig Interns with NUPU

New Ulm Public Utilities has teamed with the "Intern Experience" class at New Ulm High School (NUHS). We welcome Leyton Ludewig to the Electric Distribution department.

Leyton is a senior at NUHS and is planning on continuing his education in the electrical field.



**"Rebate!
Rebate!"**

Former AC Install Rebate is Now Central AC and Mini-Split AC (Cooling Only) Rebate

To keep up with MN State Statues, utility conservation improvement programs (CIP) need to be altered every year, or every few years. As central air conditioners (AC) and mini splits become more efficient, and minimum SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) requirements increase, so do minimum requirements for issuing rebates.



The newly named Central AC and Mini Split Rebate (Cooling Only) not only has changed by name, the minimum requirement for both a Central AC and Mini Split has changed. **The new minimum requirement is 16 SEER2. Additionally, the EER2 (Energy Efficiency Ratio) will also need to be entered into the rebate form.**

All requirements to submit a rebate, whether electric or natural gas, are needed to either issue funds for an eligible rebate, and to calculate kWh, kW, or Dth savings.

If you are a customer who purchased an ASHP (air-source heat pump) which functions as both cooling and heating. A PDF rebate form is available at newulmmn.gov.

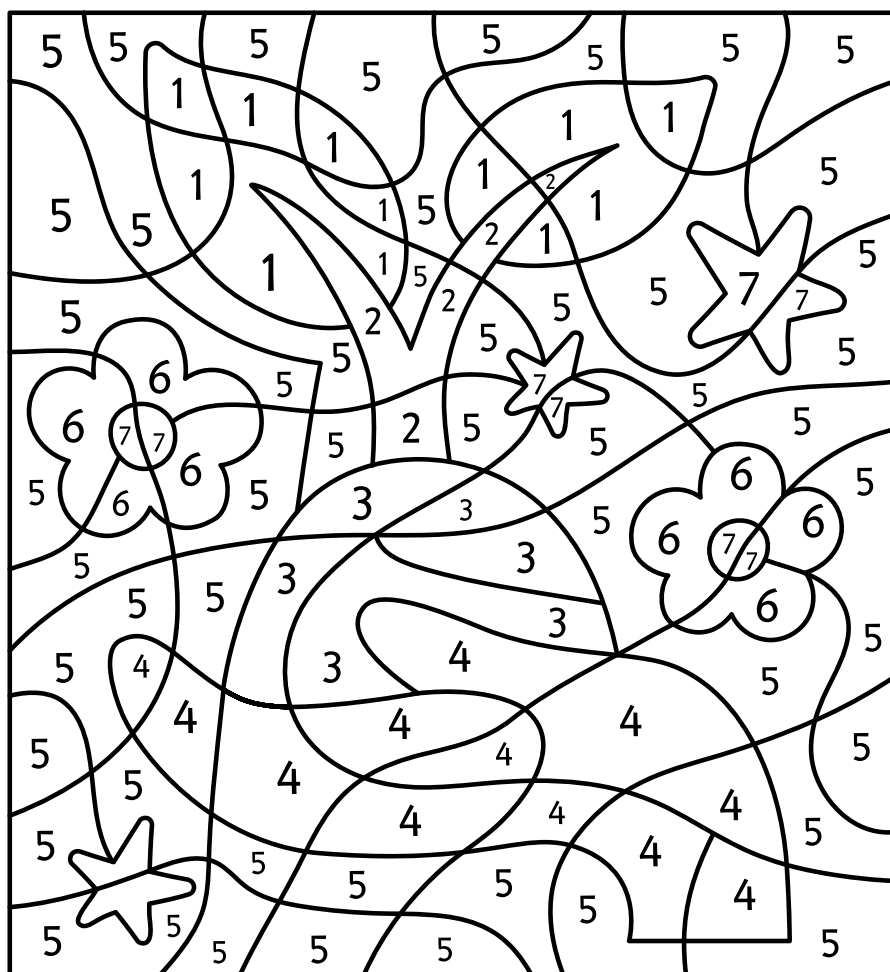
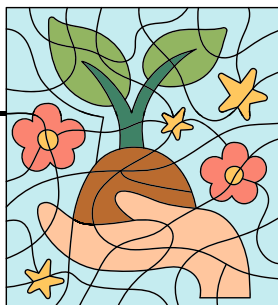


★ FUN ★ TRIVIA ★ FACTS

EARTH DAY FUN!



COLOR BY NUMBER



THOMAS EDISON
from Jan/Feb issue.
colored by
Kate Beranek

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

Send a digital photo of 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
310 1st North Street
New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

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PERMIT 609



the municipal
Advantage

NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES
MARCH-APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



**“Rebate!
Rebate!”**

**NUPU has on-going rebates year 'round!
See inside, visit newulmmn.gov, call 507-233-2110
EASY ONLINE APPLICATION!**

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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