

'Be Bright' this fall with reduced pricing on energy efficient bulbs

Be Bright this fall! Through December 31, while supplies last, our residential electric customers are eligible for reduced pricing on ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). We've partnered with participating retailers, including our local Ace Hardware and Marv's True Value, to offer CFLs for as little as 99 cents each!

ENERGY STAR-rated CFLs use 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent light bulbs, but less watts doesn't mean less light! Today's CFLs produce bright light at less cost to consumers and businesses because they use less electricity and last longer than incandescent bulbs—saving time and money on replacements.

By replacing the five most-used bulbs in your home with energy-efficient CFLs, you can save about \$35 in energy costs during the first year alone. CFLs also produce about 75 percent less heat than incandescent bulbs. This improves safety.

With the wide range of CFL shapes, sizes and styles now on the market, consumers



can find an energy-efficient bulb for every situation and enjoy reduced energy costs all year long.

While these financial savings are a big draw for consumers, CFLs also offer environmental benefits to help make our community a little greener.

Remember, supplies are limited so get your discounted CFLs before they sell out! (Discounted CFLs purchased during this promotion *are not* eligible for our CFL rebate program.)

**Visit us online at
princetonutilities.com**

For more about your utility's energy efficiency and rebate programs, visit us online at www.princetonutilities.com

We offer numerous efficiency programs for both commercial and residential customers. We are here to work with our customers and help you use energy wisely.

We have a website but also take pride in being a local business. You can contact us with a phone call to 389-2252 or stop by our office at 907 1st Street.



The Connector

Princeton Public Utilities

Join us for Public Power Week

We are once again celebrating Public Power Week, Oct. 6-12. Refreshments will be served all week and we will also have a number of drawings.

Princeton Public Utilities is one of more than 2,000 municipal electric utilities across America. We exist to serve our fellow citizens by saving them time and money, and by protecting their homes and environment so all community members can enjoy life with family and friends.

Princeton Public Utilities is one of 125 municipally-owned utilities in Minnesota. Rochester is the largest and Whalan the smallest. We have provided electric and water service since 1911.

We purchase our power at wholesale from the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, of which we are a member, and distribute it locally. We maintain and operate a local power plant for times of emergency and as a hedge against high wholesale market prices.

Severely past due accounts to be certified to county auditor

The City of Princeton and its Public Utilities Commission provide sewer, water and electric service to the city. Unfortunately, some customers do not pay for these services in a timely manner. Failure to collect these fees results in higher rates for other customers.

Because of that, and under state law, the City of Princeton has adopted an ordinance that allows it, in cooperation with the Princeton Public Utilities Commission, to certify severely past due sewer, water, and electric bills to the county auditor for collection. This collection is made with the subsequent year's property taxes due against the property for which past due billing is owed.

The PUC will prepare the list of severely past due sewer, water, and electrical customers who failed to make their final payment after Sept. 1 of each year.

A letter is sent to the property owner (not the renter) advising of the delinquency and if the balance is not paid in full the amount due on that date will be certified to the county auditor for collection with the following year's taxes. The certified amount includes an amount equal to one year's interest and penalty.

Trouble paying your bills? Call us sooner rather than later

Bills can pile up just like snow. But the **Minnesota Cold Weather Rule** is designed to protect people who may have trouble paying their utility bills in winter. The Cold Weather Rule applies from October 15 to April 15. Under the rule, your utility cannot disconnect your residential electric service during the winter if the customer meets the following requirements:

- utility disconnection would affect the customer's primary heat source;
- the customer has declared inability to pay on forms provided by the utility or is receiving any form of public assistance;
- the household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median income level, as documented; and
- the customer's account is current for the billing period immediately prior to October 15 or the customer has entered into a payment schedule and is reasonably current with payments under the schedule.

Local agencies may be able to provide payment assistance. Call the county in which you live or Lakes and Pines at 1-800-832-6082.

If you are going to have trouble paying utility bills, contact us at 389-2252 to arrange a payment schedule. We'll try to help.

Watt's in the Kitchen?

Thank you to Vera Heins for submitting her recipe for Carrot Bran Muffins. She will each receive a \$5 credit on her utility bill.

Carrot Bran Muffins

2 ½ c. white flour
2 ½ c. All Bran cereal
1 ½ c. sugar
2 ½ t. baking soda
1 t. salt
½ c. vegetable oil
2 eggs
2 c. butter milk
1 ½ c. fine shredded carrots
1 c. chopped dates
1 c. raisins or cran raisins
1 ½ c. chopped walnuts

In large bowl combine flour, cereal, sugar, baking soda & salt. In another bowl whisk oil, eggs and buttermilk. Stir into dry ingredients. Then add carrots, dates, raisins and nuts. Spray muffin cups with cooking spray. Fill muffin tins with batter 2/3 full. Bake at 400 for 18-20 minutes. The batter you won't use store covered in refrigerator for up to 7 days. Makes 30 muffins.

To enter our next *Watt's in the Kitchen* please send your favorite "Fall" recipe, whether it be soup or a favorite pumpkin recipe. If it's printed in *The Connector* we'll credit your account \$5.00. Mail to Princeton Public Utilities, P.O. Box 218, Princeton MN 55371 or email to: princetonpuc@gmail.com