

LEDs lighting up the night

If you are not a night owl or an early bird, you might have missed some changes to Princeton's streets over the past year.

In an effort to save electricity and reduce maintenance costs, Princeton Public Utilities is converting the city's streetlights to light emitting diode (LED) fixtures. The LEDs provide a cleaner, crisper light, which helps make our local roads safer and saves money. On average, these conversions are reducing the city's streetlight energy consumption by 50 percent. Pictures are available on our website at: www.princetonutilities.com

LEDs provide a wonderful energy-saving option for streetlights and they are also effective in many other applications including security lights, desk lamps, office fixtures, and even refrigerated display cases for businesses.

If you are interested in converting your operations to LEDs, contact our utility office to learn about our LED rebates, and you too can make a change.

We offer dehumidifier rebates

Dehumidifiers can remove excess humidity from a room, as well as reduce odors, dust mites, mold and mildew and lower energy costs. We offer a rebate of \$15 for purchase of a new unit. Call, stop by, or go to www.princetonutilities.com for more information.

We help to save the monarch

Princeton Public Utilities and other members of the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), are making an effort to create habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators. This is being done by preparing a site and then planting milkweed plants and a variety of flowering nectar plants. We will then maintain the sites. The PPU site is in the utilities right of way.



SMMPA partnered with Sand County Foundation in developing the program. Sand County Foundation has made addressing the loss of the monarch population a priority issue. In cooperation with Sand County Foundation, Syngenta, a leading agriculture company, is helping fund the SMMPA effort.

SMMPA will acquire necessary seeds and plants from Prairie Restorations, of rural Princeton. The Prairie Restorations "Sowing it Back Together" program uses native Minnesota plant species to help create habitat for pollinators like the monarch.

Pollinators, like bees and butterflies, are a critical component of 30-40 percent of the food supply. Loss of habitat is the major factor in the decline of pollinator populations.

Being part of the solution makes sense environmentally and economically.

The Connector

Princeton Public Utilities

Princeton part of group named ENERGY STAR Partner of Year

Princeton Public Utilities (PPU) is part of one of the nation's leading energy efficiency organizations—the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recognized SMMPA as a 2016 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year, for its energy efficiency program delivery efforts. The award is for outstanding efforts to increase the adoption of energy-efficient products, such as LED lightbulbs, and ENERGY STAR-rated appliances.

The ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award is given to states, utilities and other organizations for sponsoring energy efficiency programs to improve the efficiency of products, homes and buildings within their community. Award winners are selected from more than 16,000 organizations that participate in the ENERGY STAR program.

PPU is one of 18 SMMPA members.

***We now offer online payment—
It's fast, easy and secure***

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

It's EASY and SECURE!

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. Once you have done this you can log onto your information anytime from home or your mobile device and you can:

- ✓ **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**

You can also find ways to Save Energy!

- ✓ **View your household usage this year vs. previous year**
- ✓ **View your household utility usage in comparison to other customers**
- ✓ **Receive Energy Saving Tips**



- ✓ **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**

Mobile app coming soon!



A mobile app is coming in the near future. The easiest way to pay your utility bill using a phone is to click on the link from email. This will take you to a mobile friendly payment portal to use.

We also offer automatic pay plan

Automatic bill payment is a long-standing and popular payment option

We notify the bank of what you owe us monthly. The bank will withdraw that amount out of your account automatically on the 10th of the month, when bills are due. The money is automatically deposited into our account.

This service is especially handy for people who are looking to simplify things come bill-paying time.

We already have many people participating in this program. Please call us at (763) 389-2252 for more information.

We offer rebates for several efficient central air conditioners

Purchasing a new air conditioning system is a big investment. Even though high-efficiency cooling equipment can be more expensive to buy, the cost difference will be paid back over time through lower energy bills. If your central air conditioning unit is more than 12 years old, replacing it with a qualifying energy-efficient system could cut your cooling costs by 30 percent. Plus, qualifying systems are eligible for a rebate from us—making it even easier for you to save money on your electricity costs.



Spring Valley Public Utilities provides rebates for qualifying central air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, and ground-source heat pumps.

Central air conditioners

Most homes use a central air conditioner system for cooling. A properly-sized central air conditioner will cool and dehumidify a home to provide a comfortable environment.

Ground source heat pumps

Ground source heat pumps are one of the most efficient ways to cool and heat a home. Also known as geothermal heat pumps or GeoExchange systems, they use a liquid circulated through a looped pipe buried in the ground to transfer heat to the home in the winter and from the home in the summer.