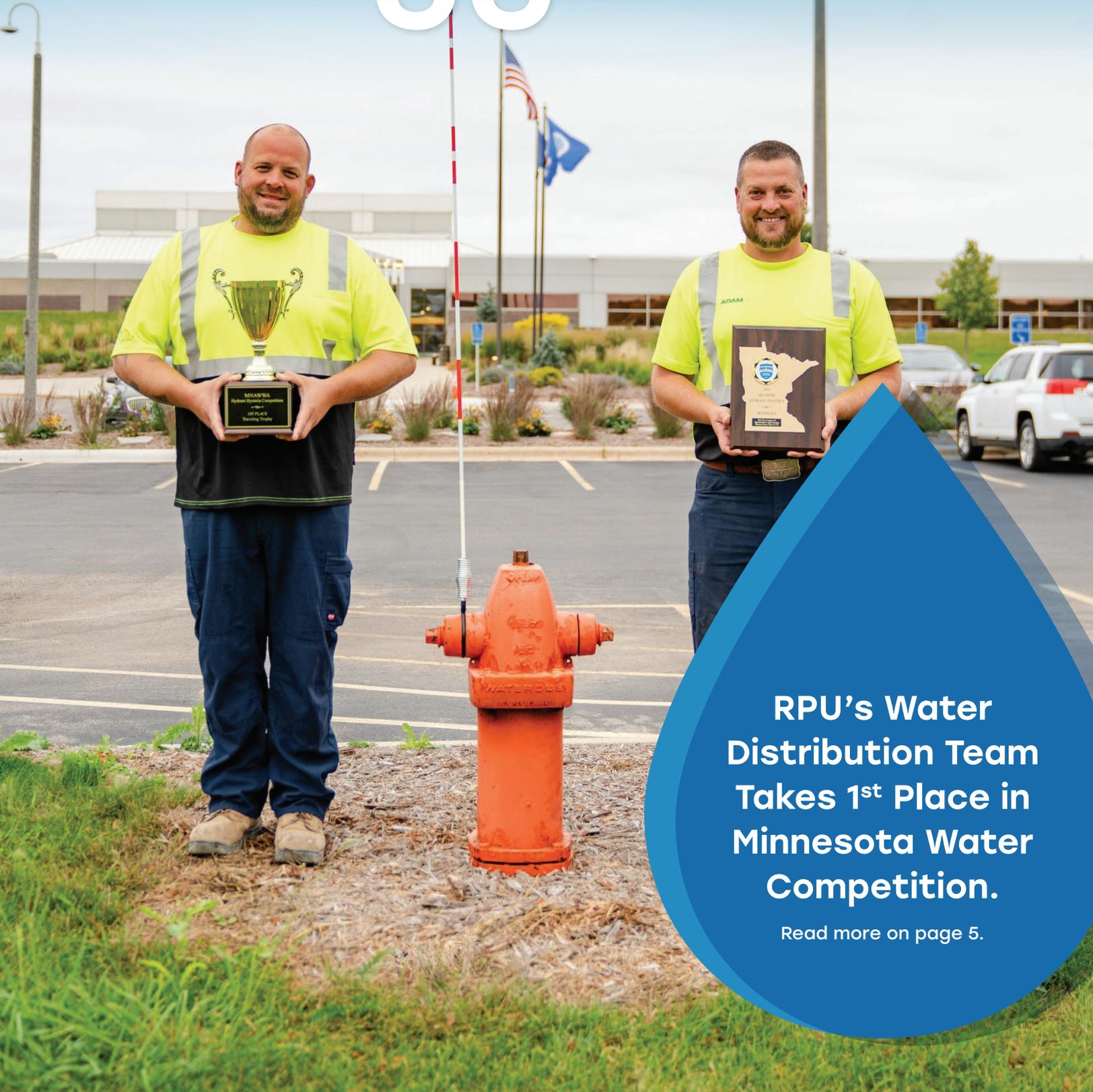




ROCHESTER  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
WE PLEDGE, WE DELIVER

# Plugged In



**RPU's Water Distribution Team Takes 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Minnesota Water Competition.**  
Read more on page 5.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a red knit beanie, a red scarf, and a yellow sweater, is looking upwards with a joyful expression. She is holding a string of warm white LED lights. The background is filled with out-of-focus warm white lights, creating a festive and cozy atmosphere.

## Brighten Your Holidays with LED Lighting This Year!

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're 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 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 to 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](http://www.rpu.org), for full details.

# 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 28, 2022.



## 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, 2021.
2. Complete this coupon and submit it to RPU:
  - by March 31, 2022
  - 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/2021)	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
____/____/2021	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$
____/____/2021	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$
____/____/2021	<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  
rebates@rpu.org

Recipient must be an electric customer of Rochester Public Utilities. Valid only on purchases made by December 31, 2021. All Utility 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:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY: ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE Received \_\_\_\_\_ Date Processed \_\_\_\_\_

# RPU Streetlight Conversion Project to LED

For many decades, there were very few advancements or significant changes in technology for lighting streets. Most of the streetlights prior to 2010 were high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps and going back even further, they were mercury vapor (MV). Approximately 10 to 15 years ago, light-emitting diode (LED) technology began to make real inroads as being a viable option to use for street lighting. Like many emerging technologies, some of the early generations of LED streetlights were very expensive, so they weren't life-cycle cost-competitive compared to the traditional HPS technology, even when factoring significant electrical energy savings from LED compared to HPS.

## Positive Community Response Toward LED Technology

RPU received a federal government grant, approximately 10 years ago, that was used to install some of Rochester's very first LED streetlights. Even though energy consumption was lower for this early LED street lighting, there were some concerns with light color (referred to as color temperature, measured in Kelvin) and the higher initial cost. There was generally a very positive response from the community to the LED lighting in the sample areas, and soon after this test project RPU phased out installing new HPS streetlights in favor of LED technology. As the technology has improved, RPU has changed the LED luminaires we use to take advantage of lower-lighting color temperature ("warmer" lighting) and more efficient units.

In 2019, the city authorized within its 2020/2021 capital budget the funding for RPU to replace all the remaining HPS streetlights with new LEDs. The pricing for new LED luminaires has dropped significantly

from the first units we installed over 10 years ago and a broader range of light color options are also available. The Rochester City Council chose a light color equal to that of a halogen lightbulb (3,000 K), which is slightly more of a white color than a traditional household incandescent light source (2,700 K).

## Improvements Through the Years

At the beginning of 2020, RPU had approximately 9,200 streetlights throughout Rochester. At that time, roughly 6,700 of these street light luminaires were still HPS, and the remaining 2,500 had previously already been replaced with new LED luminaires. RPU did a thorough evaluation of numerous LED streetlight brands and models in which the evaluation process considered many factors, such as initial price, energy efficiency, warranty, ease of installation and maintenance, actual light appearance of a trial installation, and a few other factors.

After the top two new LED street light luminaires for each major application were identified from the evaluation, RPU began placing orders for these new luminaires to begin the mass replacement project throughout the city. RPU crews began the replacement project early in 2020 and completed the replacement of all HPS streetlights in August 2021.

## Benefits Include Energy Savings and Reduced Maintenance

Some benefits of this project are energy savings and reduced maintenance. When transitioning from HPS to LED streetlights, that equates to roughly a 60% energy

savings, and it's also anticipated that streetlight maintenance costs should be minimized for at least the first 10 to 15 years. Another benefit of the new LED streetlights is the fact that they are a full cutoff luminaire, which substantially reduces light pollution above the luminaire. Basically, none of the light emitted from the LED streetlight is projected upwards, as was the case with the older HPS streetlights.

RPU also owns, operates, and maintains some rental lighting within the city, which is primarily area lighting and security lighting. Just as with the street lighting, we transitioned several years ago to all new and replacement luminaires being LED.



# RPU Continues Work on New Substation

Work has steadily progressed on the newest substation in Rochester. Recently, a public meeting was held to answer questions on the substation plan.

Located along Marion Road SE, the new substation will be referred to as the Marion Road Substation. It will enhance RPU's ability to provide quality electric service to neighborhoods and businesses in central and SE Rochester.

Neighborhoods to be served by the Marion Road Substation include:

- 📍 From 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE to 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE
- 📍 From 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE to Hwy 52
- 📍 Businesses and Mayo facilities in downtown Rochester will also be served from the new substation



Watch for future construction updates in *RPU Plugged In* as the Marion Road Substation comes together in the coming months.

# RPU's Water Distribution Team Takes 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Minnesota Water Competition



*Pictured left to right: Adam Hovden and Matt Brekke. Rich Rain not pictured.*

Minnesota's chapter of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) recently held its annual Hydrant Hysteria competition for Minnesota water utility workers.

The competition tests the skill and safety of water distribution teams while assembling a hydrant. The RPU team of Adam Hovden and Matt Brekke, coached by Rich Rain, won with a time of 1 minute and 35 seconds.

The RPU team earned a spot in the national competition to be held in San Antonio in 2022.

*Congratulations to Adam, Matt, and Rich!*

# RPU Commercial Customer Corner

## Partnering in Energy Solutions Financing Program

Are you ready to make some energy efficiency improvements for your business, but are worried about those large upfront capital expenses? RPU can help with Partners in Energy Solutions (PIES) financing program!

Whether it's to upgrade to energy efficient LEDs (light-emitting diodes), replacing that old worn-out air conditioner or upgrading to Energy Star® kitchen equipment, RPU wants to partner with you to help you implement energy-saving solutions for your business.

**Here are some benefits for our business customers who choose to work with RPU's PIES Program:**

- ✓ Up to \$25,000 available per project
- ✓ 12 months repayment for under \$5,000, and 24 months over \$5,000
- ✓ 0% financing, with payments right on your RPU bill
- ✓ Work with local Energy Solutions Partners (ESP)

- ✓ Administrative fee (\$200 for up to \$5,000 loan, \$500 for up to \$25,000)

**It's simple to apply. You just need the following:**

- ✓ 2 years of good payment history
- ✓ Work with a qualified Energy Solution Partner (ESP)
- ✓ Project must qualify for a Conserve & Save® rebate

**For questions regarding our PIES program contact one of our Energy and Environmental Advisors:**

## CONSERVE & \$AVE®



**Dave Anderson**  
Energy and Environmental Advisor  
danderson@rpu.org  
507-280-1578



**Anna Basimamovic**  
Energy and Environmental Advisor  
abasimamovic@rpu.org  
507-280-1565



**Josh Mason**  
Energy and Environmental Advisor  
jmason@rpu.org  
507-280-1588

## During this season of giving, help others in need with **Neighbors Chipping In**

This RPU program collects donations and disburses the funds to help people in Rochester pay their utility bill.

It's easy to participate in our voluntary program with a recurring\* monthly donation. You can either:

- 1) Round up your utility bill, or
- 2) Add a specific amount.

Learn more and download an enrollment form at [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org).



*Thank you!*

\*can be cancelled at any time

## FREE Energy Workshop

- Qualify for a \$50 home energy visit, valued at over \$400!
- Home visit includes installation of energy saving materials.
- Get help with next steps including connecting you with qualified contractors, incentives, and rebates.

• **ONLINE** •  
**Sat, Nov 20**  
**10-11am**



To register, call or email Stacy:  
**888-734-6365**  
**sbootscamp@mncee.org**

Learn more at [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org).



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

# Does the Residential Time-of-Use Rate Pilot Program Fit You and Your Family?

If you're an RPU customer who typically uses a significant amount of electricity during late night or early morning hours, our Time-of-Use (TOU) Pilot Program may be an option for you.

Under the direction of the RPU Board, RPU staff have studied and developed a pilot program that charges customers a different rate (per kWh) based on what time of day they use it. RPU buys its electricity from a regional energy market, and that price for electricity is often cheaper for RPU to buy during off-peak times, such as late night or early morning. With TOU rates, customers who can shift their electric load and usage to off-peak times (see table below), can pay a lower rate for that usage, and save money on their bills.

Large appliance usage, electric vehicle charging, and air conditioning use are all examples of loads that could be used during off-peak times to take advantage of the off-peak rate.



<b>RATE:</b>	
Customer Charge	\$18.30
Energy Charge	
<b>Non-Summer Energy</b>	
Super-peak Energy / kWh	13.91¢
On-peak Energy / kWh	13.91¢
Off-peak Energy /kWh	7.06¢
<b>Summer Energy</b>	
Super-peak Energy / kWh	28.80¢
On-peak Energy / kWh	17.13¢
Off-peak Energy /kWh	7.05¢

**Definition of Season:** Summer months are June through September. Non-summer months are January through May and October through December.

**Definition of Super-Peak Energy:** All energy used by the customer between the hours of 4pm and 8pm (4 hours), Monday through Friday.

**Definition of On-Peak Energy:** All energy used by the customer between the hours of 8am and 4pm (8 hours) and between the hours of 8pm and 10pm (2 hours), Monday through Friday.

**Definition of Off-Peak Energy:** All energy used by the customer for all other hours, including weekends and holidays.

## Benefits Of A TOU Rate For Residential Customers Of RPU

- Lowers the daytime spike when other customers are using electricity.
- It helps reduce the pressure on the electric grid and distribution infrastructure.
- Provides customers with flexibility and incentive for usage.

The TOU Rate Pilot Program is limited to the first 200 residential customers who sign up and qualify for the program.

Things to note regarding the TOU Program:

- Open to customers on standard residential rate.
  - Customers must be current with their RPU billing.
  - Customers on dual fuel or high-efficiency HVAC rates aren't eligible.
  - Customers with distributed energy resources are eligible.
- Offered on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Opt-in, with the ability to leave with no penalty.
- Customers must give 45-day notice.

If you have further questions or are interested in signing up for the program, contact RPU Customer Care at **507-280-1500**.

4000 East River Road NE  
Rochester, MN 55906  
507-280-1500  
www.rpu.org



RPU Service Center Hours are 8am-5pm, M-F.

**RPU Service Center Holiday Hours** | The RPU Service Center will be closed on:

• Thursday, November 11  
Veterans Day

• Thursday-Friday, November 25-26  
Thanksgiving

• Friday, December 24  
Christmas

• Friday, December 31  
New Years

**Social Media:**

-  [rochesterpublicutilities](#)
-  [@rpuoutages](#)  
[@rpualerts](#)
-  [Rochester Public Utilities](#)
-  [blog.rpu.org](#)
-  [RPU TV](#)
-  [Rochester Public Utilities](#)

**Mobile App:**



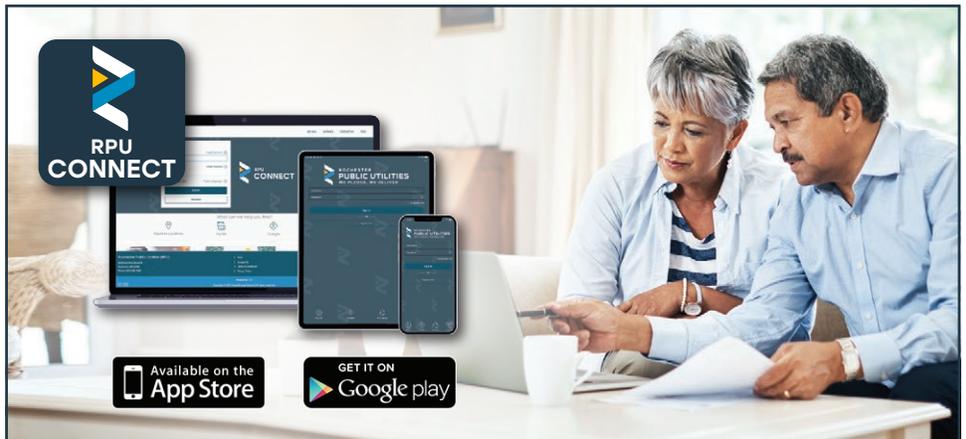
**Customer Care:** 507-280-1500

**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)



**Connect** with your RPU account... anytime, anywhere!

Our customer online portal and mobile app allow you to manage your account, pay your bill, view your usage, control communication preferences, connect with us, and much more!



**Questions? Need help?**

RPU Customer Care is happy to assist you!  
Call us Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm at 507-280-1500.