

## ***'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 LED light bulbs at participating local and area retailers, including Marvs True Value, to offer discounted LED bulbs for as little as \$0.99 each.

ENERGY STAR-labeled LEDs use 80% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs—but less watts doesn't mean less light! LEDs produce bright light for less cost because they use less electricity and last longer than incandescent and compact fluorescent bulbs—saving time and money on replacements.

By replacing the five most used bulbs in your home with energy-efficient LEDs, you can save about \$40 in energy costs during the first year alone. LEDs also produce less heat than incandescents, improving safety.

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

Remember, supplies are limited, so get your discounted LEDs before they sell out! Visit [SaveEnergyInPrinceton.com/LED](http://SaveEnergyInPrinceton.com/LED) for the entire retailer list. Discounted LEDs purchased during this promotion are not eligible for our LED rebate program.

## ***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.

# The Connector

Princeton Public Utilities

## ***Join us for Public Power Week***

We are once again celebrating Public Power Week, Oct. 2-8. Refreshments will be served all week, and door prizes will also be available!



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

Princeton Public Utilities is one of 125 municipally-owned electric utilities in Minnesota. We have provided high quality, competitively-priced electric and water service since 1911.

We purchase power at wholesale from the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, of which we are a member, and distribute it locally. Our local power plant is used in emergencies and as a hedge against high wholesale market prices.

## *Energy efficiency—our least expensive energy resource*

Minnesota law includes an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, with energy-saving goals for utilities of 1.5% of retail sales each year. The sustained investment in energy efficiency over the years has allowed Minnesota to take advantage of its cheapest energy resource—energy efficiency.

- Energy efficiency is the cheapest energy resource in Minnesota, at an average of \$19 per megawatt hour. New natural gas and coal-fired power plants are as much as three times as expensive. Wind generation, according to the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), is more than twice the cost of energy efficiency.
- In 2008-2013, for every \$1 spent on energy efficiency programs in Minnesota, said the DOC, residents and businesses reaped between \$4.00- \$4.30 in benefits.
- In addition to energy savings, energy efficiency investments improve business competitiveness, save customers money on their bills, and make homes and businesses more comfortable places to live and work.
- Minnesota has a long history of effective energy efficiency, and electric savings more than doubled between 2007 and 2012. Natural gas savings increased by about 40 percent over the same time period.

## *Remember to redeem rebates!*

We wanted to share some information with you about mail-in rebates that you may find interesting.

It is estimated that up to 90 percent of rebates are never redeemed—leaving \$500 million in rebates that go unclaimed by consumers every year! That includes rebates for energy-efficient products.

We understand life gets busy, but taking a few minutes to complete and mail your rebate form could save you hundreds of dollars. You can also drop off your paperwork at our office, if that is more convenient. Our rebates reward you for purchasing energy efficient products, and we want to make sure you get the money you deserve. Plus, we try to make it very easy for you.

Princeton Public Utilities offers programs to our customers to help you use energy wisely and lower electric bills. Last year, we paid rebates of over \$14,000 to our residential customers. All of our rebate forms are available online, at our office, and from many retailers. If you purchase qualifying energy-saving products, please remember to claim the rebate that you have coming to you!

### *Visit us at [SaveEnergyInPrinceton.com](http://SaveEnergyInPrinceton.com)*

To learn more about how our energy efficiency programs can help you save, visit us online at [SaveEnergyInPrinceton.com](http://SaveEnergyInPrinceton.com). Thank you for being a valued customer!

## *Bill trouble? Don't wait! Call us*

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 **all** of 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 enters into a payment schedule and is reasonably current with payments under the schedule.

Local agencies may be able to provide payment assistance. Call Lakes and Pines at 1-800-832-6082.

If you are going to have trouble paying utility bills, contact us at 763-389-2252 to arrange a payment schedule. We'll try to help.