

ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES

Plugged In

November 2020

Learn How RPU Is Planning for Rochester's Future Energy Needs

RPU's Resource Plan explained in
less than four minutes! pg. 2

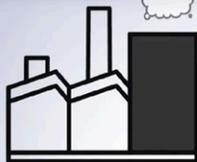
RPU - Resource Plan Whiteboard

A MAJORITY OF THOSE SURVEYED



**Willing to pay up to \$5
more each month to help
achieve the ambitious
Energy Action Plan Goal**

RPU - Resource Plan Whiteboard



**REDUCE THE USE OF
FOSSIL FUEL GENERATED
ELECTRICITY
BY AT LEAST 80%
BY 2030**

RPU - Resource Plan Whiteboard

Plan 1	Plan 2
450 Megawatt wind, 50 Megawatt solar, 220 Megawatt simple cycle combustion turbine	350 Megawatt wind, 50 Megawatt solar, 300 Megawatt Battery Storage

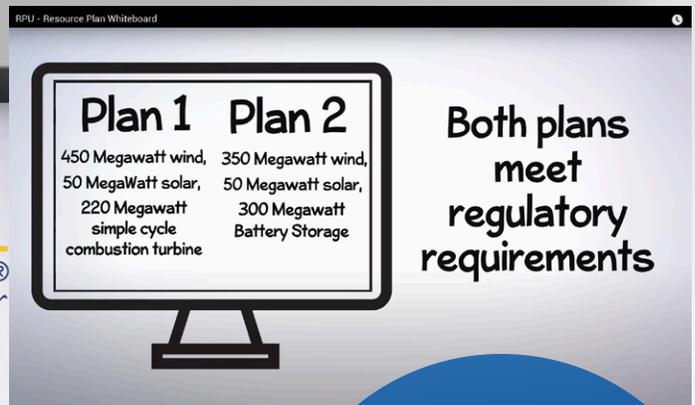
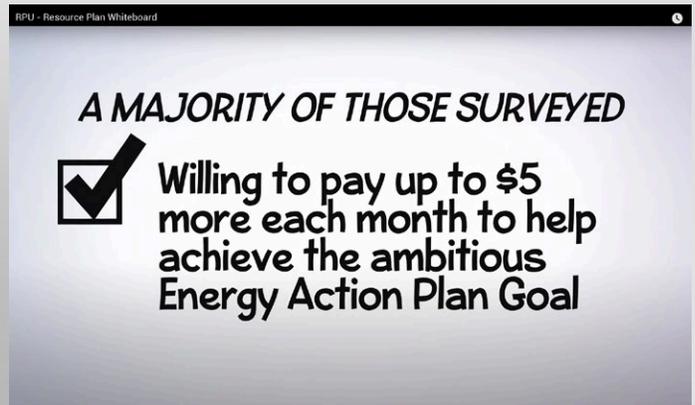
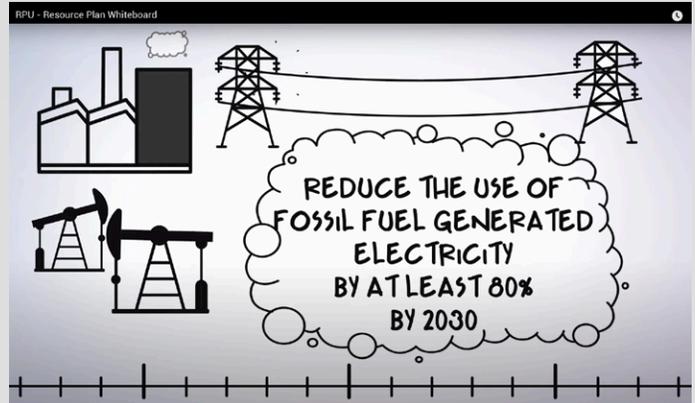
**Both plans
meet
regulatory
requirements**

RPU's Resource Plan Explained in Less than Four Minutes!

For over 125 years, RPU has provided the city of Rochester with reliable and affordable electrical power. By planning today, RPU will be prepared for the next 125 years and beyond to meet the needs of RPU customers.

RPU staff and the RPU Board have worked diligently on the RPU Resource Plan to identify options for future electric generation and delivery. An important step in this planning is to engage RPU customers and stakeholders throughout the process through transparent communication and listening sessions with the RPU Board.

The RPU Resource Plan update on the RPU website is a 51-slide PowerPoint presentation from a previous RPU Board Meeting. Also available, is an easy-to-understand 3 1/2 minute video that includes contact information if you have further questions regarding the RPU Resource Plan. Visit www.rpu.org/about-rpu/board-meetings-minutes.php to view the presentation and video.



Thank you for your engagement and participation as we work toward Rochester's energy future!

Online Energy Efficiency Workshop

Participate in our FREE Neighborhood Energy Challenge online workshop and qualify for a \$50 home energy audit, valued at \$400!

**Saturday
Nov 21, 2020
10-11am**

Register to receive an email link 2 days prior to the class date with directions on how to join the online event.

Call or email Stacy at 888.734.6365 or sbootscamp@mncee.org.

Visit www.rpu.org for more details.



ENERGY CONSERVATION

Monthly Tip for Plugging into Savings!



Celebrate with savings this season with LED holiday lights and decorations!

They use up to 75% less energy than traditional lights and last up to 10 times longer, plus you'll get a rebate from RPU. Look for a rebate application in this issue of *Plugged In* or download one at www.rpu.org.



rpu
we pledge, we deliver®

CONSERVE & \$AVE

WATER CONSERVATION

Monthly Tip on Saving From the Tap!



Residential and Commercial Water Efficiency Rebates

Visit www.rpu.org to see available rebates for purchasing water-efficient fixtures and equipment and to download a rebate application. You can also call us at 280.1500 to request an audit of your facility.

CONSERVE & \$AVE

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we pledge, we deliver®

Light Up Your Home for the Holidays!

There aren't many things more festive than holiday lights decorating the inside and outside of a home during the holidays. Whether it be a gentle glow of soft white lights or the blinding splash of color from thousands of blinking lights, they all add to the holiday cheer. If you are planning to hang five strings or 500 strings of lights, make sure to do it right this year.

Lighting technology has improved greatly in recent years, making the selection and benefits even better for the consumer. LED (light-emitting diode) lighting is the newest and most energy-efficient string lighting

available. LEDs are available in clear, single color strands, or multicolored strands, and can be connected together to offer many different color combinations. There are blinking light options available along with the traditional icicle lights using LEDs. The options are almost endless when it comes to using LED holiday lighting.

Savings Abound

LEDs use a fraction of the energy that standard incandescent bulbs use. Based on the type of LED used and the application, LED holiday lighting could save you up to 90% in energy costs when compared to incandescent lighting. In addition, LEDs don't

burn a filament to produce light so they don't put off excess heat in the process. LED lighting options, including holiday lighting, can be more expensive when compared with standard incandescent lighting, so RPU is again offering a rebate for LED holiday lighting and decorations. The rebate (depending on the number of lights) can be up to \$12 per strand. There is no cap on the number of strands you can purchase, and this offer is available no matter where you purchase them. Some restrictions apply, so make sure to visit the RPU website, www.rpu.org, for full details.

Once you've purchased all of the LED holiday lighting you need this season, now what do you do with all of your old strands? RPU can help with that, too. Due to such high demand last year, RPU will again recycle all of your old holiday light strands for FREE this year. Please see the recycling ad on page 5 for more details.

Celebrate with Savings!

BUY ENERGY EFFICIENT HOLIDAY LIGHTS OR DECORATIONS & APPLY FOR A REBATE:

1. Purchase new LED holiday plug-in (not battery or solar operated) lights and decorations by December 31, 2020.
2. Complete the back of this page and submit it to your utility:
 - by March 31, 2021
 - with original sales receipt
 - with packaging showing the LED logo and number of lights per string (one package per type).
3. Rebate is limited to 50% of LED string or package cost, tax excluded, up to maximum amounts listed below.

Customer Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Installation Address (if different from above) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Phone # (with area code) _____ Home Cell Other: _____

Account # _____ Residential Commercial

(Rebates under \$75 will be applied to your account.)

A Date Purchased (MM/DD/2020)	B Lamp Size	C # of Lamps per String	D Cost per Package	E Qty of Packages	F Total Cost of Packages (D X E)	G Rebate Amount	H Total Rebate (F X G) (up to max amounts*)	I OFFICE USE ONLY
____/____/2020	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$
____/____/2020	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$

Rochester Public Utilities
Attn: Rebate Processing
4000 E River Rd NE
Rochester, MN 55906-2813
507.280.1500
www.rpu.org

Recipient must be an electric customer of Rochester Public Utilities. Valid only on purchases made by December 31, 2020. All Electric Efficiency Rebate terms and conditions apply.

*** Rebate is 50% of string or package cost (tax excluded), up to maximum amounts listed below:**

# of Lamps	Maximum Rebate per String
less than 99	\$3.00
100 - 199	\$6.00
200 - 299	\$9.00
300 or more	\$12.00

GRAND TOTAL REBATE:

\$	\$
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OFFICE USE ONLY:

ID# _____

DATE Received _____ Date Processed _____

2020 Parks Referendum

City Question #1 on the November 3 Ballot



If approved, these improvements to the parks would be made:

- Maintaining and improving our existing parks to make them cleaner and safer.
- Repairing and improving recreation facilities to keep our children safe.
- Improving access to parks and recreational facilities for people with disabilities.

The average residential homeowner would pay an estimated additional \$33.00 per year.

The maximum amount of increased levy as a percentage of market value is 0.0168 percent.

The maximum amount raised by the new referendum tax rate in the first year is \$2,000,000.



Learn more at:

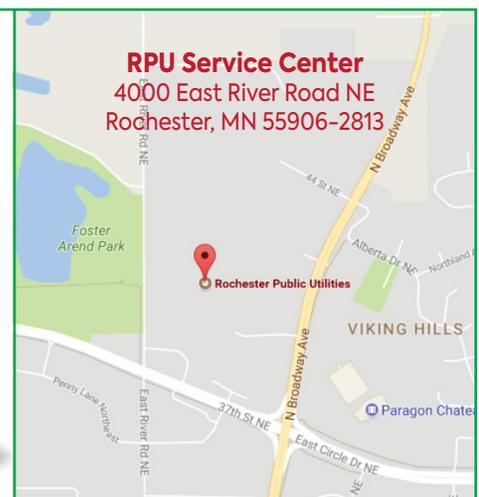
rochestermn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/2020-parks-referendum-information

DON'T THROW AWAY OLD HOLIDAY LIGHTS. **RECYCLE THEM!**

Once you've purchased all the new energy efficient LED holiday lights you need this season (and applied for your rebate from RPU), what should you do with the old ones? **RPU will recycle all of your old holiday light strands for FREE!**

It's easy – just bring your old strands of lights into the **RPU Service Center** lobby and drop them in the bins designated for holiday light recycling.

Available now through Friday, January 29, 2021.



RPU Commercial Customer Corner:

10 Ways to Help Heating Performance for Your Business

As cold weather approaches, heating costs become a concern for businesses watching their bottom line. Adjusting the thermostat is a quick fix, but merely lowering building temperatures can make your staff less comfortable and productive. The steps that follow can help keep your heating system, and your staff, operating at peak efficiency all winter long.

- 1** Before the start of the heating season, have your system cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional to make sure all parts are operating properly. No matter what type of heating system you use – furnace, boiler, or rooftop unit – a checkup will ensure more efficient operation and reduce maintenance costs.
- 2** Examine doors and windows for worn or damaged caulk and weather stripping, and repair or replace when necessary.
- 3** Inspect heating ducts and seal any leaks; direct leaks in duct systems can result in significant heat loss.
- 4** Check air filters throughout the building; dirty or clogged air filters reduce air flow, increasing the energy required for heating. Replace them on a regular basis throughout the heating season.
- 5** Insulation can have a significant impact on the effectiveness of your heating system. Make sure your insulation levels meet or exceed those recommended in *ASHRAE 90.1 Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*.
- 6** If you use a boiler, consider installing energy-efficient burners to improve fuel combustion, or a boiler economizer to capture waste heat and use it to preheat the boiler feed water.
- 7** Make sure all motorized dampers are operating properly, and that all outside air dampers remain closed during unoccupied hours.
- 8** Use infrared heaters or air curtains to keep cold, outside air from entering the building in loading areas or where doors are frequently opened and closed.
- 9** Hot air rises; in areas with high ceilings, install ceiling fans to circulate warm air down where it is needed.
- 10** Make sure air vents or radiators are free of obstructions so the conditioned air can flow freely.



Jan Blevins
Commercial Account
Representative
jblevins@rpu.org
507.280.1578



Dru Larson
Energy and
Environmental Advisor
dlarson@rpu.org
507.280.1607



Josh Mason
Energy and
Environmental Advisor
jmason@rpu.org
507.280.1588



Anna Basimamovic
Energy and
Environmental Advisor
abasimamovic@rpu.org
507.280.1565

CONSERVE & \$AVE®



If your heating system is older or in need of repair, consider upgrading to an ENERGY STAR® certified unit. ENERGY STAR models are more efficient than standard units while still providing the same level of performance.

Make sure the system is sized correctly to meet your needs. Oversized models can waste energy and money.

Through the combination of energy-saving practices and efficiency retrofits, you can realize significant savings on heating costs, while maintaining a comfortable and productive work environment.

If you have any questions about these tips or would like to know more about our rebate programs for energy-efficient equipment, please contact an RPU representative.

Repairing or replacing your water service line can cost you \$4,000 to \$8,000 – or more!

Freezing temperatures can cause broken underground pipes. Make sure you're covered by RPU's Service Assured® program.

To learn more and/or enroll, visit www.rpu.org.



"What a relief! Very thankful that we had Service Assured® coverage. RPU just took care of everything. \$3 a month is a pretty nominal cost compared to the cost of replacing and digging up one of those [underground water] pipes."

*- Richard Bennett
Service Assured® Customer*



Service Assured® costs \$1.99 per month for water service coverage and only \$1.00 more to cover your underground electric service also. Contact us to determine your eligibility; some exclusions apply. Visit www.rpu.org to review our Terms & Conditions.

Congratulations!

RPU Lead Utility Technician Jeff Kranz was presented with the Paul Harris Fellow Award which is given by the Rotary Club to individuals who make outstanding contributions to their community.



Pictured (L to R): Chris Colby, 2020-21 President of the Rotary Club of Rochester | Jeff Kranz, Paul Harris Fellow Award Recipient | Dave Moertel, Member of Rotary Club of Rochester | Jason Dugan, Scout Executive/CEO Gamehaven Council, Boy Scouts of America | Mark Kotschevar, RPU General Manager



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4000 East River Road NE
Rochester, MN 55906
507.280.1500
www.rpu.org



RPU Service Center Holiday Hours

The RPU Service Center will be closed on:
Wednesday, November 11 for Veterans Day
Thursday-Friday, November 26-27 for Thanksgiving



Social Media:

- rochesterpublicutilities
- @rpuoutages @rpualerts
- Rochester Public Utilities
- blog.rpu.org
- RPU TV

Mobile App:



Customer Service: 507.280.1500

Toll-Free: 800.778.3421

Pay By Phone: 855.631.3643
(toll-free • no fee • 24 hrs)

Electric Emergency:
507.280.9191 (24 hrs)

Water Emergency:
507.280.1500 (8am-5pm)
507.280.9191 (5pm-8am)

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Utility Payment Arrangements Available for Military Service Personnel

When a household member has been ordered to active duty, for deployment or for a change of duty station, some customers may find it hard to pay their utility bills. Minnesota Law protects military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their bill in full. To qualify for this protection, you must enter into and keep reasonably current with one of the payment plans described below.

- ★ If your household income is below the state median household income, pay 10% of your household's gross monthly income toward your RPU bill.
- ★ If your household income is above the state median household income, make and keep a payment plan.
- ★ If you receive energy assistance, pay 10% of your household's gross monthly income toward your RPU bill.

The full statute description for Minnesota Statute 325E.028 can be found on the state of Minnesota website <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs/>.

If you would like to sign up for payment arrangements or have questions regarding the "Military Service Personnel Disconnection Law," please contact RPU Customer Relations at **507.280.1500**.

