

Princeton Public Utilities now offers a variety of online services

We are excited to announce that our customers can now view their bills online as well as make payments!



It's EASY and SECURE!

Create account to make online payment, use energy saving tools.

Go to www.princetonutilities.com and start by clicking: PAY HERE
Click on: Sign Up Now – Create an Account.

You will be prompted to enter your information as it appears on your utility bill and then enter a password. Do not leave spaces between account numbers. Once you have done this you can log onto your information anytime from home or your mobile device and:

- ✓ View your current bill just as the one mailed
- ✓ View your previous bills
- ✓ Make a payment now or schedule future payments
- ✓ Sign up for paperless billing and receive your bill by email

Once you set up an account, you can access a variety of energy saving tools.

- ✓ View your usage this year vs. previous year
- ✓ View your usage in comparison to other utility customers
- ✓ Click on Home Energy Analysis: Check the energy usage in your home and see how much you are spending and how you can save
- ✓ Click on Appliance Calculator and see how much that appliance is costing you at current rate
- ✓ Receive Energy Saving Tips

Most everyone wants to save money by improving the energy use of their homes and businesses but many don't know where to start or what improvements will have the most impact.

This information is to help you better understand how you are using energy and then give you the tools and advice to help you save money.

Remember to 'move over,' or stop

'Move Over' traffic laws were created in honor of first responders who have been struck and killed in the line of duty. Minnesota has also seen workers in construction sites killed by passing traffic. If you see flashing lights or orange cones, slow and move over. If traffic is too congested to move over safely, slow down below the posted speed limit and be prepared to stop.

The Connector

Princeton Public Utilities

Recycle Your Holidays™ at Princeton Public Utilities

Princeton Public Utilities is a site that offers free holiday lights recycling. Residents can drop off their unwanted light strands and electric cords at Princeton PUC office during the holiday season.

The program is offered by the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) to help Minnesotans recycle their old holiday lights instead of throwing them away.



The program employs over 200 individuals with developmental disabilities at vocational centers throughout the state of Minnesota. Every bulb of the light strand is dismantled by vocational center clients and then properly recycled in Minnesota.

Wholesale electric rate hike causes PPU rates to increase

Princeton's wholesale power supplier—the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA)—in October announced its first wholesale rate increase in six years.

The rate we pay for power will increase 6 percent. Our wholesale power bill is about 65 percent of total operating expenses, so this will affect our rates.

We will not be raising rates 6 percent but in the range of 3 to 4 percent, beginning February 15, 2016.

The main reasons for the increase are changing wholesale market conditions, a diversification of SMMPA's generating mix (including wind and natural gas-fueled electric generators), increased debt service, and other escalating business costs.

Increased investment in transmission facilities to ensure reliability and more wind energy is also a contributing factor.

SMMPA has also invested in transmission projects that will provide a future economic return. That will help offset some of the upward pressure on transmission costs.



PPU and SMMPA — Partners in Power

Princeton Public Utilities generated all of its own power locally, up until the mid-1970s. At that time the economics of power generation changed. To keep competitive, we helped form and joined the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA).

SMMPA partnered with NSP and owns a 41 percent share of the Sherco III power plant in Becker, the newest, most efficient coal-fired generating facility in the Midwest. SMMPA generates and sells reliable wholesale electricity to its 18 non-profit, municipally-owned member utilities, and develops innovative products and services to help us deliver value to our customers.

Along with Sherco III, the agency's energy resource mix includes various renewable energy sources such as wind, biodiesel and waste-to-energy, and an array of standby generating units at member utilities.

SMMPA members are located throughout the state, but most are in southern Minnesota. SMMPA members serve over 96,000 residential customers and over 12,300 commercial and industrial customers.



Clearing trees keeps lights on

A common cause of power outages is tree branches contacting power lines. To help keep your service reliable, Princeton Public Utilities (PPU) will be tree trimming or "clear cutting" trees and brush under our power lines within the right-of-way this winter. PPU crews, along with a contractor, will cut dangerous or leaning trees along the side of the right-of-way that could cause power outages in the future.



Princeton Public Utilities does not cut trees hanging over buildings or not endangering the power lines; however, the power lines will be dropped at no charge during normal working hours so you or your contractor can cut the tree(s). Trees that interfere with customer owned service wires (wires to customer's homes) will not normally be trimmed or removed by PPU but again arrangements can be made to have these wires dropped to permit removal of tree(s). Scheduling of tree cutting/trimming will be done as time permits. For questions or more information please call us at 763-389-2252.

We may be knocking on your door

We are also removing overhead lines while connecting customers to new underground lines. Short outages may occur during conversion. Our crews will knock on doors to notify you of any potential outages.