

3.A. Recommended 2026-2027 Water and Electric Utility Budgets

Judith Anderson, Controller Peter Hogan, Director of Corporate Services



Rochester Public Utilities Special Board Meeting August 5, 2025

Reliability Obligation to Serve

• Rates Affordable, Sustainable, &

Equitable

Responsibility Sustainability, Safety, &

Compliance

Reputation Community Involvement

Relationships Customer Intimacy

Strategic Alignment





Rochester Public Utilities | Financial Strategy

Maintain Cost-Based Rates

No subsidization between rate classes (cost causation)

Reduce subsidization within rate classes (cost causation)

Rates that promote conservation and reduce costs (demand reduction)

• Financial Stability – Alignment of fixed and variable cost with fixed and variable rates

Stay Regionally Competitive

- Enrich People's Lives & Help Businesses Prosper Inclusive Growth Management
- Promote Community Welfare Housing Access

Provide Resources for Strategic Objectives

- Reliability | Transformational Capital Projects, Extreme Weather Resilience, & Investment in Infrastructure for Growth and Asset Management
- Rates | Economic Resilience, AA Bond Rating, Targeted Income, Debt Coverage, & Equity %
- Responsibility | Responsible Environmental Stewardship, Conservation, Compliance, & Safety
- Relationships | Quality Services, Education, & Customer Intimacy
- Reputation | Community Service, Engagement, & Contribution to the City

Water Utility
Budget 2026-2030





Water Utility | 2026-2027 Recommended Operating Budget

ASSUMPTIONS							
	2026	2027					
 Interest Earnings Rate: 	3.0%	3.0%					
 Average Salary Expense Change: 	4.5%	3.0%					
	(consists of COLA, merit and promotion i	ncreases)					
 Anticipated Bonding: 	\$12.0 Million (Short-term)	None					
 Change in Full-time Equivalents: 	1	0					
 Minimum Cash Reserve Requirement: 	\$ 9.208 Million	\$ 8.502 Million					

•	Revenue Adjustment:	9.0% Proposed General Rate Change 9.0% Proposed Gen	eral Rate Change

(Average residential customer impact \$2.01 per month)

Water CCF Sales Forecast: 0.9% Increase from 2025 F2 0.8% Increase from 2026

Projected Sales Projected Sales

Total Water Utility Customers:
 0.9% Increase over Y/E 2025
 0.9% Increase over Y/E 2026

Projected Customers Projected Customers

Forecast Based on Normal Weather: 538 Cooling Degree Days,

27.85 Inches Summer Rainfall

- In Lieu of Tax forecast increasing \$16,000 to a total of \$517,000 in 2026
- In Lieu of Tax forecast increasing \$21,020 to a total of \$538,020 in 2027

Business Drivers

- Maintain levels of service
- Secure future source water supply
- Water system comprehensive plan
- Lead service line replacement (2025-2027)
- Advanced metering project (2025-2028)
- Sustainable water main replacement rate
- Citywide growth & capital projects
- Bold. Forward. Unbound. & DMC area projects
- Shared services allocation
- Water conservation programs & education
- Weather precipitation

Business Risks

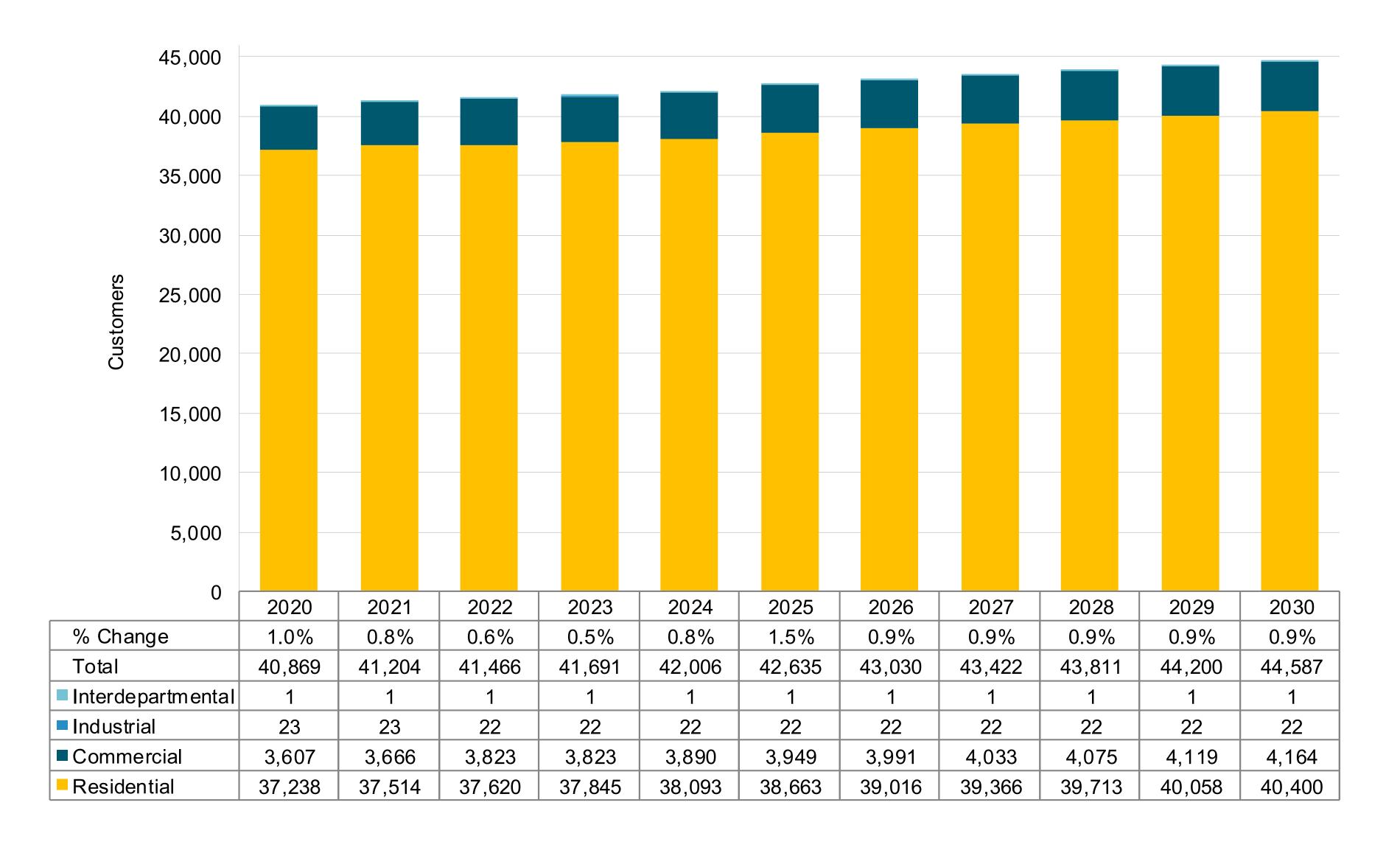
- Regulatory changes primary & secondary water quality standards, testing requirements, backflow monitoring, DNR permitting, & water appropriations
- Backlog of aging infrastructure
- Infrastructure expansion costs due to growth
- Water tower cell antenna attachment revenue stability
- Extreme weather patterns, including drought and excessive rainfall
- Geothermal use of water aquifer
- Potential need for centralized water treatment





Water Utility Number of Customers

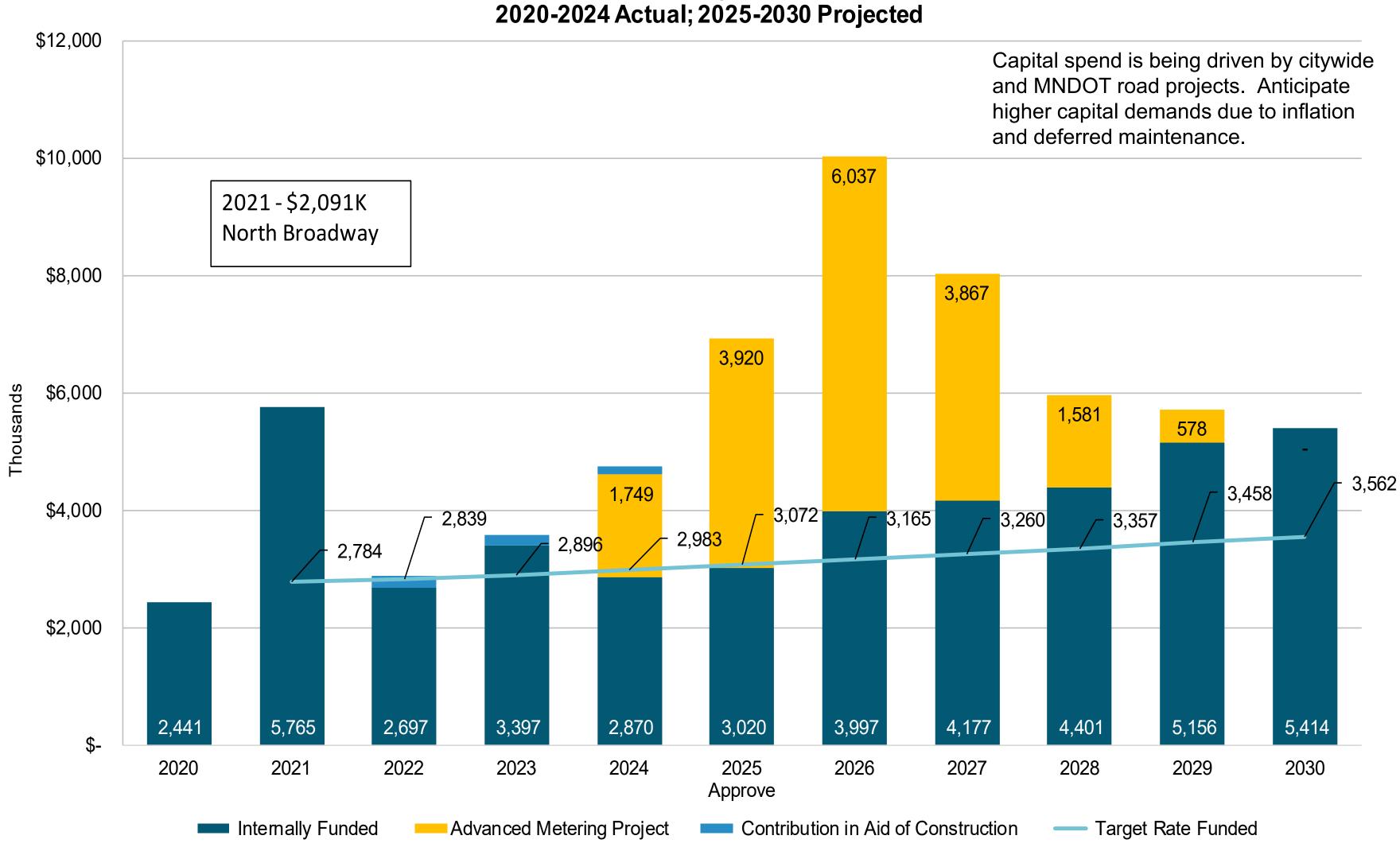
2020-2024 Actual, 2025 Forecast, 2026-2030 Budget





Water Utility Capital External Spending





Business Drivers 2026-2027 Water Utility Budget

• Continued investment in system to maintain reliability, improve service and safety, and serve City expansion

 Capital Expenditures 	2026	2027
 Advanced Metering Project 	\$ 6,037K	\$ 3,867K (2023-2029: \$17,732K)
 Distribution System Allocation 	\$ 750K	\$ 705K
 Citywide Road Project - Link BRT 	\$ 150K	\$ -
 Citywide Road Project - N Broadway 	\$ 190K	\$ -
 Other Citywide Road Projects 	\$ 1,790K	\$ 1,835K
 Developer Projects 	\$ 375K	\$ -
 RPU Projects - Water Main 	\$ -	\$ -
 Tower Tank Coating/Rehab 	\$ 715K	\$ 715K
 Capital Contingency 	\$ 185K	\$ 190K
Major Maintenance		
 Master Plan Update 	\$ 695K	\$ - (2025-2026: \$1,080K)
 Lead Service Line Replacement 	\$11,956K	\$ 6,948K (2025-2029: \$22,907K)
 Service Assured 	\$ 268K	\$ 281K
 Operating Contingency 	\$ 93K	\$ 96K





Water Utility 2025 Operating Budget

	Forecasted Rate Change Plus: AMI Customer Charge	5.5% \$ 1.32	9.0%	9.0%	7.0%	7.0%	5.0%
		2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1	Total Revenues	16,284	17,794	19,403	20,850	22,450	23,744
2	Total Cost of Revenue	2,399	2,347	2,388	2,439	2,501	2,568
3	Total Gross Margin	13,885	15,447	17,015	18,411	19,948	21,176
4	Total On another variance	7.607	40.007	10.604	10 120	7 202	7 707
4	1 9 1	7,607	18,927	13,684	10,138	7,293	7,707
5	Total Capital Expenditures	8,249	11,217	8,044	5,982	5,734	5,414
6	Net Other Operating Expenses	(3,678)	(5,595)	(1,849)	874	1,365	2,037
7	Total Operating Expenses	12,179	24,549	19,878	16,994	14,393	15,158
8	Net Operating Income (Loss)	1,706	(9,102)	(2,863)	1,417	5,555	6,019

^{* 2025} forecast contains 4 months actuals and 8 months forecast



Water Utility 2025 Operating Budget

	Forecasted Rate Change Plus: AMI Customer Charge	\$ 5.5% 1.32	9.0%	9.0%	7.0%	7.0%	5.0%
		2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
9	Total Financing & Non-Operating Items	2,040	7,943	8,380	4,676	1,389	330
10	Income Before Transfers or Cap Contributions	3,746	(1,159)	5,516	6,093	6,945	6,348
11	Transfers (In Lieu of Taxes)	(501)	(517)	(538)	(547)	(560)	(618)
12	Capital Contributions	1,100	1,103	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
13	Transfers from City/Intercompany	-	-	_	_	_	_
14	Change in Net Assets	4,345	(573)	6,078	6,646	7,485	6,830
15	Change in Net Assets (Excl Contrib & Tfrs)	3,245	(1,676)	4,978	5,546	6,385	5,730
16	Target Change in Net Assets	 5,983	6,358	6,620	6,812	6,998	7,172
17	Excess (Deficit) from Target	(2,738)	(8,034)	(1,641)	(1,265)	(613)	(1,441)

^{* 2025} forecast contains 4 months actuals and 8 months forecast



Water Utility 2025 Operating Budget

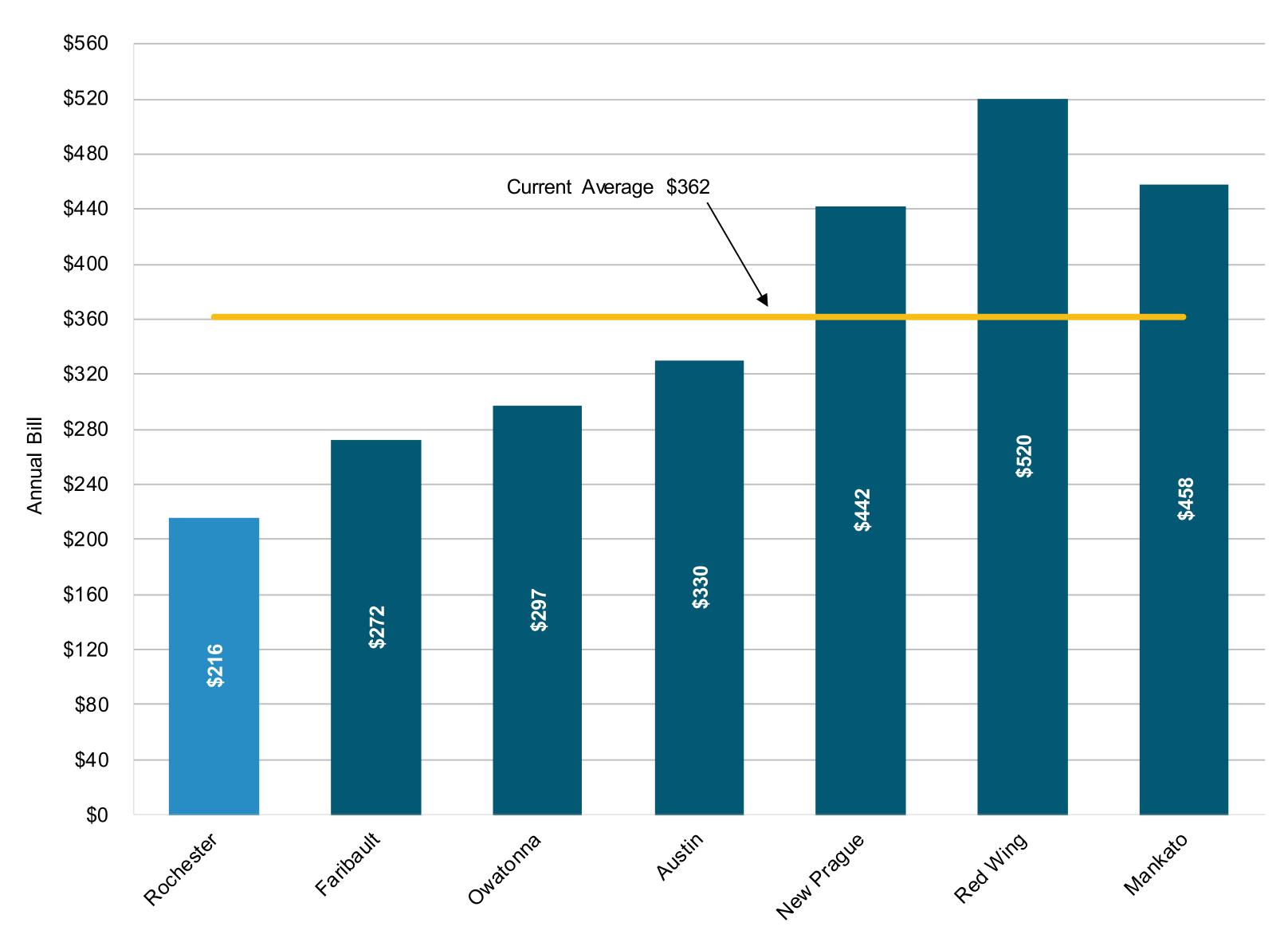
	Forecasted Rate Change Plus: AMI Customer Charge	\$	5.5% 1.32	9.0%	9.0%	7.0%	7.0%	5.0%
		2	2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
18	01/01 Cash Balance		15,519	13,360	8,606	7,649	9,463	13,035
19	Cash From Operations		7,766	3,773	10,326	11,158	12,206	11,785
20	Capital Additions		(8,873)	(12,091)	(8,430)	(6,203)	(5,989)	(5,621)
21	Debt Principal Payments		-		(1,428)	(1,743)	(1,274)	(144)
22	Debt Proceeds		383	4,206	-	-	-	-
23	Non-Cash Contributions		(1,100)	(1,103)	(1,100)	(1,100)	(1,100)	(1,100)
24	Net Change in Other Assets/Liabilities		(334)	460	(324)	(298)	(271)	(243)
29	Net Changes in Cash		(2,158)	(4,755)	(956)	1,814	3,572	4,677
30	12/31 Cash Balance		13,360	8,606	7,649	9,463	13,035	17,712
31	Minimum Cash Reserve		8,630	9,208	8,502	8,262	7,996	7,882
32	Excess (Deficit) from Minimum Cash Reserve		4,731	(602)	(852)	1,201	5,039	9,830

^{* 2025} forecast contains 4 months actuals and 8 months forecast



Residential Class Water Rate Comparison

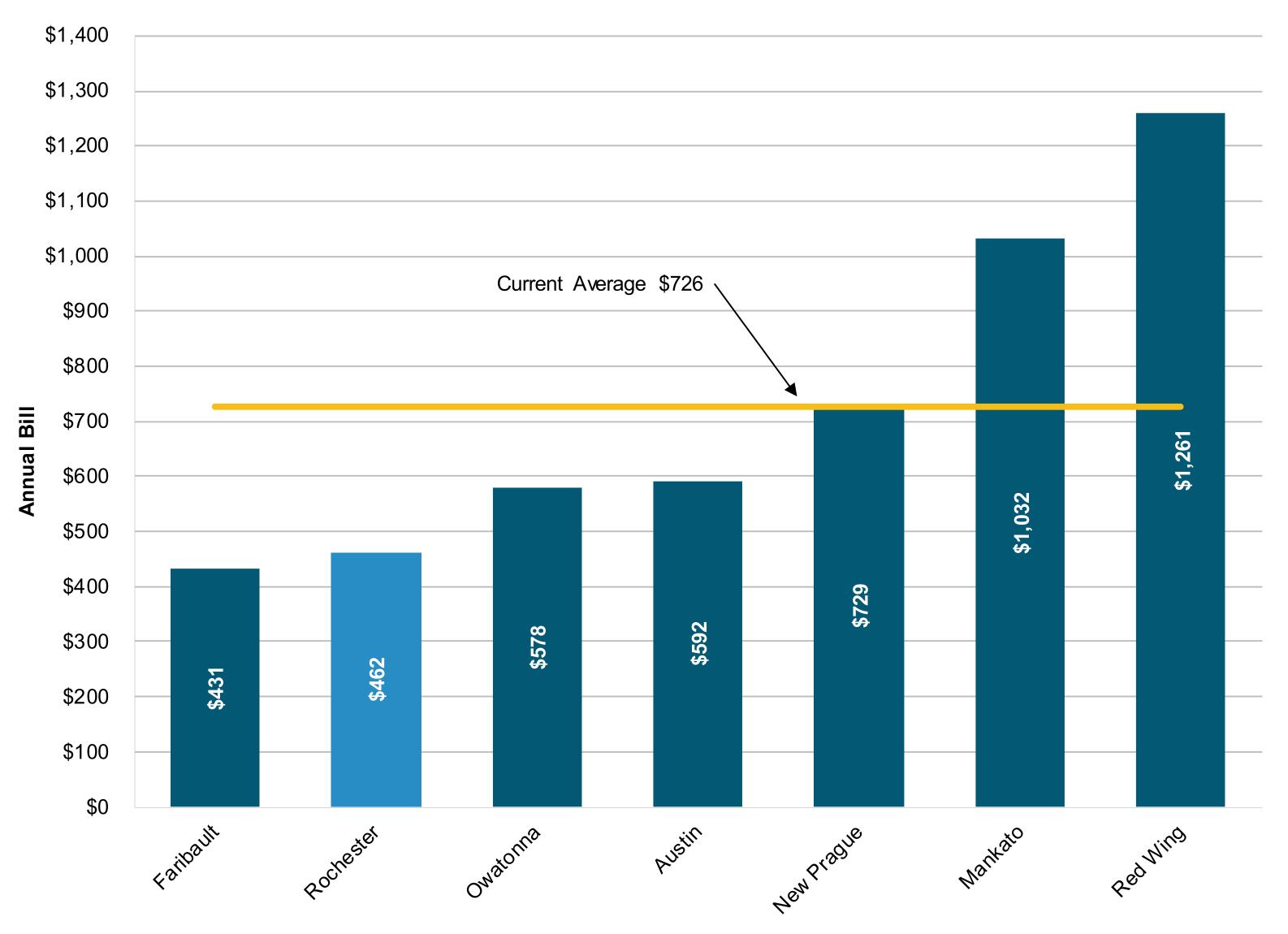
(Jan '24 through Dec '24)





Commercial Class Water Rate Comparison

(Jan '24 through Dec '24)



Water Utility Recommendation

Recommendation

- 9.0% General rate change in 2026 and 2027
- Rate tariff informed by the 2025 cost-of-service study may vary by up to 2% by customer class.

Cost impact to the average residential water customer is: \$2.01/month in 2026 and \$2.19/month in 2027



Questions on Water Utility?



Electric Utility Budget 2026-2030





Estimated Cost of Fuel:

Electric Utility | 2026-2027 Recommended Operating Budget

\$5.18/mcf

2027 0.7 Million remental 6 decrease		
0.7 Million remental % decrease		
0.7 Million remental % decrease		
remental % decrease		
remental % decrease		
% decrease		
MV		
185 Million		
918 Million		
Proposed General Rate Change		
Increase from 2026 Projected Sales		
1.8% Increase over Y/E 2026 Projected Custome oling degree days per year		
%		

\$5.18/mcf

Power Supply Resource Plan | 2026-2027 Budget Assumptions

	5028	2029	2030	2033
Recommended Budget – Scenario 4 100% net renewable energy by 2030	 200MW Wind Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) 100MW Solar PPA 30 MW Repair / Replace Cascade Creek 1 	 <50 MW – Mt Simon Station 50 MW Battery PPA 50 MW Capacity PPA 	• 100 MW Wind PPA	• 100 MW Wind PPA
Alternative – Scenario 5 100% net renewable energy by 2040	 200MW Wind Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) 100MW Solar PPA 30 MW Repair / Replace Cascade Creek 1 	 <50 MW – Mt Simon Station 50 MW Battery PPA 50 MW Capacity PPA 		• 50 MW Wind PPA



Business Drivers

- Power supply resource plan implementation
- End of steam by end of 2027 (or 2028)
- Advanced metering project (2025-2027)
- Enterprise resource planning (ERP) project
- Demand side management (MN Eco Act)
- Demand response investments
- Citywide growth & capital projects
- Weather variability heating and cooling degree days
- New system loads & design standards
- Material and construction cost inflation

Business Risks

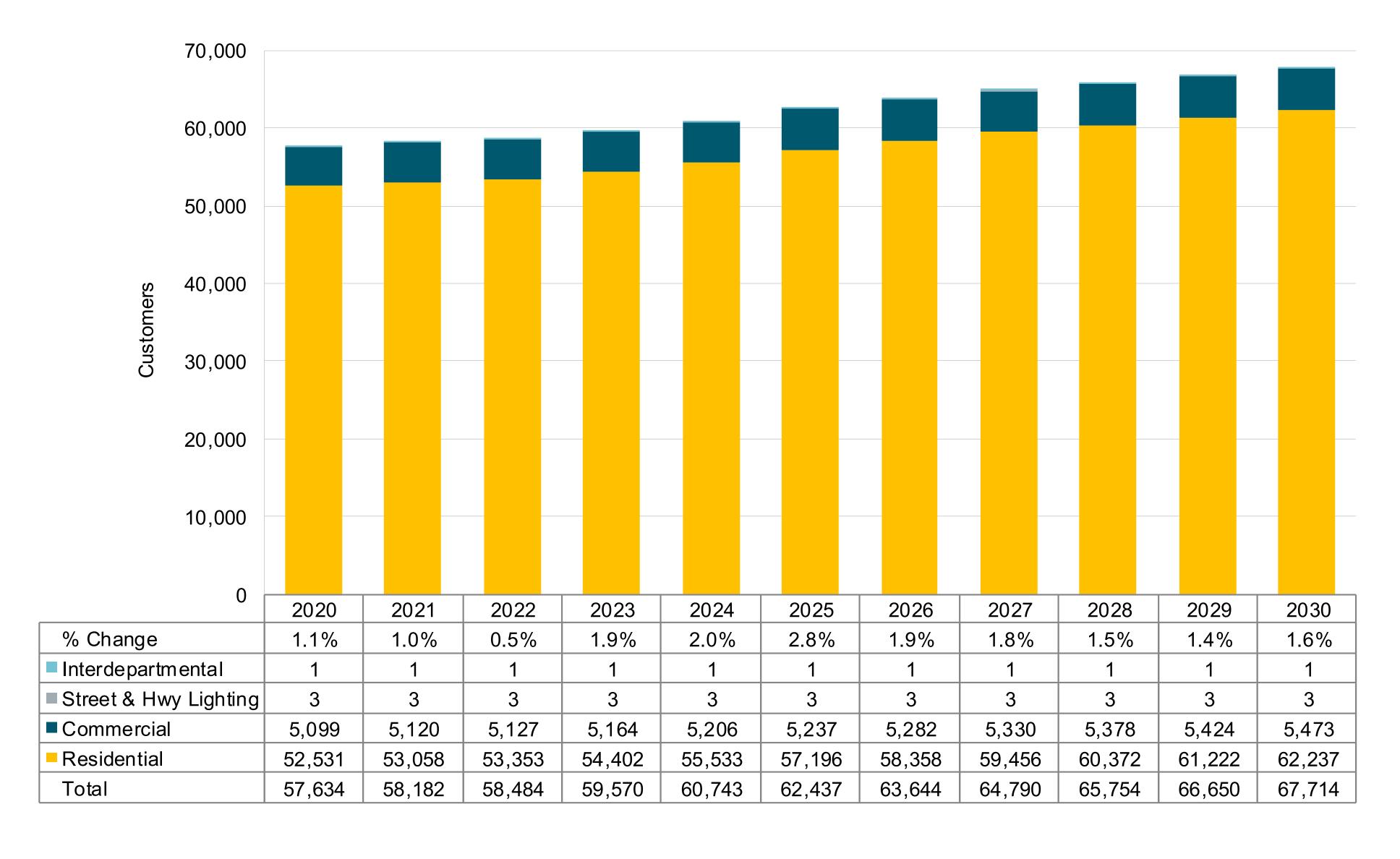
- Legislative & Regulatory: Further loss of tax credits, tariffs, air quality regulation changes
- Energy Sector: market capacity accreditation, transmission interconnection delays & costs
- Compliance: MN carbon free standard, FERC & NERC requirements, conservation (MN Eco Act)
- Local Economy: business changes, work-fromhome, lack of local business sector diversity, workforce retention & competitiveness
- Technology: cybersecurity. concurrent technology projects. (Advanced Metering & ERP)
- Supply Chain: equipment & commodity lead times & cost escalations.





Electric Utility Number of Customers

2020-2024 Actual, 2025 Forecast, 2026-2030 Budget



Business Drivers 2026-2027 Electric Utility Budget

• Continued investment to: Maintain reliability, improve service and safety, serve City expansion and customer growth.

Staffing: 2 Incremental Positions in 2026 and 2027,

Staffing Limited Term: 2026 - Enterprise Resource Planning Project 8 positions (2 yrs)

2026 - Engineering Project Manager (2 yrs), Benchmarking (1 yr)

2027 - Project Engineer - Communications (2 yrs)

 Major Capital Projects (Bonded) 	2026	2027	
 Power Supply Resource Plan 	\$ 26,392K	\$ 76,278K (2026-20	29 \$226,471K)
 Grid North Partners 	\$ 2,490K	\$ 1,720K (2026-20	30 \$31,230K)
Major Maintenance:			

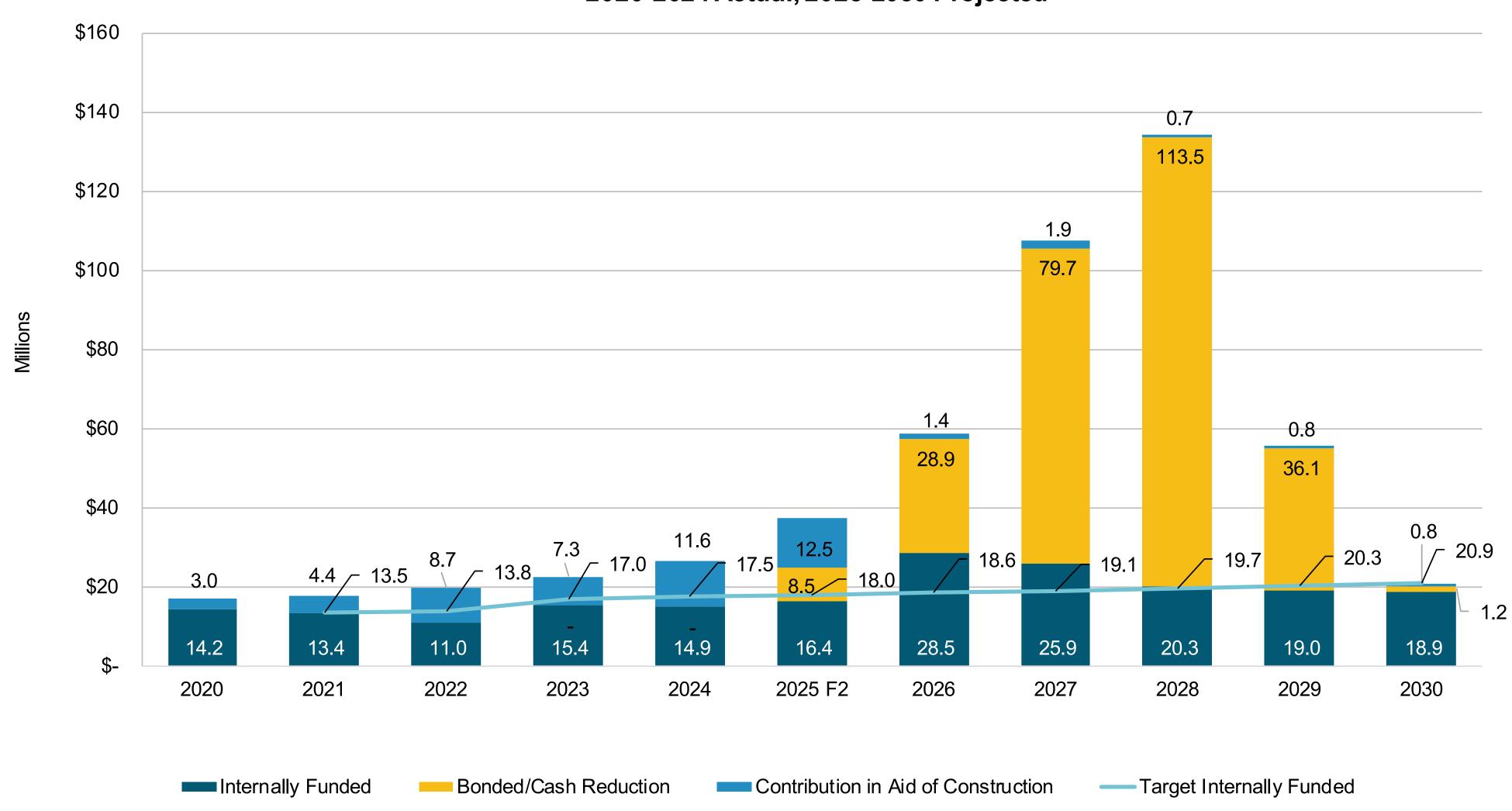
 Tree Trimming \$ 1,920K \$ 1,958K New Services 393K 490K Cayenta Upgrade 293K Power Resources 697K 695K 159K Technology Allocation 300K Operating Contingency Reserve 370K 380K





Electric Utility Capital External Spending

Electric Utility Capital External Expenditures 2020-2024 Actual; 2025-2030 Projected



www.rpu.org

Business Drivers 2026-2027 Electric Utility Budget

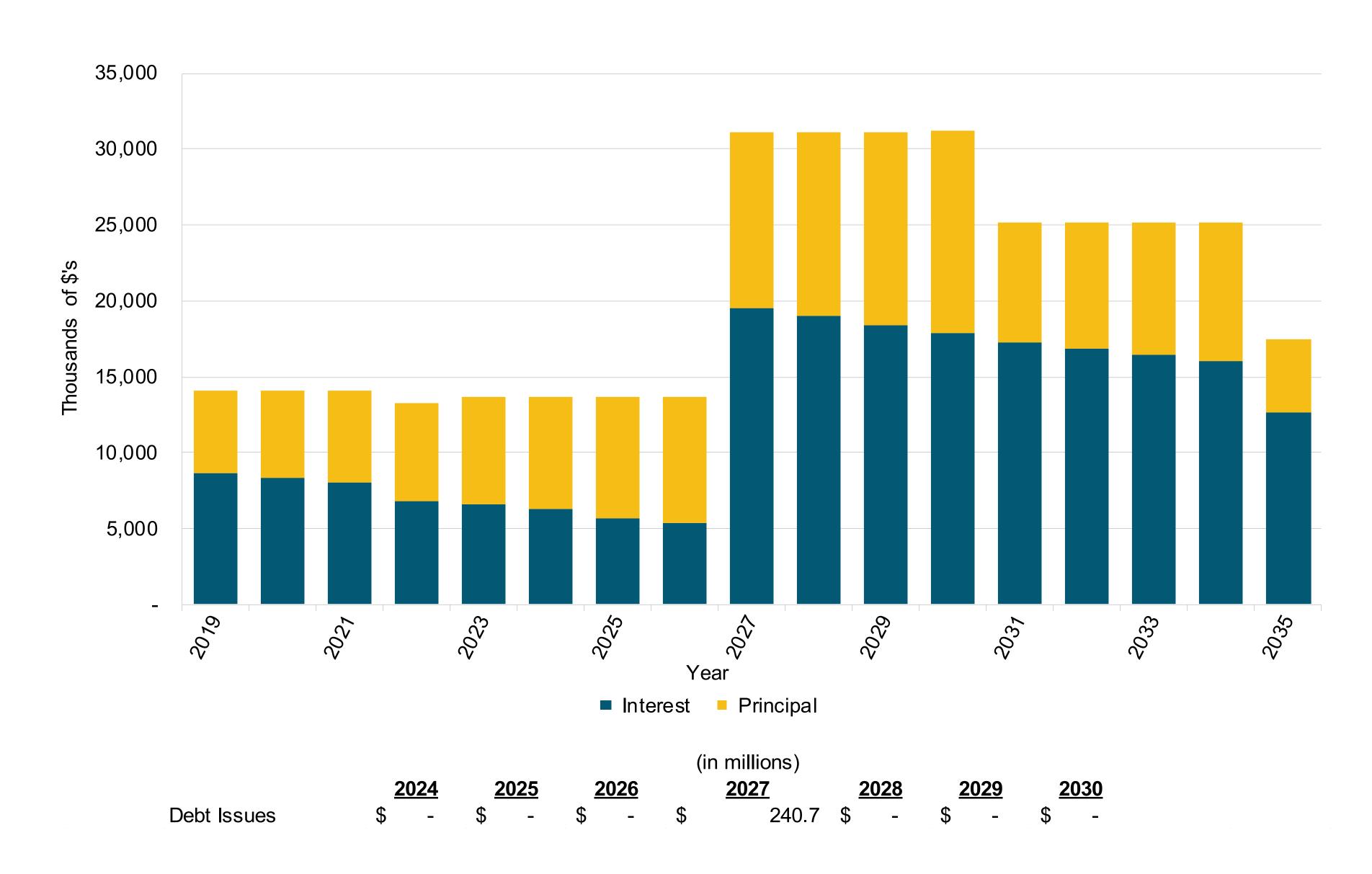
•	Capital Expenditures		2026		2027	
	 Advanced Metering Project 	\$	7,540K	\$	1,881K	(2025-2027 \$16,752K)
	 New Services - Distribution 	\$	1,406K	\$	1,435K	
	 Distribution System Allocation 	\$	3,668K	\$	3,683K	
	 System Growth - Feeders 	\$	2,400K	\$	8,575K	
	 Mayo Downtown Feeders 	\$	300K	\$	300K	(2026-2030 \$3,900K)
	 6th Street SE Bridge 	\$	350K	\$	600K	(2026-2029 \$1,750K)
	 Bus Rapid Transit 	\$	600K	\$	550K	
	 NE Substation - Land 	\$	2,800K	\$	-	
	 Zumbro River Sub - T1 replace 	\$	800K	\$	750K	(2026-2029 \$1,900K)
	 Outage Management System 	\$	_	\$	1,050K	
	 Enterprise Resource Planning(ERI 	P)\$	4,795K	\$	2,219K	(2026-2027 \$7,014K)
	 ERP 5-year Subscription 	\$	583K	\$	5,477K	(Subscription asset \$6,060K)
	 Power Resources/Facilities 	\$	963K	\$	656K	
	 Fleet Allocation 	\$	851K	\$	623K	
	 Project Contingency Reserve 	\$	825K	\$	850K	
	 Total CIAC 	(\$	1,426K)	(5	\$1,893K)	





Debt Service

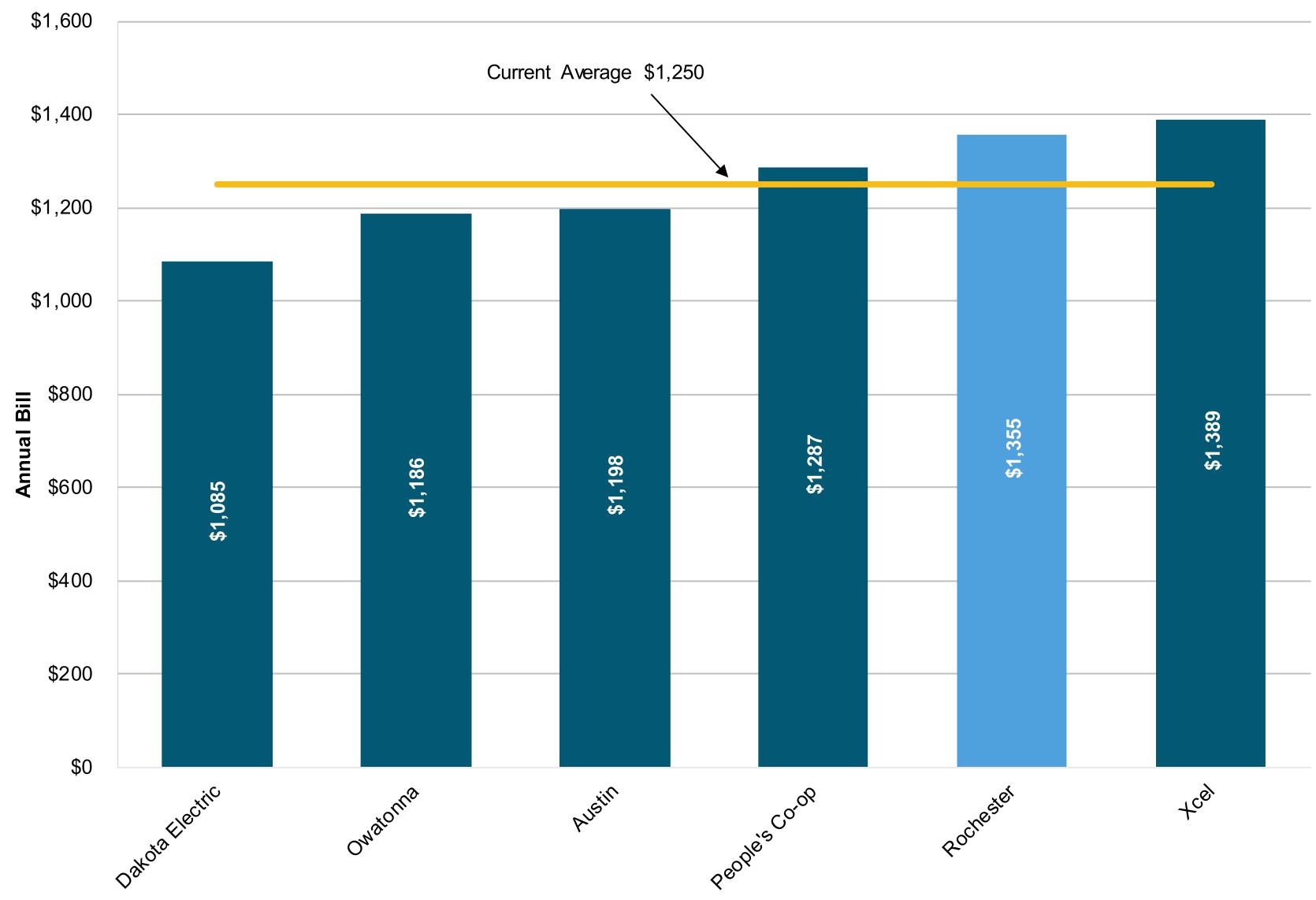
2019-2024 Actual, 2025-2035 Budget/Forecast





Residential Class Electric Rate Comparison

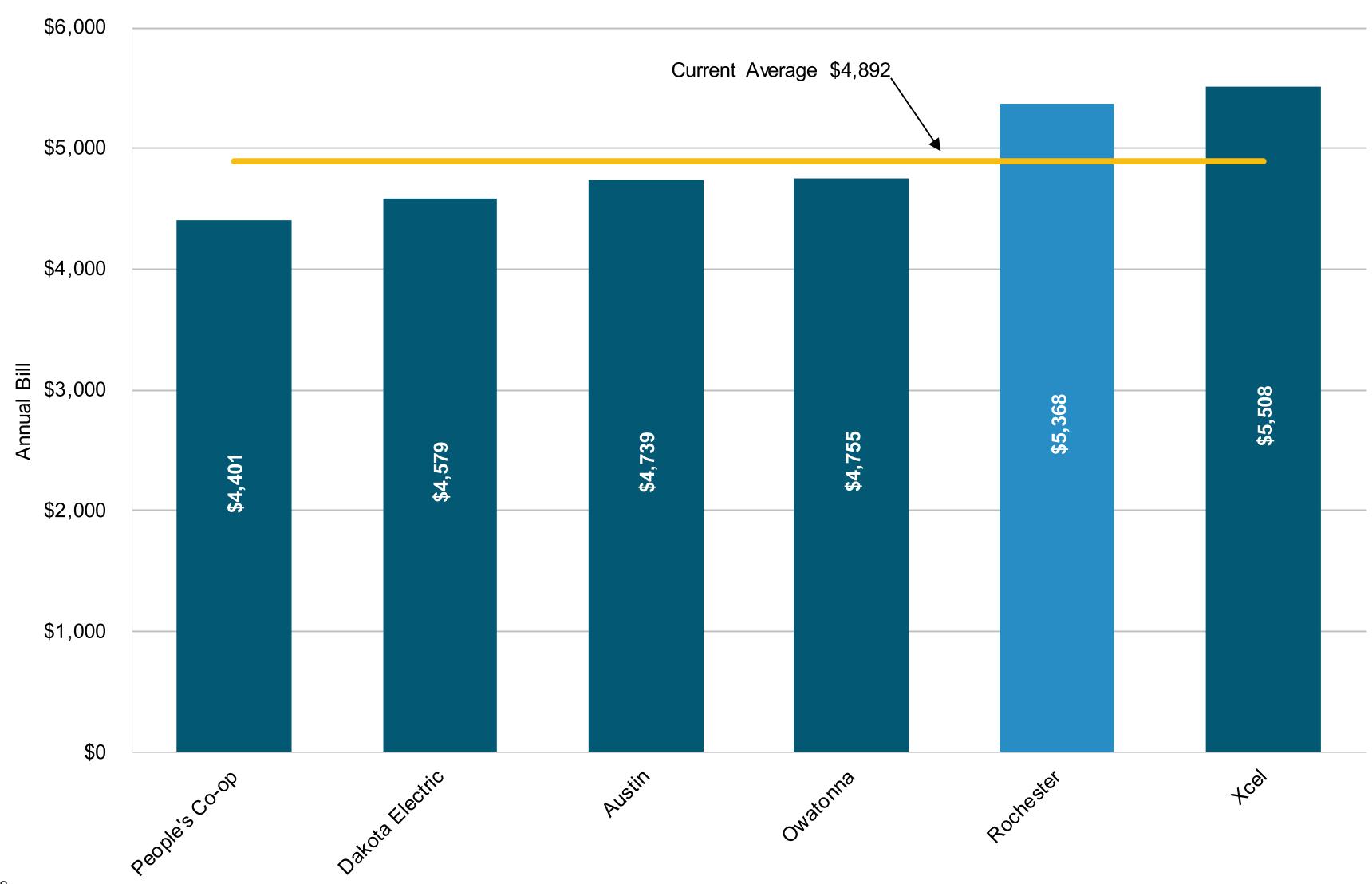
(Jan '24 through Dec '24)





Commercial (SGS) Class Electric Rate Comparison

(Jan '24 through Dec '24)





Electric Utility 2026 -2027 Operating Budget

Forecasted Rate Change Plus: AMI Customer Charge	4.0% -	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
	2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1 Total Revenues	198,741	205,064	217,016	247,676	267,079	327,714
2 Total Cost of Revenue	103,364	99,366	90,633	117,866	129,299	182,590
3 Total Gross Margin	95,377	105,698	126,383	129,810	137,781	145,124
4 Total Operating Expenses	56,798	66,462	66,718	71,538	76,782	83,638
5 Net Operating Income	38,579	39,236	59,665	58,272	60,999	61,486

^{* 2025} forecast contains 4 months actuals and 8 months forecast



Electric Utility 2026 -2027 Operating Budget

Forecasted Rate Change Plus: AMI Customer Charge	4.0% -	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
	2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
6 Total Financing & Non-Operating Items(Interest)	(146)	(1,924)	(12,183)	(13,423)	(14,774)	(14,484)
7 Income Before Transfers/Capital Contributions	38,433	37,312	47,483	44,850	46,225	47,002
8 Transfers (In Lieu of Tax Payments)	(11,140)	(11,586)	(11,918)	(11,378)	(11,186)	(11,194)
9 Capital Contributions	13,790	1,426	1,893	750	750	750
10 Change in Net Assets	41,082	27,152	37,457	34,222	35,790	36,558
11 Change in Net Assets (Excl Capital Contrib)	27,293	25,726	35,565	33,472	35,040	35,808
12 Target Change in Net Assets	21,346	24,474	19,760	26,354	29,430	31,051
13 Excess (Deficit) from Target	5,947	1,252	15,805	7,118	5,609	4,757

^{* 2025} forecast contains 4 months actuals and 8 months forecast



Electric Utility 2026 -2027 Operating Budget

Forecasted Rate Change	4.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
Plus: AMI Customer Charge	\$ -					
	2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
14 01/01 Cash Balance	130,383	122,379	92,579	89,356	100,580	117,789
15 Cash from Operations	41,082	27,152	37,457	34,222	35,790	36,558
16 Capital Additions/Services Territory Comp	(41,900)	(50,086)	(103,607)	(122,112)	(41,424)	(3,425)
17 Bond Principal Payments	(8,005)	(8,305)	(11,670)	(12,207)	(12,771)	(13,336)
18 Bond Sale Proceeds	_	-	240,700	_	_	-
19 Net Change in Other Assets/Liabilities	818	1,439	(166,104)	111,321	35,615	(11,323)
20 Net Changes in Cash	(8,005)	(29,799)	(3,223)	11,224	17,209	8,473
21 12/31 Cash Balance	122,379	92,579	89,356	100,580	117,789	126,262
22 Minimum Cash Reserve	66,647	67,875	58,185	58,654	62,456	66,494
23 Excess (Deficit) from Minimum Cash Reserve	55,732	24,704	31,171	41,926	55,333	59,768
24 Cash Balance as % of Reserve Policy	183.6%	136.4%	153.6%	171.5%	188.6%	189.9%
25 Debt Service Coverage Ratio	4.39	4.42	2.75	2.66	2.76	2.84

^{* 2025} forecast contains 4 months actuals and 8 months forecast

Electric Utility Recommendation

Recommendation

- 6.0% General rate change in 2026 and 2027
- Rate tariff informed by the 2023 cost-of-service study may vary by up to 2% by customer class.

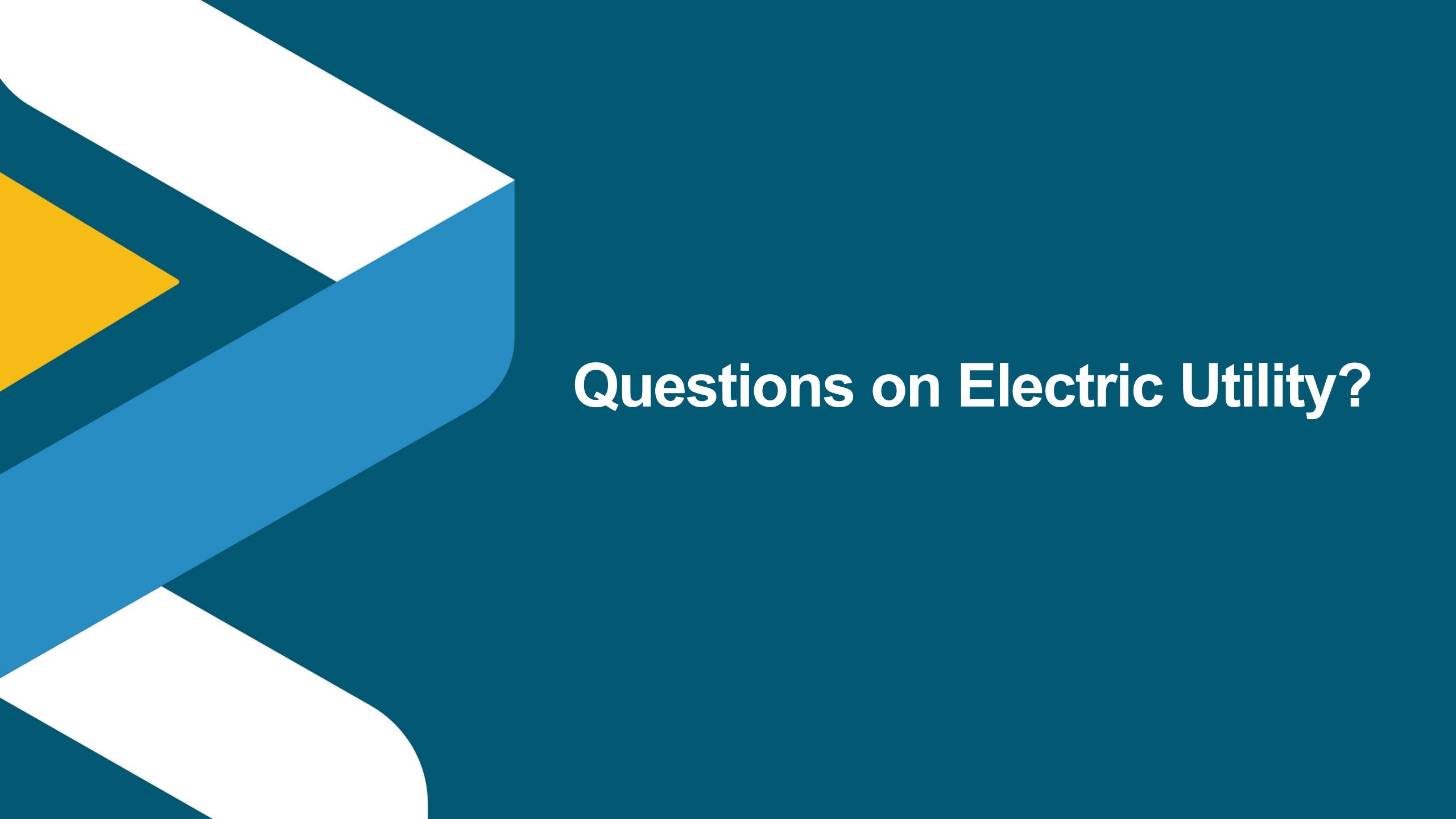
Cost impact to the average residential electric customer is: \$5.78/month in 2026 and \$6.12/month in 2027



Combined Utility Recommendations

- Electric Utility 2026 and 2027 Budget Recommendation
 - General rate change of 6% in 2026 and 2027
 - Each customer class rate may vary up to 2% based on the 2023 cost-of-service study
 - Cost impact to the average residential customer is \$5.78/month in 2026
 - Cost impact to the average residential customer is \$6.12/month in 2027
- Water Utility 2026 and 2027 Budget Recommendation
 - General rate change of 9% in 2026 and 2027
 - Each customer class rate may vary up to 2% based on the 2025 cost-of-service study
 - Cost impact to the average residential customer is \$2.01/month in 2026
 - Cost impact to the average residential customers is \$2.19/month in 2027







3.A. General Manager Summary of Budget Process, Renewable PPAs, & Alternate Scenario Next Steps



GreatBlue Customer Research on Alternate RE Scenarios | Final Survey Draft

Prior to this survey, were you aware that RPU set a goal in 2019 to deliver 100% net renewable electricity by the year 2030?

Yes

No

This next section of the survey will focus on your awareness of and perceptions toward RPU's goal to provide 100% net renewable electricity. When answering the following questions, please keep in mind the following definition of net renewable energy:

100% net renewable energy means all electricity used over a year is matched by renewable generation, though not necessarily hour by hour or day by day. Other energy sources will still be used during periods of low renewable output to ensure reliability, as long as total use is offset annually with renewable energy credits or the equivalent.

How much do you support or oppose RPU's goal of providing 100% net renewable electricity by 2030?

Strongly Support

Somewhat Support

Somewhat Oppose

Strongly Oppose

In 2023, Minnesota passed the Carbon-Free Standard, establishing legally binding carbon-free electricity goals for all utilities, including Rochester Public Utilities. For municipal utilities like RPU, the law requires:

- 60% carbon-free electricity by 2030
- 90% by 2035
- 100% by 2040

Like RPU's existing net renewable energy goals, these targets are measured by matching annual electricity use with carbon-free energy generation. While both sets of goals aim for 100% clean electricity, RPU's original plan targets 100% by 2030, and the state's law steps up more gradually and targets 100% by 2040.

Before this survey, were you aware that Minnesota established the Carbon Free Standard?

Yes

No



This customer research is scheduled to start Aug 11 and results will be complete by Sep 15.

GreatBlue Customer Research on Alternate RE Scenarios | Final Survey Draft

We'd like your input. Which renewable energy goal do you prefer RPU to pursue?

Since RPU's goal was originally established, rising energy costs and changes to federal tax laws have significantly increased the costs of both renewable and non-renewable power generation. As a result, RPU is evaluating whether to stay the course toward the original 2030 goal or to adjust the timeline by aligning with the State of Minnesota's Carbon-Free Standard, which requires 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040.

Current goal – 100% net renewable by 2030

This option aims to achieve 100% net renewable electricity by 2030 through a more accelerated transition. It would result in an estimated annual customer rate increase of about 6% through 2030, totaling approximately a 34% increase by that year. This pathway would reduce greenhouse gas emissions from RPU's power supply by roughly 90% by 2030, delivering earlier climate benefits and supporting stronger environmental leadership. Both renewable energy goals are anticipated to maintain the same high level of reliable service.

Alternative goal – 100% net renewable by 2040

This option follows a more gradual transition aligned with Minnesota's carbon-free standard. It would achieve 60% net renewable electricity by 2030, 90% by 2035, and 100% by 2040. Customer rates would increase by an estimated 4% annually through 2030, totaling around a 22% increase by that year. This pathway would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 70% by 2030, offering a balance of steady progress with lower near-term cost increases. Both renewable energy goals are anticipated to maintain the same high level of reliable service.

I prefer the Current Goal – 100% net renewable energy by 2030

I prefer the Alternative Goal – 100% net renewable energy by 2040 aligned with the MN Carbon Free Standard





Budget, Renewables, & RE Goal Scenarios | Decision Timeline

	August	September	October	November	December
Commission Meetings Potential? or Scheduled Community Engagement Opportunities	5 RPU Special Budget 2026-2027 RPU Proposed Budget 11 Commence GreatBlue Customer Research 11 North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club? 26 RPU Authorize Renewable PPAs Review RE Goal & Rate Scenarios	9 Chamber LGAC Review RE Goal & Rate Scenarios 10 Sustainability & Resiliency Commission Review RE Goal & Rate Scenarios 11 KROC Interview? 15 Complete GreatBlue Customer Research 30 RPU Select RE Goal & Rate Scenario Approve 26/27 Rate Notifications	1 Local Chapter of the Center for the American Experiment? 28 RPU Approve & Recommend to Council 2026-2027 Budget, Rates & Tariffs		16 RPU
		Legislative Priorities			
City Council Meetings	4	3 SS 26/27 Budget	6	3	1 Adoption of Budge Confirmation of
(SS = Study	18 SS	8 Authorize Renewable PPAs	13 SS	10 SS Final Budget Review (if needed)	Mayoral RPU Boa
Session)	18	15 SS 26/27 Budget	20	rtoviow (ii ricoaca)	Appointment
	25 SS 26/27 Budget (RPU)	22 Adopt Prelim Budget & CIP		17	8
		29 SS Resource Plan RE Goals & Rate Scenarios	Priorities	24 SS	15, 22., 29 No Meetings

Consideration & Adoption of the 2026/27 Budget | Authorize Renewable Energy PPAs | Consider Alternate Renewable Energy Goal with Rate & Risk Scenarios



Questions