



ROCHESTER
PUBLIC UTILITIES
WE PLEDGE, WE DELIVER®

Plugged In

Lighting up the
Benefits of LED
Holiday Decorating

Learn more on page 2

NOV / DEC
2022

Lighting up the Benefits of 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.

Light 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. See rebate coupon on page 3 or visit rpu.org for a standard application and the full details.

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.

HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING

RPU will recycle all of your old holiday light strands for FREE.

Bring them into the RPU Service Center lobby (4000 E River Rd NE) and drop them in the designated bins.



Available now through Friday, January 27, 2023.



This holiday season, give the gift of a few extra cents.

RPU's **Neighbors Chipping In** program helps people in Rochester pay their utility bill. It's easy to give with a recurring* monthly donation. You can round up your utility bill or add a specific amount. Call 507-280-1500 to enroll or learn more at www.rpu.org.



Thank you!



*can be cancelled at any time

Taking steps to save energy is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1 Free Energy Workshop
- 2 Home Visit + Installation of Energy Saving Materials
- 3 Help With Next Steps

TAKE THE FIRST STEP! Attend our next Free Energy Workshop:
Saturday, November 19, 2022 | 10-11 a.m.



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

To learn more, visit our website:
www.rpu.org



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, 2022.
2. Complete this coupon and submit it to RPU:
 - by March 31, 2023
 - 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/2022)	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
____/____/2022	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$
____/____/2022	<input type="checkbox"/> Mini <input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$		\$	50%	\$	\$
____/____/2022	<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, 2022. 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 _____

1122PI



How to Become a Lineworker

With a career as a lineworker, you can expect:

- Working with high voltage electricity
- Working outdoors daily
- Working with a crew and as a team
- Unique problem solving
- Using heavy equipment and trucks
- Working with a variety of power and hand tools
- An emphasis on safety
- Good wages



As with any job, education and skill mastery are needed. In order to qualify to become a lineworker, the first step is to complete a technical college program with an apprenticeship. The technical college program may take up to two years to complete, with the paid apprenticeship taking an additional four years.



High school diploma/GED → technical college program → apprenticeship → journeyman.



The technical college training may vary slightly depending on the location attended, but will include supervised, structured, on-the-job training along with related classroom instruction. Commonly-attended local schools include Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Dakota County Technical College, Northwest Line College, and Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

A career as a lineworker can be a rewarding and exciting trade. To prepare for the day-to-day work required to repair and maintain high-powered electrical lines and systems, lineworkers must gain specific skills and experience.

Parts of the job that electric lineworkers must accept:

- Responding to emergency work in bad weather and at all times of the day and night
- Work that can be difficult and strenuous
- Often completing work that involves heights
- Working in conditions that are dirty, windy, wet, cold, hot, or humid
- An element of danger when working with electricity



"I became a lineworker to become part of a team that's more like a family, and going above and beyond to win the respect and appreciation of your community in a hands on, uniquely skilled way."

Hunter Gleason

"The main reason I became a lineman would have to be growing up watching my dad as a lineman, going on calls with him, wanting to be just like him! Also, the excitement and sense of accomplishment the job brings, providing an essential service to our community."

Chad Peterson



If you have questions about linework or are interested in becoming a lineworker, your best resource are the lineworkers right here in Rochester. They would be happy to answer your questions or tell you more about their experiences. **Call RPU at 280-1500 to meet or talk with a lineworker.**



RPU Employees Earn Statewide Accolades

Lineworkers: The Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) Rodeo was recently held in Marshall, MN to test lineworkers' skill in events such as hurtman rescue, an obstacle course, and a 5 kilovolt (kV) insulator change out. RPU lineworkers put their best foot forward and placed in a number of categories. Over 20 Minnesota lineworkers competed at the event.



Pictured from left to right: Tanner Winter, Chad Peterson, and Hunter Gleason

Tanner, 1st place in 5kV insulator change out, 3rd in the obstacle course, and 2nd overall. Chad, 3rd place overall. Hunter, 1st place in hurtman rescue and obstacle course.

Water Distribution: RPU's water distribution team was also busy this fall defending their state title in the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Minnesota Section Hydrant Hysteria competition. Matt Brekke and Adam Hovden (coached by Rich Rain) competed in Duluth against other Minnesotan water distribution teams. Our RPU employees posted the best time of 1:28 in assembling a water hydrant. They will get to compete on the national stage at the AWWA National Conference in Toronto in 2023.



Pictured from left to right: Matt Brekke, Rich Rain, and Adam Hovden

Safety Reminder: Never Try to Retrieve Items Caught in Overhead Lines

Please remember to never fly drones, kites, or other items around or near overhead powerlines. If you happen to get something caught in an overhead line or other RPU equipment, call RPU immediately and **NEVER** try to retrieve the item yourself.

RPU lineworkers are trained to work with high voltage electricity and will be able to retrieve your item safely.



Management: RPU's Manager of Water Operations, Doug Klamerus, was elected as the Chair Elect of the Minnesota Chapter of AWWA, which will be a three-year appointment. He also was presented with the Benjamin G. Mason Award of Excellence from the Minnesota Chapter. The individual award of excellence is presented to a Section Service Provider Member who has demonstrated exemplary service to the drinking water community and to AWWA's mission and goals.

Public Hearing Notice

Rochester Public Utilities is a covered utility under the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA), Pub.L. 95-617 (1978).

Recent amendments to PURPA included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub.L. 117-58 (2021), require the RPU Board to consider two administrative standards before November 15, 2023. These standards include:

- 1) Promoting the use of demand-response and demand flexibility practices by commercial, residential, and industrial consumers to reduce electricity consumption during periods of unusually high demand; and
- 2) Measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector, including the establishment of rates that promote electric vehicle charging.

PURPA requires that each covered utility provide public notice and hold a public hearing allowing all interested parties the opportunity to participate in the consideration of the standards.

A public hearing is scheduled for **5pm Tuesday, January 10, 2023** in the RPU Community Room at 4000 East River Road NE, Rochester, MN. The PURPA standards and the recommended positions of RPU (to either adopt or not adopt each standard) will be reviewed at the hearing. You will have an opportunity to state your opinions at that time. Written comments concerning the standards will be accepted until **5pm Thursday, January 19, 2023** at the RPU Service Center at 4000 East River Road NE, Rochester, MN 55906, or by e-mail to rpuboard@rpu.org. Please include the phrase, **"PURPA Comments"** in the subject line.

The standards and the positions being recommended for consideration will be available at the RPU Service Center and at rpu.org no earlier than Tuesday, January 3, 2023. For more information, contact Tony Benson, Communications Coordinator by emailing tbenson@rpu.org or calling **507-280-1534**.



LED Light Bulbs **ON SALE NOW**

Be Bright this fall!

Through November 30, while supplies last, our residential electric customers are eligible for reduced pricing on ENERGY STAR® qualified LED light bulbs from the local retailers listed below.

ENERGY STAR-labeled LEDs use 80% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. But less watts doesn't mean less light. By replacing the five most-used bulbs in your home with LEDs, you can save up to \$40 in energy costs during the first year alone.

Remember, supplies are limited so get your discounted LEDs before they sell out!

Arrow Ace Hardware **Mills Fleet Farm**
Batteries + Bulbs **Sam's Club**
Costco **Walmart**
Home Depot

Discounted LEDs purchased during this promotion are not eligible for utility rebate.

BeBright

Goats at Westside Energy Station

A special group of experts were invited to help us out at the Westside Energy Station (WES). When weeds and vegetation overgrowth were becoming a nuisance in areas where it was hard to get mowers or machinery in, we hired 50 goats to eat their way through it! The work was completed within a couple weeks.



Commercial Corner

Rochester Commercial Customers Track Your Energy Usage with RPU

Tracking your energy usage is an essential component of energy conservation. Further analyzing your energy consumption patterns can help identify opportunities to save both economically and environmentally, while also establishing an energy usage baseline or benchmark.

Energy benchmarking allows you to track your building's energy usage and compare it against usage of similarly-sized buildings. RPU can help customers obtain their historical energy and billing data to assist in building an ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager®.

Our goal is to make the necessary data available to each of our commercial customers through our RPU Connect portal. For more information on retrieving your historical energy data, visit rpu.org/rebates-programs/commercial/get-your-energy-usage

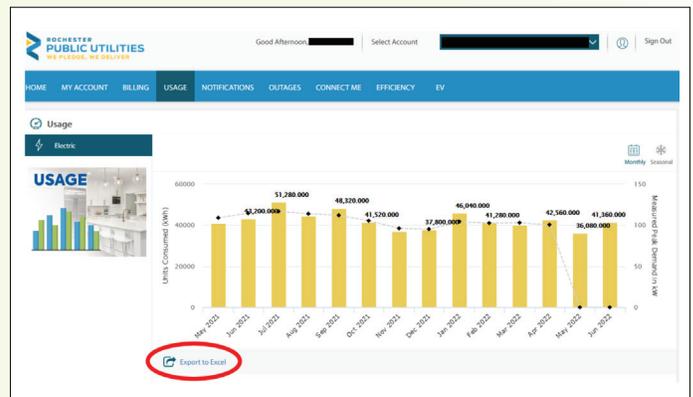
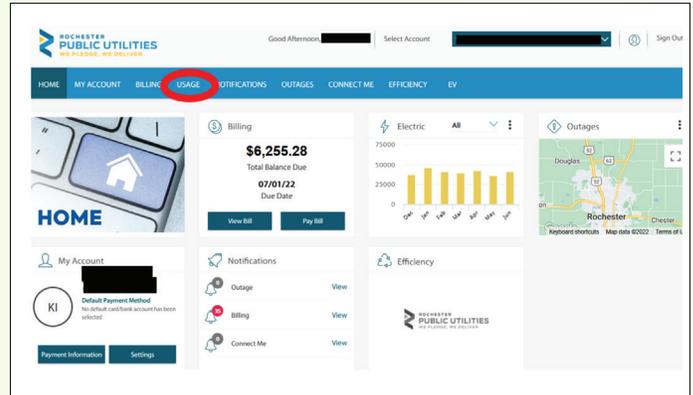
How to Access your Historical Energy Data with RPU:

Step 1:
Register a user account with RPU Connect.

Step 2:
Login to your RPU Connect Profile with your username and password.

Step 3:
On the Home page, click the "Usage" tab at the top navigation bar.

Step 4:
The usage page will generate an illustration of your energy usage of the previous 12 months, with kilowatt-hours (kWh) consumed and peak demand (kW)*.



Note: If your building generates renewable energy, this information will not be displayed on this tab. Contact an RPU Energy and Environmental Advisor for your renewable generation data. *kW data is not available to Small General Service customers.

CONSERVE & \$AVE®

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



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



Mohamed Faal
Energy and Environmental
Advisor
mfaal@rpu.org
507-280-1607



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

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



RPU Plugged In is now designed
and printed right here in Rochester.



RPU will be closed the following days:

Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day
Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 25 - Day after Thanksgiving
Dec. 26 - Day after Christmas

Social Media:

-  @rochesterpublicutilities
-  @rpuoutages / @rpualerts
-  Rochester Public Utilities
-  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)

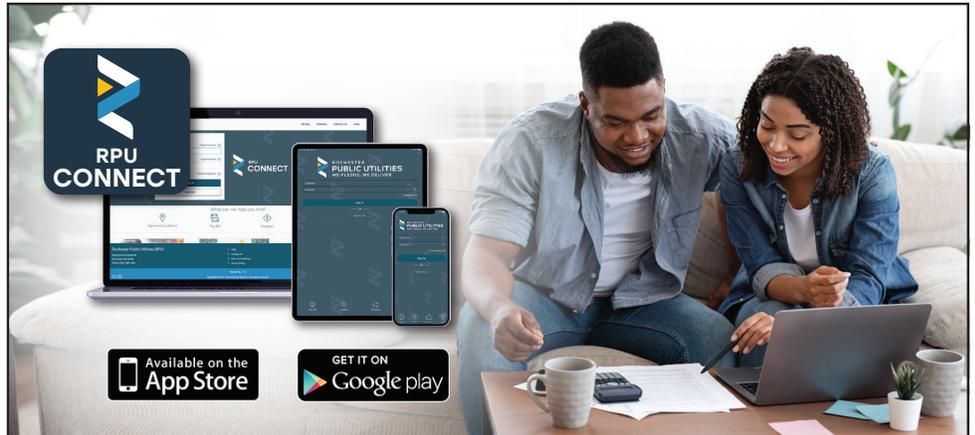
Electric Emergency:

507-280-9191 (24 hrs)

Water Emergency:

507-280-1500 (8am - 5pm)

507-280-9191 (5pm - 8am)



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.