

## *Princeton power plant preparing for new federal air regulations*

In 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ruled on the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE). This ruling affects five engines here at the Princeton power plant and will be enforced beginning in May of 2013.

In order to comply with the new regulations and operate the engines as we have in the past, a few modifications need to be made. The most significant and costly modification will be the addition of Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOC), which reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 70 percent, while also reducing other hazardous air pollutants.

Along with the DOC the engines must also be retrofitted with crankcase filtration systems. These filter any pollutants out of the crankcase gasses that in the past were vented to the atmosphere without treatment. The ruling also includes a number of additional maintenance and performance testing provisions.

On January 3, construction of the crankcase filtration systems commenced on four of the engines, with completion expected later this month. Installation of Diesel Oxidation Catalysts is slated to start in mid February.

## *Save money when you recycle*

Princeton Public Utilities offers free recycling of fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) to our customers.

CFLs use less energy and last longer. When they do burn out, don't dispose of them with your household trash. These bulbs contain a small amount of mercury and it is illegal in Minnesota to place them in the garbage.

Bring them to our office during regular business hours. We work with a recycler to dispose of them properly.

## *Ideas to save energy this winter*

- Seal up air leaks with weather stripping.
- Replace furnace filters, and keep air ducts or radiators clear of furniture.
- Consider setting the thermostat down to around 68 degrees. You can install a programmable thermostat to lower temperatures when you are away at work, or at night.
- Open drapes on the south side of your home during the day to take advantage of the sun's free solar heating—close them at night to retain this heat.
- Winter brings more hours of darkness so consider installing compact fluorescent bulbs—they use up to 75 percent less electricity than incandescent bulbs.

# The Connector

Princeton Public Utilities

## *You can help us manage supply, keep costs as low as possible*

Utilities have a responsibility to meet the electricity needs of their customers. That is true when demand is low in the spring and fall or at maximum peak during hot summer months. When electricity use peaks, utilities have two choices: they can provide more power or find ways to reduce that demand. We have a number of ways to do both.

Peaking power plants, like our local plant, can start generating electricity on short notice in emergencies or to boost supply during times of peak energy use. On the other hand, programs like load management allow us to lower demand, which saves everybody money.

You can help better match electric supply and demand by shifting use of some electric appliances away from peak hours. Generally this means using them prior to mid-morning or after 8 p.m. This is particularly helpful on very hot summer or very cold winter days.

## Save money with our residential rebate program

Would you like to save some money this year? Princeton Public Utilities and Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) provide programs that not only help our customers use energy wisely, but also save you money!

Offering residential rebates is one way we pursue our state energy conservation goal.

Here are our 2013 residential rebates:

- **ENERGY STAR® CFLs** - \$2 or 50% of CFL cost, whichever is more
- **ENERGY STAR CFL Light Fixtures and Ceiling Fans with Lighting** - \$15 per Fixture
- **ENERGY STAR LED Light Bulbs** - 50% of LED bulb cost up to \$15
- **ENERGY STAR LED Light Fixtures** - 50% of LED fixture cost up to \$20
- **ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioners** - \$25 + up to \$25 for recycling of your old working unit
- **ENERGY STAR Refrigerators and Freezers** - \$25 + up to \$50 for recycling of your old working unit
- **ENERGY STAR Dishwashers** - \$25
- **ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers** - \$50
- **ENERGY STAR Dehumidifiers** - \$65 (requires Trade-In of your old working unit)
- **Central Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pumps** – \$100-\$200 base rebate +

bonus rebate for higher eff.

- **Ground Source Heat Pumps** - \$200 per ton + bonus rebate for higher efficiencies
- **New for 2013! Advanced Main Air Circulating Furnace Fans** on new residential furnace installations - \$125

## Scholarship program offered

The Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) has budgeted \$5,000 for its Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship Award program. The scholarship fund is split into various prizes and awarded to essay contest winners who plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution.

High school seniors, whose parent(s) and/or guardians are municipal electric utility customers are eligible for the contest.

Every municipal utility may enter one local essay contest winner to the state contest. Contact your high school guidance counselor or us for more information.

## Watt's in the kitchen?

We'd like to try something new and fun for our customers. Please send us one of your favorite dessert recipes. If it's printed in *The Connector* next issue we'll credit your account \$5.00. Please mail to Princeton Public Utilities, P.O. Box 218, Princeton MN 55371 or email to: [princetonpuc@gmail.com](mailto:princetonpuc@gmail.com)



## Did you know?

• In Federalist Paper No. 31, Alexander Hamilton said that, just as state governments should not tax the federal government, the federal government should not tax the states. Such an assessment would deprive the taxed government (including local government) of the means of providing for its own necessities. Wisely, Congress has left intact the tax exemption on interest earned on state and local government bonds.



- The first municipal bond was issued in 1812.
- Since the enactment of the federal income Tax Code in 1913, interest paid on such bonds has been exempt from federal tax.
- The interest cost on tax-exempt bonds is typically 25 to 30 percent lower than that for taxable bonds. For a major infrastructure project, that can mean huge savings.
- Analyses of 2007 default rates on municipal and corporate bonds by Standard & Poor's showed default rates of 0.29 percent for municipal bonds in all rating categories, compared to default rates of 12.98 percent for corporate bonds.