

RPU *Plugged In*

Engines Arrive at the Westside Energy Station *(see page 2)*



Photo by Josh Banks



Engines Arrive at the Westside Energy Station

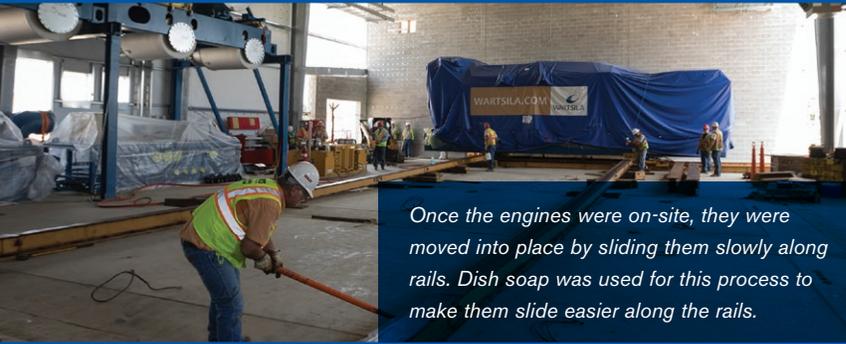
After many months of planning and work, RPU took delivery of the five Wärtsilä reciprocating engines at the Westside Energy Station (WES) on June 27. The engines will have a maximum output of 46 megawatts of energy, which will be available if they are dispatched to add energy into the regional energy grid.

The engines arrived in Rochester after a long trip originating from Finland. Special equipment and delivery methods were necessary due to the size and weight of the engines. Each engine weighs 135,000 kilograms, equating to just under 300,000 pounds.

The WES is scheduled to go live in May 2018.



A special 14-axle trailer was used to bring each engine into the WES.



Once the engines were on-site, they were moved into place by sliding them slowly along rails. Dish soap was used for this process to make them slide easier along the rails.



Photos by Josh Banks

RPU Lineworkers Safety Training

RPU lineworkers continuously train and practice to ensure that they are prepared in case a dangerous safety issue arises. Some of the safety scenarios the lineworkers were recently going over included:

Pole top rescue



Bucket truck rescue



Rappelling from an aerial bucket



Snowbird? Leaving for the Winter?

Make sure your contact information is up-to-date in case of an issue with your water or electric service.



If you are a customer that leaves Rochester for an extended amount of time over the winter, there are a few things that you can do to help ensure that your electric and water services are safe and working properly while you are away.

- **Call RPU before you leave to make sure your contact information is up-to-date.** If there is a question regarding your bill or irregular usage is seen at your home, RPU may need to call you.
- **Tell RPU how long you will be away.** A note can be made on your account notifying RPU customer service that you will be away.
- **Put a backup contact on your account.** Adding a backup contact of someone in the Rochester area can help you in the case of a utility emergency. Their name and phone number must be on your account, and they must be noted as an authorized person on your account.

- **Check to see if you are signed up for Service Assured®.** RPU's underground utility repair coverage could save you expensive out-of-pocket repairs to your electric and water services. Don't be stuck with a surprise expense while you're away. (Some restrictions apply.)



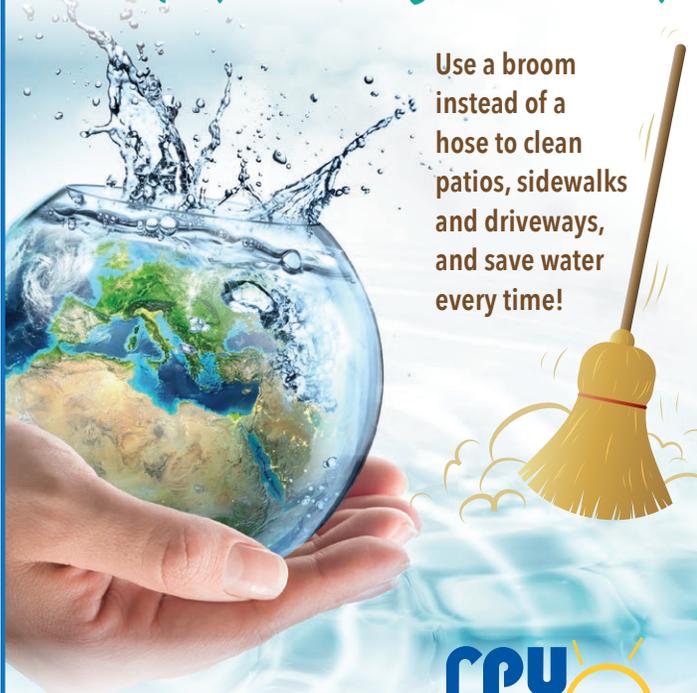
- **Ensure your RPU bill is forwarded to your winter location.** Having your bill forwarded to your winter location is as easy as calling RPU customer service and leaving your winter address with them.



Contact RPU customer service
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
at **507.280.1500.**

WATER CONSERVATION

Monthly Tip on Saving From the Tap



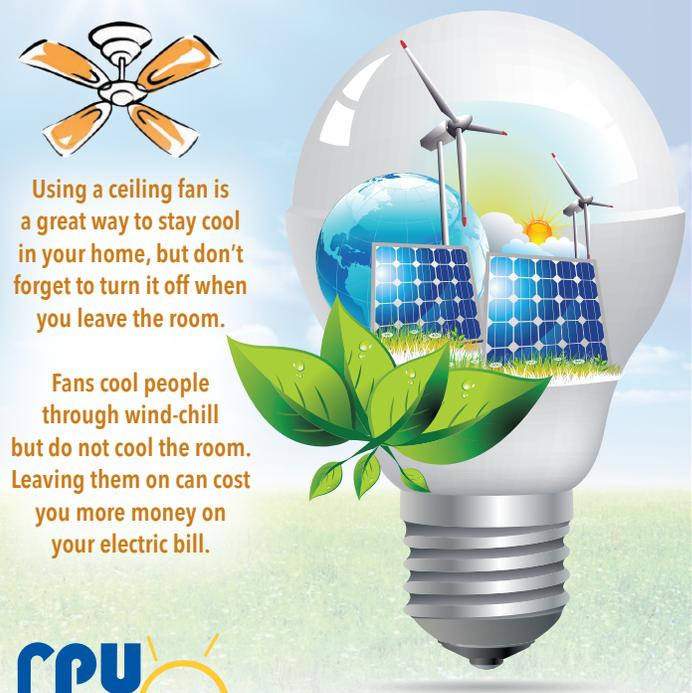
Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, sidewalks and driveways, and save water every time!

rpu
we pledge, we deliver®

CONSERVE & SAVE

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Monthly Tip for Plugging into Savings!



Using a ceiling fan is a great way to stay cool in your home, but don't forget to turn it off when you leave the room.

Fans cool people through wind-chill but do not cool the room. Leaving them on can cost you more money on your electric bill.

rpu
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CONSERVE & SAVE

Choose Your Way

TO PAY YOUR RPU BILL



Go Paperless

Receive an email that your bill is available to view.

Budget Billing

Call us at 280.1500 to verify your eligibility. If you have **Non-Electric Heat**, call us in **October**. If you have **Electric Heat**, call us in **April**.

NOTE: Account must be at a zero balance to start. Late payments will result in removal from the program.

Automatic Payments

- Automatic Checking or Savings Account Debit
- Automatic Credit/Debit Card Payment
- Can be combined with Budget Billing

How to Enroll

Enroll at www.rpu.org or fill out the form below and mail it to:
RPU Customer Service, 4000 E River Road NE, Rochester, MN 55906-2813

Visit www.rpu.org to learn how to **Pay Online, Pay By Phone, or use Pay Stations and Drop Boxes.**

RPU BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS ENROLLMENT FORM *You may also enroll at: www.rpu.org*

_____ **300000** _____
Last Name (As It Appears On Your Account) First Name (As It Appears On Your Account) RPU Contract Account Number

Service Address

Mailing Address (If Different Than the Service Address) City State Zip

Home Phone Number Cell Phone Number

Email Address (Required to Go Paperless)

By signing below, I hereby request RPU to enroll my account in the options I select below, and acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions as outlined on www.rpu.org.

Printed Name Customer Signature Date

GO PAPERLESS (Provide an email address above.)

BUDGET BILLING (Call us to verify your eligibility.)

AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS

PLEASE DEDUCT MY PAYMENT: (Check one.) When My Bill Is Invoiced When My Payment Is Due

Checking Account Withdrawal (Please attach a VOIDED check.) Bank Name: _____

Savings Account Withdrawal (Please attach a VOIDED deposit slip.) Bank Name: _____

Credit / Debit Card (Please fill out your credit/debit card information below.)

WE VALUE YOUR PRIVACY! The portion of this form above this line will be retained for authorization purposes. To protect your privacy the portion below this line, as well as any attached voided checks or deposit slips, will be destroyed.

DISCOVER  MasterCard  VISA 

Name (As It Appears on Card): _____

Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Exp Date: ____ / ____



2017

Environmental Achievement Awards Call for Nominations!

The 2017 Environmental Achievement Awards will mark 26 years of recognizing local individuals, businesses, and organizations for extraordinary efforts to benefit the local environment in Rochester and Olmsted County.

There are a lot of great things that are happening in the Rochester community that truly benefit the environment and we want to recognize that effort. Do you know someone or a group that deserves recognition for positively benefiting the environment in Rochester or Olmsted County? By taking time to nominate someone, you are helping to reinforce these great efforts and could inspire others to join in! Don't miss out on this opportunity!

In order to help you with identifying possible nominations, here are some Environmental Award recipients from the past five years.

Pace Dairy

In 2011, Pace Dairy established a sustainability team to achieve its vision of developing a company-wide effort to reduce their waste stream and become more energy efficient. The team provides leadership, education, inspiration, and support to incorporate environmentally responsible practices that are integrated into their manufacturing operations. Since the inception of the program, Pace has reduced the company's overall energy usage by nearly 13%. They've done that by making operational and equipment changes and by encouraging all employees to identify energy-saving ideas.

John Adams Middle School "Butt Kickers"

Since 2011, the "Butt Kickers" of John Adams Middle School have worked diligently to clean public areas and educate the community about the hazards of cigarette butt litter. Their efforts have informed their peers at John Adams and the residents of Rochester that cigarette butts are toxic to our landscape-adding pollutants to our local waterways and environment. Since their inception, the "Butt Kickers" have picked up over 30,000 littered cigarette butts.

Master Gardeners of Olmsted County

The Master Gardeners provide education on the value of native plants, practices to reduce storm water runoff, proper lawn care, and other topics that help minimize pollutant-laden storm water runoff from reaching our waterways. Gardeners teach classes and workshops on wise lawn-chemical use, planting native plants and rain gardens, and avoiding invasive species.

Zumbro Watershed Partnership

The Zumbro Watershed Partnership created an organizational goal of raising public awareness of the Zumbro River and its tributaries in an effort to protect the river. This project took place in the City of Rochester, greater Olmsted County, Dodge County, and Goodhue County. In Olmsted County, 58 new bridge signs now educate the public as to what stream or river they are crossing and inform the public that the waterway is a part of the much larger Zumbro Watershed. There are also 12 new educational signs located in six parks, among the three counties, that give the public information about the role of human activity on the waters of the watershed.

Bruce Frutiger

Mention Mr. Frutiger to former students from Century High School, and you'll find he was likely a big influence on their environmental ethics and love of nature. Bruce has worked to involve students in a variety of projects:

- Conservation activities at the Olmsted County Fair
- The Envirothon
- Glacier Stops Here
- Earthfest
- Collecting winter water samples for nitrogen testing
- Stream studies data collection for the Department of Natural Resources and Smallmouth Bass Alliance

He is a board member and active volunteer for the Zumbro Watershed Partnership, and Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center.

Visit the RPU website (www.rpu.org) and fill out a nomination form. The deadline for nominations is October 6, 2017.

RPU Commercial Customer Corner

Beware of Utility Payment Scams

We have heard from several commercial customers that they've received threatening phone calls stating that if they don't pay their bill immediately, their utility service(s) will be disconnected. Some of the scams have requested payments in the forms of prepaid debit cards or even credit cards over the phone.

Please be aware that RPU will never request bank or other secure information from you over the phone unless you ask to discuss your account. The RPU representative will then ask you for information that identifies who you are and that you are authorized to speak on behalf of account(s). More importantly, RPU will only contact you Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

What should you do if you receive a threatening scam?

- If someone calls you and threatens to disconnect your utilities if you don't pay immediately, just hang up.
- Call RPU at **507.280.1500** to report the scam.
- Never give out personal or financial information to an unknown caller.
- Remember that RPU will never use threatening language or make forceful demands for payment.

Contact your RPU representative for more information on what you can do to protect yourself and your company from utility payment scams



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See your RPU representative for more information on energy management or our Conserve & Save[®] rebate program.

CONSERVE & \$SAVE[®]

MMUA Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship Award Essay Contest Winner from Rochester

The MMUA Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship Award winners were selected in late April. The top four recipients were from the municipal utility communities of Detroit Lakes, Henning, Moorhead, and Rochester.

Brock Sykes, of Rochester, was selected as the first-place recipient from statewide judging. Sykes, a senior at Century High School, plans on attending the University of Minnesota in the fall. As the first-place recipient, Sykes will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 toward his college education.



Left to right: Steve Downer, MMUA, Brock Sykes, and Mark Kotschevar, RPU General Manager.

SHARE THE POWER, BUT NOT YOUR ROOF!

JOIN RPU'S COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM.

What is Community Solar?

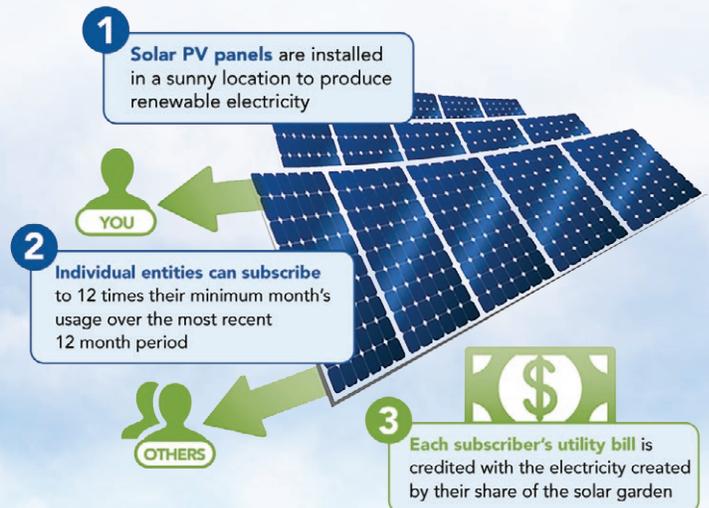
Community solar is an alternative to rooftop solar installed at a customer's property. It's an easy and affordable way to join the solar movement and enjoy renewable energy. While only 25% of residential rooftops are suitable for solar installations, community solar provides an equitable way to allow those who want more solar to get it without impacting those who do not.

How does the SOLARCHOICE program work?

Instead of putting panels on your roof, we build a large solar project called a community solar garden with thousands of panels. You subscribe to a portion of the energy produced by the community solar garden, along with many other residents who share your commitment to renewable energy. Each month you receive a bill credit for the solar electricity generated by your subscribed panel(s).

How do you join?

For more information about joining RPU's SOLARCHOICE program, visit www.rpu.org.





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

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Where to Find RPU

Find us on social media for the latest RPU news and updates!

 @rpuoutages for outage information

 @rpualerts for RPU news and general information

 Rochester Public Utilities

Douglas Trail Substation Ribbon-Cutting

The Douglas Trail Substation was officially added to the roster of RPU facilities on June 27 during a ribbon-cutting event.

The substation is adjacent to an Epic Systems Data Center and will provide database management for Mayo Clinic. The substation will initially be dedicated to serving the data center exclusively; however, future expansion was built into the substation to serve future RPU distribution needs.

The substation was built on time, on budget (\$8.2 million), and without any lost-time injuries. All things that RPU are very excited to share and celebrate!

Many individuals and companies helped with this project. Some are pictured in the photo below.



Left to right: Jeff Kranz, Jeff Fate (Hunt Electric), Tyler Meiners, Pete Minogue, Neil Stiller, Ted Mason, Bill Schmitz, Levi Kaiser (Benike Construction), Sidney Jackson, Mark Kotschevar, Jeff Heinemann (Ulteig Engineers), Patrick Deibel (Ulteig Engineers), Mike Benike (Benike Construction).



RPU SERVICE CENTER Holiday Hours

The RPU Service Center will be closed on: Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day