

**We provide face-to-face service and a variety of online options**

Princeton Public Utilities provides hometown, face-to-face customer service.

For your convenience, we also offer on-line and mobile services, such as account access, electronic bill payment, usage comparisons, and an automatic payment plan. You can sign-up for this plan online — look for the Automatic Payment Plan on the left side of our home page.

PPU also offers a full and very effective range of commercial and residential energy service and conservation programs. We outline our rebate programs on the other side of this newsletter.



We provide solutions and incentives to help our customers use energy wisely. Part of the reason for that is that our customers are also friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens.

We are a partner in the community. Princeton Public Utilities is located at 907 1st St., and our phone number is 763-389-2252.

**Bills now due the 12th of month**

Beginning in January 2019, the due date for Princeton Public Utilities bills has been pushed back until the 12th of each month.

We will continue to mail bills on the 28th of the preceding month. If the 12th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, bills are due the following Monday.

**PPU enhances reliability by clearing trees from power lines**

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

A ROW is 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 trimming or “clear cutting” trees and brush under power lines within the ROW throughout our service area.

Heavy snow or rain and high winds can bring down tree limbs and power lines. ROW maintenance is an important part of our continuous effort to provide you with dependable electric service.

**Scholarship program offered for Princeton high school seniors**

Princeton Public Utilities is again offering a scholarship opportunity for high school seniors. We offer a \$500 scholarship, and the local winner is entered into a statewide contest provided through the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association and its Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship Award program.

The statewide scholarship fund totals \$5,000. It will be split four ways, and awarded to \$2,000 first, \$1,500 second, \$1,000 third and \$500 fourth place essay contest winners, who plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution. High school seniors are eligible to enter the essay contest.

Contact your high school guidance counselor or Princeton Public Utilities at 763-389-2252 for more information.



Princeton Public Utilities (PPU)

**With your benefit in mind, PPU decreases electric, water rates**

The Village of Princeton, in 1911, created what is known today as the Princeton Public Utilities Commission (PPUC).

The Commission was created to focus on the business of providing municipal water and electric service. The Commission is an independent body. Its members are appointed by mayor and city council.

The three-person PPUC is a governing board of citizens who have the best interests of our community in mind. The truth of this statement is apparent in the electric and water rate decreases, which went into effect in January.

Our Commission sets policies and rates to meet the needs of the community and the people who live here. It understands the impacts of its decisions. Customers, not shareholders, are the PPUC’s primary concern.

The Commission focuses on the provision of reliable, affordable utility services. It builds consensus through open, democratic governance.

Meetings are open to the public, as are records.

## Rate decreases now in effect

The Princeton Public Utilities Commission last fall approved a 4 percent electric energy rate decrease. The decrease is going into effect with the bills going out the end of January.

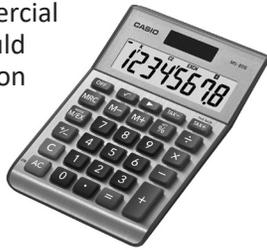
The new, lower rates will affect customers differently, based on usage.

A residential customer with typical electric use will experience a 4.23 percent reduction in their electric energy (kilowatt-hour) charge. For commercial and large customers usage can vary drastically, which has a varying effect on the rate reduction impact. Commercial and large customers should experience a rate reduction of slightly more than 4 percent.

Factors leading to the rate decrease include: a decrease in the price we pay for power, and strong management, including debt reduction which led to savings on interest payments.

There is no change on the monthly customer service charge, which reflects a portion of our fixed costs to provide service. On the other hand, we have also reduced the per-gallon charge on your water bill.

The end result for a typical residential customer will be savings of \$66 per year on electric and \$16.56 on water costs. Larger customers should enjoy larger savings.



## Steady power costs predicted

While we would like to take all the credit for the recent electric rate decrease, we have to share it with our wholesale power supplier—the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency.

Power supply costs account for roughly two-thirds of our expenses. So you can see, a 4 percent reduction in the rate from SMMPA plays a big part in our rate reduction.

The real good news from all this is that SMMPA projects flat power costs through 2026. That should help keep a lid on costs in years to come.

## We pay you rebates to use our product much more efficiently

Princeton Public Utilities pays its customers to use electricity more efficiently.



How do we do that?

By offering rebates on a variety of energy saving products.

Last year, we paid our residential customers approximately \$7,000 in rebates and commercial customers about \$32,300.

That's real money!

Our rebates are available for these types of ENERGY STAR-rated products or equipment:

- Hardwired LED and CFL lighting fixtures, ceiling fans with lighting, and LED and CFL light kits for ceiling fans – up to 50 percent of the cost up to varying dollar amounts.

- Refrigerators - \$25, plus up to \$50 for recycling your old, working refrigerator.

- Freezers - \$25, plus up to \$50 for recycling your old, working freezer.

- Dishwashers - \$25 to \$40, the amount increasing as the efficiency increases.

- Clothes Washers - \$50 to \$100, the amount increasing as the efficiency increases.

- Dehumidifiers - \$15, or \$25 with recycling of working unit, plus \$15 to help pay for recycling the old, working dehumidifier.

- Efficient Furnace Fan Motors - \$50 up to \$125 for certain more efficient units.

- Room Air Conditioners - \$25 (two per account) plus up to \$25 toward recycling your old, working air conditioner.

- Central Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pumps - \$100 up to \$200 depending on size, with additional rebates for greater efficiencies. We also offer a \$35 rebate for tune-ups of these units, every other year.

- Ground Source Heat Pumps - \$200 per ton, plus \$25 per ton for increasing efficiencies above the minimum qualifying efficiency.

For more information, go online to [SaveEnergyInPrinceton.com](http://SaveEnergyInPrinceton.com), or the 'Energy Efficiency' section of the Princeton Public Utilities website. Business customers can contact Keith Butcher at 507-990-5907.