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MAY-JUNE 2025

New Ulm Benefits from GreenStep Cities Program

The City of New Ulm has been a participant in the GreenStep Cities Program since 2021. This initiative is a free and voluntary program created by the state of Minnesota to help cities achieve various sustainability goals. The primary advantages of achieving these objectives include enhanced community health and quality, improved ecosystem health, economic resilience, and significant long-term cost savings. The program includes 29 best practices, each comprising 4 to 8 actions. Actions are evaluated based on a star rating system, with 3 stars representing the highest rating. Recognition is awarded in Steps, ranging from 1 to 5. To advance to the next level, a compilation of specific actions or reports related to the best practices must be submitted. Currently, the City of New Ulm is at Step 2 and is actively working towards advancing further. So far, 38 actions have been completed, with 13 of those accomplished in 2025 alone.

New Ulm has received recognition for several remarkable actions deemed unique and outstanding by the GreenStep Cities Program:

■ Between 2018 and 2021, 20 lighting upgrades led to initial savings



of 49.1 kW, 152,819 kWh, and \$18,211, with an average payback period of 3.4 years.

■ In the sector of transportation New Ulm was recognized as bike-friendly city in 2017.

■ Regarding environmental management, the New Ulm Public Utilities offered tree rebates for energy conservation, resulting in over 318 trees receiving a total of \$32,688 in rebates (data from 2011-2019 only). A tree inventory encompassing over 9,000 trees was compiled, including both public trees and voluntary submissions from residents, facilitated by mailings from a GreenCorps member.

■ The New Ulm Community Garden, founded in 2013, offers 70 plots on city-owned land.



■ The 'Rec on the Go' initiative provides free activities at various locations in collaboration with Community Education.

■ Pollinator Park Events aim to raise awareness and foster a healthy environment for both pollinators and residents by engaging with the pollinator park, which is situated on unused city land and maintained by volunteers.

■ Since becoming a WaterSense Partner in 2019, the community has promoted water conservation and related products through various events and programs, leading to the purchase of over 350 sink aerators, with additional units distributed for free.

■ Other 3-star-rated actions include the installation of 2 EV-charging stations and the implementation of public transit through the Heartland Express.

Read more about New Ulm's accomplishments in the GreenStep Cities Program under greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/city-detail/12312.



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NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES NEWSLETTER
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NUPU Welcomes German Intern Lexane Fourre

How did you come to be an intern here in New Ulm?

The state of Minnesota has a program called Climate Smart Municipalities (CSM) which my University (FH Muenster) is part of. Through that relationship I and 11 other engineering students from the FH Muenster were given the opportunity to do an internship in Minnesota.

Where are you from and what is your background?

I was born and raised in a town near Duesseldorf called Neuss in Germany, but my parents are both French.

What year are you in at college and what is your major/focus?

I am in my first year of my master's degree in chemical engineering with a focus on chemical processing.

What do you do at New Ulm Public Utilities (NUPU) as part of your internship?

My main project is the participation in the Green Step Cities Program, which is a guide to make the city more sustainable. But in order to get a well-rounded experience here at the NUPU, I get the opportunity to explore many departments.

What information and knowledge to you bring to NUPU?

I have a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering where, for instance, I learned about wastewater management. I also worked at 3M Germany for 4 years where I gained a lot of experience in different fields.

How does NUPU benefit from you being here?

Having grown up in Germany and being influenced by the French culture, I offer a fresh viewpoint to the NUPU, drawing on my experiences and insights as a European, and a student.

How do you benefit from interning at NUPU?

I'm gaining a lot of knowledge beyond my career field, which I believe is crucial for my future. Plus, I'm meeting a diverse range of people from various backgrounds who offer me valuable perspectives and guidance.

What do you enjoy most about working at NUPU?

From the very first day, I felt warmly welcomed in the workplace. Everyone took the time to show me around and patiently answered all my questions, while also showing genuine interest in learning about Germany.

Have you encountered any cultural challenges?

Initially, the language barrier was challenging, but I found it improved quickly. Overall, the lifestyle here differs from Germany, particularly regarding plastic usage, which I'm still adjusting to.

What do you like about this community?

It feels like everyone knows each other, and there's always something to do around the city. I find it amusing to spot all the German influences in an American city.

Anything surprise you about Americans?

The people here are incredibly friendly and welcoming. I had heard that Minnesotans are particularly kind, but I was still surprised when a cashier at the grocery store asked if I found everything I needed.

What activities have you done with your host family since coming to Minnesota?

I went to a meat raffle with my host mom, which I had never heard of before. I also went fishing with my host brother, and I was surprised to find out that they release the fish back into the water instead of keeping them to eat. However, the highlights for me were a Wolves game at Target Center and a trip to Duluth with the other German students.



★ MEETING MINUTES

NUPUC April

✓ Receive and order filed the quote provided by TSG for Aurora Endpoint Defense by Arctic Wolf

Receive and order filed the report regarding New Ulm's Electric System Reliability Standards and Performance for 2024 and acknowledgement of the 2024 Certificate of Excellence in Reliability from the American Public Power Association

✓ Authorize the City Manager to accept the proposal from Bolton & Menk for the engineering and design of the Sanitary Sewer Force Main

✓ Receive and order filed the quote from Vessco Inc. for DeZURIK Butterfly Valves

✓ Authorize the City Manager to accept the quote from Traut Companies for cleaning and redevelopment of wells 20 and 21

NUPUC May

✓ Schedule a joint City Council/Public Utilities Commission information meeting at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 17, 2025, in

the City Hall Council Chambers to discuss the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024.

✓ Receive and order filed the purchase of a Synology Rackstation from TSG 39 - 41 Server & Storage Inc.

✓ Authorize the City Manager to accept the quote from VLCM for Phase 2 installation of the Verkada security camera system on NUPU facilities.

✓ Authorize the City Manager to accept the proposal from S.E.H. for preliminary engineering services for a water main crossing Junior Pioneer Park.

✓ Approve the professional engineering proposal by PSE, Inc for the replacement of the Center Street Substation Transformer and the option to update the SPCC plan after install of the transformer.

✓ Approve participation and expenses for the Energy Services Representative to participate in the Region Nine Development Commission's Delegation to the Aachen Region of North Rhine Westphalia June 22 - 28, 2025.

CREATE AN ACCOUNT ON NEWULMMN.GOV AND INCLUDE "NOTIFY ME" OPTION

When customers, vendors, and residents utilize Notify Me, the City of New Ulm and New Ulm Public Utilities can send important notifications on any topic through a customized email and/or text message.
Visit newulmmn.gov to learn more!

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.

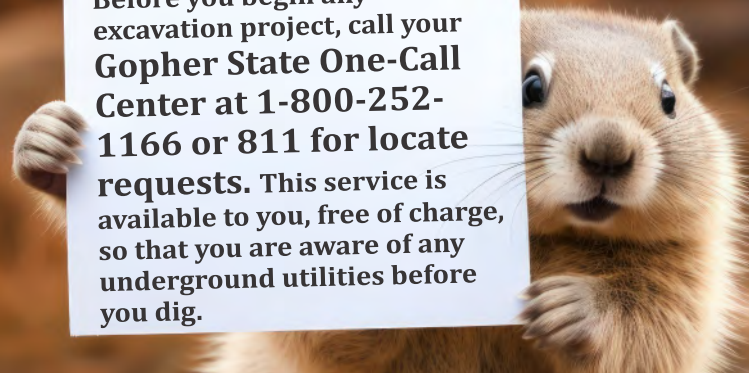
All entries must include your name, where the photo was taken in Minnesota, along with any other details you wish to share. If people are in the photo, naming them is optional.

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.



The Power Plant whistle blows faithfully each day at noon, 1 p.m. and 10 p.m. Whistles throughout the years have been an important tool used in communicating to its citizens. In the early 1900s it communicated important times of the day like waking hours, dinner and curfews. It is a tradition that has changed many times through the years.

Here is an article from July 11, 1906, in which the whistle was used in helping get their families home in the evenings at reasonable times:

Mayor's order goes into effect. Saloons cut down expenses by closing at eleven.

Men woke from their slumbers and uttering precautions upon the shortness of the night reluctantly arose and set about their daily avocation.

The crowing cocks announced the return of another day, and the busy world unmindful of the fact that the saloons of New Ulm had the first taste of local restriction, pulsating in the heart of midsummer, carried on this business without ajar.

For the first time in the history of this city the saloons were required to close their doors at eleven o'clock by order of the mayor and the assistance of the police, though there was nothing for the police to do as it appears the owners of the saloons were glad to get away and fight mosquitoes under their own vine and fig tree.

There is little and probably will be little resistance to the order of the mayor. Certain places will find it hard to carry on their business at certain times, but it is doubtful if they will try to circumvent the order or violate the law.

The curfew for the children is nine o'clock. When the whistle blows, those who are under age know that it is incumbent upon them to get to their homes as fast as their legs will carry them.

The curfew for the men is now fixed at eleven o'clock, and the good wives who have waited until the small hours of the night for the return of their lord and master, may now expect to have him return before she has the supper dishes washed and the children put to bed. This getting home early may wear on her nerves some but she will have to discover some way by which she can make the



man of the house useful at home for that period of time he will have to miss at the usual place of his rendezvous.

There is no doubt but that the mayor means business and will assist the wives of the city in attempting to have men home as early as the law will permit. He is not the kind to make an order and then sit back and let it work if it will and if it won't let it die. He has a way of coaxing these things along that is very effective if persisted in, and, the results will be watched with interest.

Mayor Silverson received a memorial from a number of the saloonkeepers and business men of the city yesterday morning expressing their appreciation of his efforts to have the saloons close and hoping that he would persist in compelling them to obey his order.

The whistle was used for several years to dispatch the volunteer fire department. The town was divided into four wards. Each ascending and descending tone represented which ward the fire was in, and the short blast represented which section of the ward. It was discontinued in the mid-1970s when the firemen got pagers.

It's a tradition from earlier times used to help citizens unite their families at a reasonable hour.

Thanks to the Brown County Historical Museum for providing this history.

HISTORY OF THE WHISTLE

The power plant has three whistles. One is blown at noon, and a different one blows at 1 p.m. They use the two different whistles so citizens can determine what time it is by the sounds. The whistle that blows at 1 p.m. is the same one that is blown at 10 p.m. The third whistle is used for civil defense and storm warning.

Through the years the whistles have been used for many other reasons such as fires, business closing times and curfews.

In 1919, the Eagle Mill installed a steam whistle that was sounded at 6, 6:30, and 7 a.m., then at noon, 1 and 6 p.m. When the mill was sold in 1954 the new owners donated the whistle to the City of New Ulm.

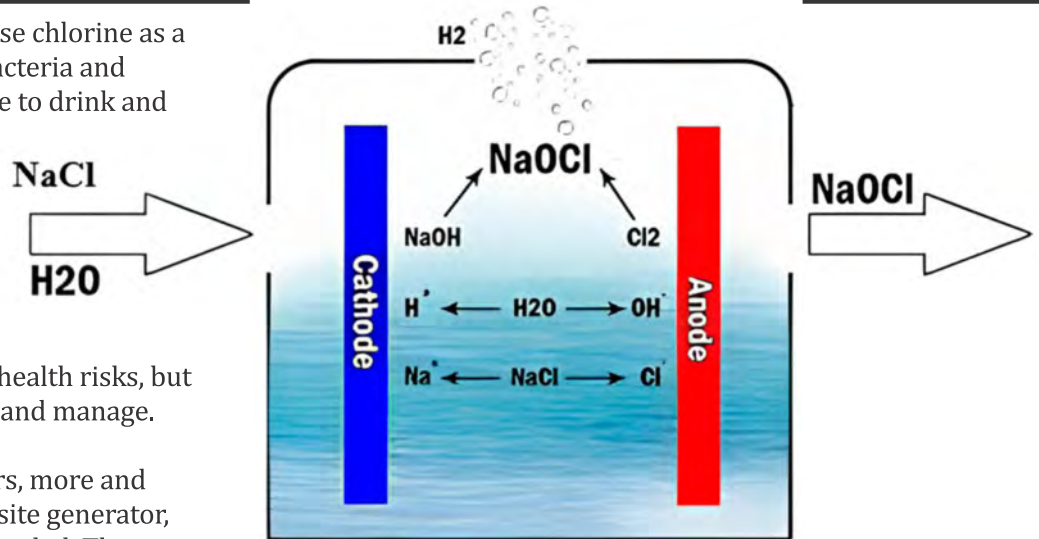


NUPU Installs Onsite Hypochlorite Generator

Many water purification facilities use chlorine as a disinfectant for pathogens like bacteria and viruses to ensure the water is safe to drink and follows state guidelines. Chlorine can either be supplied as a gas or in liquid form as sodium hypochlorite.

Chlorine gas has some safety and health concerns and therefore most cities are looking into using sodium hypochlorite. Sodium hypochlorite too poses safety and health risks, but since it is in a liquid form, easier to handle and manage.

To avoid being reliant on chemical suppliers, more and more communities are switching to an on-site generator, generating hypochlorite right where it is needed. The process of creating sodium hypochlorite is very simplistic since it uses a combination of a brine solution made from food grade salt, soft water and electricity. Once these three are combined in the process they are converted into sodium hypochlorite and hydrogen gas as a byproduct. The process can have a salt consumption that can be as low as 2.8 kg/kg and electricity consumption 4.4 kWh when making the solution. Since it is a liquid, it can then directly be fed into the treatment process with a simple chemical pump.



The main reasons why the water plant of New Ulm decided to install such a generator were safety and the ability to not rely on chemical suppliers. Once hypochlorite is made the solution has a concentration of .08%. To put it into prospective common household bleach has a concentration of 5-9%. So even if there is a leak the safety risk is minimal for employees.

SOAK UP THE RAIN

The next time it rains, grab your umbrella and take a walk. Watch where the rain goes.
Does it soak into the ground? Does it flow across the lawn?
Does a downspout send it down the driveway to the street and down a storm drain?
What can you do to reduce the runoff from your property?



Rain barrels capture water from a roof and hold it for later use such as on lawns, gardens or indoor plants. Collecting roof runoff in rain barrels reduces the amount of water that flows from your property. It's a great way to conserve water and it's free water for use in your landscape.

For more information from the EPA on how to "Soak Up the Rain" go to:
<https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/what-you-can-do-soak-rain>

HEAT UP THE GRILL

TO SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER

Using your grill in the great outdoors helps lower your energy bill. When you cook outside, less energy is needed to cool your kitchen, as well as saving by not using appliances.



★ AT YOUR SERVICE

Employees of the Month Honored

Earl Allen has been employed at the New Ulm Wastewater Plant since 2003, starting as a part-time laborer. Earl was hired as a helper in 2006 and now has a Class B Wastewater license and a Type IV land application license. He is a reliable employee and gets along well with his cohorts. Earl is always willing to help whenever and wherever he is needed.

EARL ALLEN
Wastewater
Operator
Wastewater
Treatment
Plant



Riley has just completed the Northwest Line College Apprenticeship program and is now a card-carrying Journeyman Lineman. Riley has a positive attitude and has studied on his own time. He has advanced in his skills as a lineman and is a valuable asset to the distribution team.

**RILEY
REDING**
Lineman
1st Class
Electric
Distribution



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

As mentioned in our last newsletter, to keep up with MN State Statutes, 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.



KEEP YOUR COOL!

✓ CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING CLEAN & CHECK

Must be performed at locations connected with electric service supplied by New Ulm Public Utilities and be performed by an HVAC professional.

REBATE AMOUNT:

\$40 credit to your utility account.



10 ways to prepare your home for Summer Vacation

Once you have packed your bags, get your house ready for vacation too.

1. Set or program your thermostat to 85 degrees.
2. Unplug small appliances and electronics.
3. Turn your natural gas water heater to low.
4. Turn off your electric hot water heater.
5. Use light timers or smart lighting.
6. Ensure your sump pump is operational.
7. Clean out your refrigerator.
8. Pause your mail.
9. Make sure doors and windows are locked.
10. Let a neighbor know your plans.



How Does Your Garden Grow? ...With Pollinators!

By Deb Steinberg
Caretaker
New Ulm Pollinator Park

A pollinator garden is a garden that is planted predominately with flowers that provide nectar or pollen for a wide range of pollinating insects. The greatest reason to have a pollinator garden is to attract nature's beauty to your own property but also to help stop the decline of pollinators.

Agriculture is directly dependent on pollinators, especially bees, for producing more than one-third of our food products.

The Monarch butterfly is a great example of severe population decline. Monarch butterflies are becoming less common and people are afraid they will disappear forever. One of the reasons for the decline was the eradication of milkweed. Now people are planting milkweed, which is the only food the Monarch caterpillar eats. A pollinator garden with milkweed will attract the beautiful Monarch butterfly. Thousands of backyard gardens can make a big difference in stopping the decline of pollinators.

To create your pollinator garden, there are five basic steps.

1. Plan your garden. Different pollinator plants like different conditions. Some need six hours of sunlight while others can survive in shady spots. What is your soil like? How well drained is your site? Do you have a water source for your new seedlings and plants? What variety of plants will provide a food source throughout the growing season for immature and adult butterflies and bees? Do some research online, at your library, or at a gardening center. Many local nurseries sell native plants which will attract the most pollinators. For a list of nurseries selling native plants go to www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html.

2. Prepare your site. Remove sod and/or weeds. Rake area to provide a smooth surface to plant. Another method is to lay cardboard down over the lawn area where you want the garden, cover it with mulch and water regularly. The following spring the area will be ready to be



planted by making holes in the mulch/cardboard for started plants.

3. Plant seeds or started plants, also called transplants or plugs. Plants will respond quicker than seeds. Native plant seeds often require special treatment such as moist refrigeration in order to germinate, so it can be a good idea to plant seeds in the fall. Scatter seeds by hand on the soil surface, lightly rake them in and pack it down with your feet.

4. Prevent the spread of weeds and allow sufficient sunlight to reach your pollinator plants. Water as needed.

5. Patience is required! It will take a year or two for your garden to be established and bloom.

The New Ulm City Pollinator Park, located at 2250 N. Broadway, has a wonderful variety of pollinator plants and educational signage along the walking path.

I am happy to say that after the development of the New Ulm Pollinator Park, several schools, businesses, and home owners have planted their own pollinator gardens and are learning the importance of pollinators first hand. Future plans are in place to officially

declare New Ulm a Pollinator Friendly City and to highlight six undeveloped park areas that support pollinator friendly habitat for the public to explore.

The New Ulm Pollinator Park started with a simple monarch butterfly project at our local preschool. We were studying the monarch's life cycle and I happened to find a few monarch caterpillars on some milkweed in a field, and brought them to our classroom. Soon the caterpillars transformed into chrysalis and we "patiently" waited the 10 to 12 days for the butterflies to emerge. While we waited, I researched where we could possibly take a field trip to release the butterflies near a field of flowers, so they could feed and build up their strength for their upcoming migration to Mexico. After a few failed ideas, I was offered the possibility of utilizing an undeveloped park area in New Ulm.



Ultimately, the New Ulm Park and Recreation Commission and the New Ulm City Council unanimously approved the undeveloped park area to be designated as a Monarch Butterfly Preserve and Pollinator Park. With the help of two local DNR specialists and a grant from National Pheasants Forever Youth Pollinator Habitat Program, we were able to design and prep a planting area and purchase over 1,000 native pollinator plants. There are several hiking trails in the now 22-acre park. Volunteers remove weeds and trim/mow undesirable grasses and plant new native pollinator plants yearly. Joe and Julie Gartner are also key caretakers at the Pollinator Park.

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
MAY-JUNE 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