



ROCHESTER
PUBLIC UTILITIES
WE PLEDGE, WE DELIVER™

Plugged In

Lighting up
the Benefits
of LED Holiday
Decorating

Details on page 2

NOV / DEC
2024

Lighting up the Benefits of LED Holiday Decorating

What's more festive than holiday lights inside and outside a home during the holidays? Whether you're planning to hang five 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) lights are 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. As with traditional bulb strands, special features such as blinking lights and icicle lights are also made using LEDs.

Make the Switch & Save

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. In addition, LEDs don't burn a filament to produce light so they don't put off excess heat in the process, which makes them safer.

The initial cost of LED lighting options, including holiday lights, 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. Visit rpu.org for the full details.

Recycle your Old Lights

Once you've purchased new LED holiday lighting this season, how do you dispose of your old strands? RPU can help with that, too. Due to high demand, RPU will again recycle your old holiday light strands for FREE this year. Just bring your old strands of lights into the RPU Service Center lobby and drop them in the bins designated for holiday lighting recycling.



DON'T THROW AWAY OLD HOLIDAY LIGHTS!

RPU will RECYCLE all of your old holiday light strands for FREE!

It's easy – bring your old holiday string lights and decorations into the RPU Service Center lobby (4000 East River Road NE) and drop them in the designated bins.

NOT ACCEPTED:

- Appliance cords
- Battery packs
- CFL lights
- Cord adapters
- Electric cords
- Plastic rope lights
- Telephone cords

Available now through Friday, January 31, 2025.





Celebrate with Savings!

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

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1. Purchase new LED holiday plug-in (not battery or solar operated) lights and decorations by December 31, 2024.</p> | <p>2. Complete this page and submit it to RPU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by March 31, 2025 • with original sales receipt • with packaging showing the LED logo and number of lights per string (one package per type) | <p>3. Rebate is limited to 50% of LED string or package cost, tax excluded, up to maximum amounts listed below.</p> |
|--|--|--|

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

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Date Purchased (MM/DD/2024)	Lamp Size	# of Lamps per String	Cost per Package	Qty of Packages	Total Cost of Packages (D X E)	Rebate Amount	Total Rebate (F X G) (up to max amounts*)	OFFICE USE ONLY
____/____/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$
____/____/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$
____/____/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$
____/____/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$
____/____/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$

*** 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

Complete this page and submit it to:

Rochester Public Utilities
 Attn: Rebate Processing
 4000 E River Rd NE
 Rochester, MN 55906-2813
 507-280-1500
 www.rpu.org
 rebates@rpu.org

GRAND TOTAL REBATE:

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

OFFICE USE ONLY: ID# _____

DATE Received _____

Date Processed _____

Recipient must be an electric customer of Rochester Public Utilities.
 Valid only on purchases made by December 31, 2024.
 All Utility Rebate terms and conditions apply.



From the Desk of the General Manager



Tim McCollough
General Manager

In our last issue, I shared the importance of Rates, one of our five foundational principles: Reliability, Rates, Responsibility, Relationships, and Reputation. This month I would like to emphasize our commitment to Responsibility.



RELIABILITY



RATES



RESPONSIBILITY



RELATIONSHIPS



REPUTATION

Responsibility is our pledge to foster a consistent culture of excellence in achieving and maintaining RPU's responsibilities to our teammates, customers, community, external partners, regulators, and to the environment.

Our commitment drives us to strategically manage our resources, embrace sustainable practices cost-effectively, and align with our community's standards and vision. Striving towards environmental stewardship means taking advantage of grant funding opportunities such as teaming up with the State of

Minnesota's Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to embark on an innovative three-year pilot project aimed at transforming two of our transmission corridors into active pollinator habitats.

It means tracking energy and water savings, monitoring annual avoided peak demand, and reflecting on the effectiveness of our conservation and demand response efforts which helps to offset the need for additional energy resources.

At the heart of RPU is a profound commitment to responsibility, guiding our interactions with both customers and team members. We emphasize fairness and integrity, ensuring that these values are central to our daily operations.

We are also dedicated to creating a safe and secure work environment. By increasing awareness, promoting collaboration, and providing ongoing education, we are steadfast in our goal to achieve zero recordable injuries. Safety is not just a policy—it's a core value that we live by every day. Embracing our Responsibility pledge reflects our dedication to the well-being and safety of every individual within RPU and in our community. We carefully balance our internal needs with community expectations

and environmental impact, ensuring our actions are aligned with our core values and contribute positively to our surroundings.

On behalf of the entire team, we want to express our gratitude for your trust and support as we strive to serve you better.



Plugged In added digital!

If you would like to join the digital mailing list, scan this QR code.



rpu.org/about-rpu/plugged-in



CHANGES COMING JANUARY 2025!

In January 2025, RPU is making changes to its Service Assured® Underground Electric Repair Coverage Program to include all eligible* residential electric customers who are currently not enrolled. With this newly expanded program, RPU will be able to quickly address costly underground electric service repairs with no hassle or worry for you.

More details coming soon!



Learn more at www.rpu.org

*some eligibility exclusions apply

4U2 and Energy Sustainability for our Elderly

RPU and Minnesota Energy Resources are committed to making energy efficiency improvements affordable for income-qualified customers. The 4U2 program helps eligible low-income households improve their home's energy efficiencies while reducing overall energy costs. Energy Sustainability for our Elderly is a program designed to weatherize and update the equipment efficiencies in the homes of our qualified low-income elderly residents to improve their health, safety, independent living, and reduce energy burden.

To see if you qualify, fill out a 4U2 or Energy Sustainability for our Elderly Application, available at www.rpu.org. See the applications for full details.



4U2 PROGRAM

MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES

ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES



Energy Sustainability FOR OUR ELDERLY

MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES

ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES

How much could your house save you?

Attend our FREE workshop and learn low-cost/no-cost ways to save! Qualify for a \$75 home energy audit (\$365 value) which includes installation of energy saving materials. Learn more at www.rpu.org.

Saturday, November 16 | 10:00-11:00 a.m.

FREE CHILDCARE PROVIDED!

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



MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES

ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES WE PLEDGE, WE DELIVER™

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





COMMERCIAL CORNER

RPU Rebates & Resources for New Businesses **CONSERVE & \$AVE™**

This fall, RPU had the pleasure of working with Minnesota Treads, a new local business in the Miracle Mile Shopping Center, and their electrical contractor, Hicks Electric, to secure utility rebates through RPU's Conserve & Save™ program. As part of a significant remodel project, Minnesota Treads prioritized sustainability by choosing high-efficiency LED lighting. This decision not only improved the business's energy efficiency but also earned them a rebate of over \$1,900.

The owner of Minnesota Treads reflected on the experience, highlighting the value of RPU's rebate program during their opening phase:

"Opening a new business is a daunting task. More time and energy go into preparation than you can imagine. Making sure that your business runs as efficiently as possible is critical to its success. That's precisely why we asked our electrician at Hicks Electric to utilize LED lighting for its energy efficiency. Our goal is to provide our customers with the very best products and service possible, so when RPU stopped by shortly before we opened

and asked if we would like to receive a rebate for our LED lighting choices, we happily jumped at the opportunity. What a great feeling to know that RPU offers such a great service to its commercial customers! From all of us at Minnesota Treads, THANK YOU RPU! We genuinely appreciate your support."

RPU remains committed to supporting local businesses by offering resources

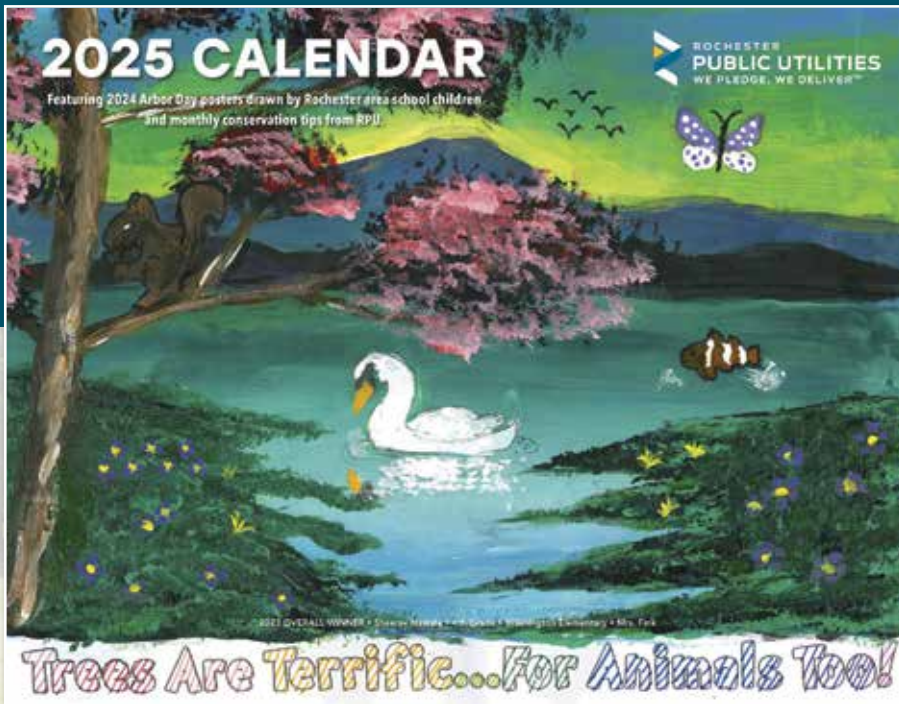
for energy savings and financial incentives. Collaborations like these highlight the power of partnerships between businesses, trade allies, and the utility, promoting both sustainability and community growth. For more information about RPU's Conserve & Save™ program, contact one of our Energy & Environmental Advisors or visit rpu.org/rebates-programs/commercial.



Pictured Left to Right: Paul Burshem (Hick's Electric), Brock Quimby (MN Treads), and Matt Davidson, RPU.



Come in to the RPU Service Center and
PICK UP YOUR FREE RPU 2025 CALENDAR!*



If your child was a winner or participated in the 2024 Arbor Day poster contest, their artwork may be in our calendar!

FEATURING:

- 2024 Arbor Day posters drawn by Rochester area elementary school children
- Monthly energy and water conservation tips

*limit one per customer; while supplies last



Be Alert & Aware of RPU Work Zones This Winter

Working to keep the lights on and the water flowing, RPU crews can be found just about anywhere—no matter the season. Often, work zones include roadways close to traffic.

WORK ZONE SAFETY TIPS

When traveling through a work zone, remember to:

1. Slow down as you approach the work zone, which will be designated with orange signs and cones.
2. Move into the open lane as soon as possible when approaching lane closures.
3. Watch for other vehicles that may be in your blind spot.
4. Expect the unexpected such as workers and equipment.
5. Eliminate distractions while driving like using screens, devices, or eating and drinking.






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



RPU Plugged In is designed
and printed locally in Rochester.



Social Media:

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



RPU HOLIDAY CLOSURE DATES

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans' Day

NOVEMBER 28 & 29

Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day

Happy
Holidays



Safe
Travels