



ROCHESTER  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
WE PLEDGE, WE DELIVER®

# Plugged In

## RPU Launches New Thermostat Program

Details on page 2



MAY / JUNE  
**2023**

# BYOT: RPU Launches New Thermostat Program

RPU recently launched a Bring Your Own Thermostat (BYOT) program to help reduce energy consumption during periods of high demand and reward customers enrolled with up to \$75 per household.

The new program is a voluntary demand response program designed to reward customers for reducing their electricity use during periods of high demand, while helping the environment and reliability of the grid.

Customers who install qualified smart thermostats will receive a one-time \$50 enrollment incentive, in the form of a bill credit, and households that stay enrolled throughout the summer season will receive a year-end \$25 bill credit.

## How does the BYOT program work?

Participants agree to brief, limited Peak Savings Events, which automatically adjust their thermostats 2-4 degrees during peak electric demand periods from May 1 through September 30. Peak demand periods for adjustments typically occur on especially hot days, but Peak Savings Events may also be called under other circumstances to reduce strain on the grid. Peak Savings Events never occur on weekends or holidays. Customer's will be notified of Peak Savings Events through RPU's customer web portal, email, SMS, or by the smart thermostat manufacturer via a mobile app or the thermostat.

## How does RPU's BYOT program benefit Rochester's community?

By participating in the program, you are helping RPU utilize new technologies that manage energy demand during "peak hours," which occur when energy usage dramatically increases. RPU's BYOT program helps reduce those peaks, and takes some of the strain off the grid during hotter, busier times of the day. This can lower energy costs, with the savings passed on to RPU customers.

## Who is eligible?

To be eligible to enroll, you must meet the following qualifications:

- You are an RPU residential electric customer.
- You use your thermostat to control your central air conditioning or heat pump.
- You have installed an eligible internet-connected thermostat (qualified thermostats listed on the next page).
- You are not participating in RPU's Load Management program.



## Can I participate in both RPU's Load Management program and the BYOT program?

No, customers participating in RPU's Load Management program are not eligible for the BYOT program. However, a customer may switch to the BYOT program after terminating participation in the Load Management program.





## What thermostats are eligible?

RPU electric customers who have installed a qualifying Ecobee, Honeywell, or Google Nest connected thermostat controlling their central air conditioning or heat pump system are eligible.

For additional information, please visit our website [rpu.org](http://rpu.org).

Manufacturer	Model Name	Model Number
ecobee	ecobee3 lite	EB-STATE3LT
ecobee	ecobee4	EB-STATE4
ecobee	Smart thermostat with Voice Control	EB-STATE5
ecobee	ecobee3	EB-STATE3
Google Nest	2nd GEN	T200577
Google Nest	3rd GEN	T3007ES
Google Nest	E	T4000ES
Google Nest	Nest Thermostat	Gaooooo-US/CA
Google Nest	1st GEN	T100577
Honeywell Home	Round® Smart Thermostat	RCH9310WF5003/U
Honeywell Home	T5+ Smart Thermostat	RCHT8612WF2005/U
Honeywell Home	T9 Smart Thermostat	RCHT9610WFSW2003/U
Honeywell Home	Wi-Fi 7-Day Programmable Thermostat	RTH6580WF1001/U1
Honeywell Home	Wi-Fi Programmable Thermostat	RTH8580WF1007/W1
Honeywell Home	Wi-Fi Smart Color Thermostat	RTH9585WF1004/U
Honeywell Home	T6 Pro Smart Thermostat	TH6220WF2006/U
Honeywell Home	VisionPRO® 8000	TH8320R1003/U
Honeywell Home	Wi-Fi 9000 Color Touchscreen Thermostat	TH9320WF5003/U
Honeywell Home	T10 Pro Smart Thermostat	THX321WFS2001W/U

# RPU's Distributed Generation Rules Annual Disclosure

In compliance with Rochester Public Utilities Distributed Generation Rules, Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. RPU is obligated to provide information regarding rates and interconnection requirements—free of charge—to all interested customers upon request. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility.

Any disputes over interconnection, sales, or purchases relative to qualifying facilities should be brought to the RPU Board for resolution. Rochester Public Utilities Distributed Generation Rules and associated documents can be found on the RPU website ([rpu.org](http://rpu.org)). For further information, customers can call 507-280-1500.

## Safe City Nights Free Food & Activities



**June 13**  
Gibbs  
Elementary

**June 27**  
Franklin  
Elementary

**July 11**  
Jefferson  
Elementary

**July 25**  
Bishop  
Elementary

**August 8**  
Longfellow  
Elementary

**August 22**  
Watson Field





## Arbor Day Foundation recognizes Rochester Public Utilities as a 2023 Tree Line USA Utility

Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) was named a 2023 Tree Line USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize its dedication to proper urban forest management in Rochester.

Tree Line USA, a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes public and private utilities for pursuing best practices that protect and cultivate America's urban tree canopy. In addition, Tree Line USA promotes delivering safe and reliable electricity while maintaining healthy community forests.



## GIVE YOUR HOUSE AN ENERGY MAKEOVER!

Attend our FREE energy efficiency workshop. Learn low-cost/no-cost ways to save and qualify for a \$50 home energy audit (\$400 value) which includes installation of energy saving materials.



MINNESOTA  
ENERGY  
RESOURCES

ROCHESTER  
PUBLIC UTILITIES  
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**\*\*\* LAST CLASS UNTIL FALL! \*\*\***

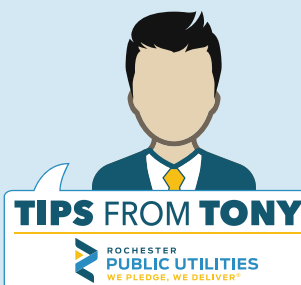
**Wednesday, May 24 | 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**\*\*\*FREE CHILDCARE PROVIDED!\*\*\***

To register, call or email Stacy:  
888-734-6365 | [sbootscamp@mncee.org](mailto:sbootscamp@mncee.org)

To learn more, visit: [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org)

One of our **CONSERVE & \$AVE** programs.



RPU work zones are set up to keep RPU field crews and the community safe. The RPU work zone signs and cones are set up anytime RPU is doing field work in or near traffic, or where pedestrians may be.

Please use caution when driving near work zones, and stay outside of coned-off RPU work zones this summer. RPU field crews and their families thank you for your attention to this important message!





# Commercial Corner

## CONSERVE & \$AVE®

For questions regarding our Commercial programs and services, contact one of our Energy and Environmental Advisors.

As the snow starts to melt and sun begins to shine, we want to make sure that you are prepared for the cooling season by utilizing RPU's Air Conditioner Clean and Tune rebates!

RPU recommends that you hire a qualified professional to inspect your air conditioning system before the cooling season begins and perform regular maintenance to ensure efficient operation. **Some of the recommended energy-saving maintenance strategies include:**

- Inspection to ductwork and sealed leaks; as duct system leaks can reduce system performance and efficiency.
- Checking and replacing air filters regularly; as dirty filters reduce airflow and waste energy.
- Keeping outdoor condensing units free of dust and dirt; which block airflow.
- Calibrating thermostats to make sure they're functioning properly
- Adjusting cooling equipment to occupancy schedules.

Visit our website and explore a variety of rebates to help you with cost savings in preparation for the cooling season including: AC Clean & Tune, Cooling Equipment, Heat Pumps, and Electric Chillers! Learn more on [rpu.org](http://rpu.org) under Conserve & Save.



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507-280-1588

## It's Time to Schedule Your Air Conditioner Clean & Tune

Regular preventative maintenance is the best way to ensure trouble-free, energy-efficient operation.

**When you have an Air Conditioner Clean & Tune performed, you can apply for a \$25 rebate (every two years) from RPU!**

Visit [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org) to download a rebate application with complete terms and conditions.



## CONSERVE & \$AVE®

Need a new home cooling system? We have rebates for that too! Visit [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org).

## Electric Vehicles ARE THEY RIGHT FOR YOU?

This course will introduce you to the world of electric vehicles (EVs). Some of the topics include charging, range, emissions savings, cost savings, available vehicles, and more.

**COST:** FREE!  
**DATE/TIME:** Thursday, May 4 | 6:00-8:00 pm  
**LOCATION:** Northrop Community Education Center  
**REGISTER:** Call: 507-328-4000  
Online: [rochester.ce.eleyo.com](http://rochester.ce.eleyo.com)



LEARN MORE: [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org)



Rochester Public Utilities and others throughout North America will kick off Drinking Water Week, a decades-long tradition led by the American Water Works Association. Taking place May 7-13 this year, Drinking Water Week is a celebration recognizing the vital role water plays in everyday life for both water professionals and the communities they serve.

Drinking Water Week is an opportunity for the Rochester community to learn about how truly vital clean, safe water is in daily life and its role in protecting public health and the environment now and in the future. This year, Drinking Water Week encourages participants to recognize and honor the critical work that water professionals accomplish around the clock to deliver quality tap water while bolstering resilience for water in the future.



**Water distribution workers work to locate a main break in downtown Rochester.**



**A sleeve is used to repair certain types of water main breaks.**



**The Hydropillar, located along 50th Avenue NW, can hold up to 2 million gallons of water.**

## Backflow Assembly Testing is Required Annually

Providing safe drinking water is the highest priority for RPU. Regulated by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Plumbing Code, and RPU's Water Service Rules & Regulations, RPU follows strict standards to ensure that the public drinking water supply remains safe.



As a customer, you also have a responsibility to help keep the public water supply safe. Proper backflow prevention on cross connections can eliminate contaminants from entering our public water supply. Remember you are drinking the same water as your neighbor—we are all connected.

Backflow is the flow of water or other liquids, mixtures or substances, under positive or reduced pressure, into the distribution pipes of a potable water supply from any source other than its intended source. The MN



Plumbing Code requires that all backflow preventer assemblies, at the meter and elsewhere within your business or home, must be tested annually by a certified tester.

Visit [rpu.org](https://www.rpu.org) for more information on RPU's Backflow Prevention Program.





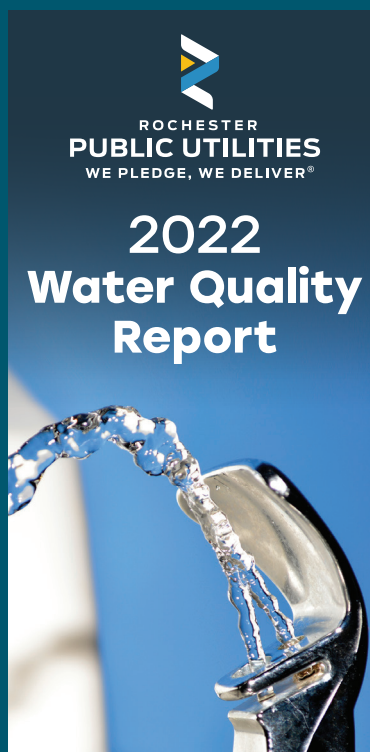


## Summer Hydrant Flushing May Mean Discolored Water

Hydrant flushing is a vital maintenance activity to clean and flush the city's water mains. Fire hydrants are opened to move a large volume of water at a higher-than-normal velocity through the system. This important maintenance procedure mobilizes particles and minerals that settle over time, flushing them out of the pipes, resulting in higher water quality. Although it may appear to waste water, the process is part of a routine maintenance program. Flushing hydrants is necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system, and ensures the hydrants are in proper working order.

Hydrant flushing may cause periods of discolored water. The water will remain safe to use and will generally clear within a few hours after flushing is completed. If you notice discolored water in your home or business, run the water at the hose bibs/faucets outside for a few minutes, then run the cold water inside until the water is clear.

If possible, do not do laundry while flushing is taking place. If you notice your laundry has been stained, do not dry. Rewash the load using a stain or rust remover, which can be provided free of charge by calling RPU at 507-280-1500. Do not use bleach on stained laundry as bleach will set the stain.



Municipal water utilities, including RPU, are highly tested and scrutinized for safety and quality. In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act, the testing results over the past year are compiled and made available for the public. Each May, RPU releases the consumer confidence report (CCR) publicly.

This year, we are pleased to announce that water provided by RPU, again met all State and Federal drinking water standards.

Review the complete version of the CCR at [rpu.org/environment/water-quality](http://rpu.org/environment/water-quality). Questions and requests for a hard copy version of the 2022 Water Quality Report can be directed to Todd Osweiler at 507-280-1589.



4000 East River Road NE  
Rochester, MN 55906  
**507-280-1500**  
[www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org)

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STANDARD  
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PERMIT NO. 4



Neighborly

RPU Plugged In is now designed  
and printed locally in Rochester.



#### Social Media:



@rochesterpublicutilities



@rpuoutages / @rpualerts



Rochester Public Utilities



[blog.rpu.org](http://blog.rpu.org)



@rpualerts



Rochester Public Utilities

#### Mobile App:



**RPU Service Center:** Hours  
(8am - 5pm) Monday - Friday  
**Customer Care:** 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)

## Partners *in Planting*

**\$10 NURSERY COUPON**

Submit to Jim Whiting Nursery & Garden Center or Sargent's Gardens

**\$10 OFF ANY SHADE TREE  
PRICED \$99 OR MORE**

  
**Jim Whiting**  
Nursery & Garden Center  
[www.jimwhitingnursery.com](http://www.jimwhitingnursery.com)  
3430 19th St NW • 507-289-3741

  
**SARGENT'S**  
[www.sargentsgardens.com](http://www.sargentsgardens.com)  
7955 18th Ave NW 1811 2nd St SW  
507-289-0022 507-289-6068

In support of RPU's Partners in Planting Program. Must be an RPU customer to participate. One coupon per household. Offer valid on any tree priced at \$99 or more. Regularly priced trees only. Not good with other discounts or promotions. Must be presented at time of sale.



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## Partners *in Planting*

**\$20 ARBORIST COUPON**

Submit to Maier Tree & Lawn

**\$20 OFF THE PURCHASE OF ANY  
TREE CARE SERVICE\***



**Maier**  
TREE & LAWN

a DAVEY company

[MaierTreeandLawn.com](http://MaierTreeandLawn.com)  
3930 Hwy 14 E • Rochester, MN 55904 • 507-286-8733

In support of RPU's Partners in Planting Program. Must be an RPU customer to participate. One coupon per household. \*Offer valid on arborist services over \$200. Not good with other discounts or promotions. Must be presented at time of sale. Refunds not available.



05/23 PI

One of our **CONSERVE & \$AVE** programs.  
Learn more about Partners in Planting at [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org).