

## Princeton Public Utilities (PPU) Power Line Clearing – Tree Trimming



Princeton Public Utilities' right-of-way (ROW) maintenance program is ongoing and a continuous effort to provide you with dependable electric service by keeping future outages and costs to a minimum.

A ROW refers to a strip of land, underneath or around power lines, that the utility has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear.

This winter, Princeton Public Utilities (PPU) is tree trimming or "clear cutting" trees and brush under our power lines within the ROW through out our service area. PPU crews may also be cutting any dead, dangerous or leaning trees along the side of the right-of-way that could cause power outages in the future.

PPU will not trim or remove trees if:

- Trees are not affecting the power lines
- Trees are leaning away from power lines
- Trees are over structures including homes, garages, outbuildings, campers, etc.
- Trees are not accessible by PPU equipment – we do not climb trees for removal

For trees that PPU won't trim, you should contact an independent tree trimming/removal service. PPU will drop your service line so that the contractor can cut the tree. We ask that you notify us in advance to schedule this. Call our office at 763-389-2252.

No matter the reason, heavy snow or rain and high winds can bring power lines down. ROW maintenance is an important part of our continuous effort to provide you with dependable electric service.

## PPUC Electric Meter Inspections

Your electric meter is an important tool in the system that brings safe, reliable electricity to your home. In the coming months Princeton Public Utilities Commission (PPUC) employees will be checking meters and meter sockets throughout the PPUC's system to ensure they are functioning properly.



PPUC customers authorize access to their premises as stated in the customer service policy. It is important that meters and all utility equipment can be accessed for inspection and testing or if power concerns arise. Meters should not be enclosed or covered with shrubs or other plantings.

If you have any questions please call us at 763-389-2252

## Pay Online

We offer online payments .

Go to Princeton Public Utilities website:  
[www.princetonutilities.com](http://www.princetonutilities.com)  
and click on **Pay Here**. *Easy and Secure.*

# The Connector

Princeton Public Utilities

## Despite upward cost pressures, PPUC Commercial Electric rates decrease

Princeton Public Utilities Commission (PPUC) is pleased to announce there is a decrease in Commercial Electric rates for the months of January – May 2017.

PPUC has worked very hard to maintain costs despite the fact the electric industry is facing challenges. The additional costs associated with renewable energy standards are just a couple of reasons that the cost of electricity is rising. It costs more to generate and transmit renewable energy than it does electricity generated from coal-fired power plant. Coal-fired power plants, where currently most of our electricity is generated have seen new and strict regulations.

During the months of January – May 2017: Small Commercial Energy Charge will go from .14 cents per kWh to .135 cents per kWh during this period. Large Commercial Demand Charge will go from \$17.00 per kW to \$16.00 per kW. PPUC will continue to work hard to keep costs and rates down.

For a full description of our rates visit our website at [www.princetonutilities.com](http://www.princetonutilities.com) or call our office at 763-389-2252.

## Together We Save with a Load Management Program

### What is it?

Load Management is a means that helps keep a lid on the cost Princeton Public Utilities Commission (PPUC) pays for wholesale power, which helps keep the cost of electricity manageable for you. By participating in this program it reduces electricity consumption on our system during peak times, when the cost of power is more expensive.

### How does it work?

The total amount of electricity that is used by the area served by the PPUC is constantly monitored by a computer system. PPUC has installed a load management device similar to the device shown on numerous residential air conditioners. We will install on all newly constructed residences and begin replacing existing devices this spring. When the amount of electricity used reaches a point where the PPUC has to purchase additional electricity the load management device can receive a signal to temporarily interrupt the operation of the air conditioner or devices being managed to avoid the need of any additional electric purchased. As mentioned, currently the only appliances that can be interrupted when the load management device is installed are air conditioning units. A certain number of units are interrupted for a short time on an hour basis until the high demand level decreases. The interruption time should last 10 minutes or less per hour for each customer.



### What's in it for me?

When PPUC reaches a high demand that may exceed previous annual high usage, additional electricity has to be generated. By participating in our Load Management program we can avoid setting a new high demand and rate for PPUC and our customers and thus keep rates as low as possible.

If you would like to be a part of this program please call Princeton Public Utilities at 763-389-2252 or stop in our office at 907 1st Street.

## 2017 Rebates for residential and business customers

When you are purchasing a new appliance, it is important to keep in mind there are actually two price tags. The first is the cost of the appliance; the second is the cost to use the appliance. Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR have the highest energy-efficiency rating a product can earn so they are cheaper to use. Using less energy also helps protect the environment. ENERGY STAR products don't sacrifice performance because they have the same features as conventional products. They're made to fit the style of your home with state-of-the-art designs and premium features.

To help you purchase energy efficient appliances, Princeton Public Utilities offers rebates on the following Energy Star labeled: **LED Light Bulbs and Light Fixtures, Refrigerators and Freezers, Dishwashers, Clothes Washers and Dryers, Dehumidifiers, Room AC. Central AC and Air Source Heat Pumps**, Min SEER=14.5 for Central AC. **Ground Source Heat Pumps.** We also have rebates for business customers. Let us help you improve the bottom line by using energy wisely. Call 763-389-2252.

## Princeton Public Utilities Commission offers Scholarship

Princeton Public Utilities Commission (PPUC) and the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) are again offering a



scholarship opportunity for high school seniors. The scholarship funds total \$5,500. The local winner of the essay contest will be awarded a \$500 scholarship from PPUC. The local winner will then be submitted to MMUA for entry in the Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship for an opportunity to win an additional scholarship of \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500 or \$2,000.

High school seniors are eligible. Those eligible must be, or have as a legal guardian, a customer of the PPUC electric utility.

Entries are to interpret one or more aspects of the theme, "Municipal Utilities: Good for All of Us." This applies to municipal electric utilities. Judges will look particularly for originality and the relevance of the theme to the writer and his/her utility. Your local utility is a resource for information. You may also want to visit [www.princetonutilities.com](http://www.princetonutilities.com), [www.mmua.org](http://www.mmua.org) and [www.publicpower.org](http://www.publicpower.org).

Deadline for submitting essays to the PPUC is March 17, 2017. The state winners will be announced in mid-May 2017.

For more information contact the Career Center at Princeton High School or visit [www.princetonutilities.com](http://www.princetonutilities.com)