

RPU Plugged In

DON'T BE AFRAID OF SAVING
ENERGY THIS OCTOBER!



**We Take the Fear Out
of Vampire Power**



What Is VAMPIRE POWER?

Did you know, according to ENERGY STAR®, the average U.S. household spends \$100 per year on vampire power in the home? Vampire power is the power used to power devices even when the device isn't being used. Some common devices that suck vampire power include cell phone chargers, home electronics, power tools, and some office equipment. If you see an LED (light-emitting diode) or a display even when the device isn't in use, there is vampire power that you will want to eliminate.

Here are five easy steps for you to get rid of vampire power in your home.



GET UNPLUGGED

All of your chargers (cell phone, MP3, laptop, and even electric toothbrushes) continue to draw electricity even when the device is not charging. Only 5% of the power drawn by a cell phone charger is used to charge the phone – the other 95% is wasted when it is left plugged into the wall.



USE A POWER STRIP

Choose a power strip with a switch to control clusters of products. When you're not using products, turn the power strip off. The most likely targets for clusters are computer equipment (PC, monitor, printer, scanner, speakers, etc.), entertainment centers (TV, DVD player, speakers, game consoles), audio equipment (receiver, amplifier, CD player), and battery chargers.



USE A KILL A WATT™ METER

RPU has a number of Kill A Watt™ meters that you can use in your home for free! This device will tell you how many electrical products are being used and whether they are turned on or off. Once you know how much power is being used when devices are running, or deceptively idle, you'll truly discover how much energy and money can be saved by replacing, unplugging, or using a smart power strip to cut off any power to that item.



TURN YOUR COMPUTER OFF

Computers in sleep mode can cost an additional \$70 per year. If you are unable to do so, at least make sure the computer goes into a low-power sleep, standby, or hibernate mode. And watch out for those screen savers! Graphic intense screen savers can actually waste power.



LEARN MORE AT
energystar.gov

LOOK FOR THE STAR

Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR® label use less energy while providing the same performance and features as conventional models. The ENERGY STAR® is awarded to products that meet or exceed the established criteria for energy efficiency; they are as much as 10 to 50% more efficient than conventional counterparts. They use less energy and save you money.



CONSERVE & \$AVE®

You'll also get great rebates on your purchase of ENERGY STAR® products through RPU's Conserve & Save® rebate program.

VAMPIRE POWER CHART

	Watts in Standby Energy (Vampire Load)	Estimated Hours Off per Month (Vampire Energy)*	Avg kWh/Used per Month	Estimated Monthly Cost (10¢ per kWh)
Cell Phone Charger (not charging, but plugged in)	1	630	0.63	\$0.06
Coffee Pot	1	655	0.66	\$0.06
Desktop PC (computer and LCD Monitor)	5	600	3.00	\$0.30
Computer Speakers	2	600	1.20	\$0.12
Computer Printer	6	715	4.29	\$0.43
Digital Cable Box	35	600	21.00	\$2.10
Dishwasher	1.8	695	1.20	\$0.12
Standard DVD	4.5	710	3.20	\$0.32
Energy Star DVD	0.9	710	0.64	\$0.06
Garage Door Opener	2.5	717	1.79	\$0.18
i-Pod Charger (not charging, but plugged in)	1	630	0.63	\$0.06
Microwave	3	713	2.14	\$0.21
Oven	3	670	2.01	\$0.20
Standard TV	5.9	600	3.54	\$0.35
Energy Star TV	2.5	600	1.50	\$0.15
Standard Stereo (rack system)	3.2	710	2.27	\$0.23
Energy Star Radio	0.9	710	0.64	\$0.06
Standard VCR	5.1	710	3.62	\$0.36
Energy Star VCR	3.5	710	2.49	\$0.25
Video Game Console	1	690	0.69	\$0.07

* based on 720 hours/month

October 5-11

PUBLIC POWER WEEK 2014

We are proud to celebrate another Public Power Week with our over 50,000 customers!

One of the many benefits to having a public power provider is that everything that we do as a municipal utility is done with our customers in mind. We take pride in serving our community, friends, and neighbors and ensuring that the community of Rochester has safe, reliable electric service.

RPU has served the city of Rochester for over 120 years and currently employs over 180 full-time employees.

Come and celebrate Public Power Week 2014 with us October 5-11 (during regular business hours) and get a FREE gift from RPU! Bring in this coupon and receive a FREE Compact Fluorescent Bulb! Use a compact fluorescent bulb and reduce your lighting energy usage by up to 75%!

Available while supplies last. Only one bulb per household. Expires November 21, 2014.



PUBLIC POWER

AN AMERICAN TRADITION THAT WORKS



Attention Business Customers:



STOP!

before you implement any energy efficiency improvements.



CALL!

RPU at 280.1500 to help you verify energy savings and rebate eligibility.



SAVE!

money and energy with your pre-approved efficiency improvements!

To learn more about business rebates, visit www.rpu.org.

CONSERVE & \$AVE[®]



How and Where to Dispose of a CFL

Information Courtesy of the Environmental Protection Agency

Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) are a great lighting option for people wanting to be more energy efficient. CFLs are relatively inexpensive, RPU rebates 50% of the cost of the bulbs, and they can reduce your lighting energy usage by up to 75%. Depending on the application and usage, CFLs can last up to 5,000 hours as compared to a standard incandescent bulb, which lasts around 1,000 hours.

CFLs do require special handling and disposal because of the small amount of mercury used in the bulb. Please follow these handling and disposal tips to ensure safety for you and the environment.

Recycle

Recycle your old compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) at no cost to you by bringing them to the Olmsted County Hazardous Waste Facility in Rochester. The RPU Service Center is NOT a drop-off site due to safety and handling concerns. Home Depot and Lowe's also offer free CFL recycling.

If a CFL bulb breaks, follow these safety precautions.

Before Cleanup

- Have people and pets leave the room.
- Air out the room for 5-10 minutes by opening a window or door to the outdoor environment.

- Shut off the central forced air heating/air-conditioning system, if you have one.
- Collect materials needed to clean up broken bulb: stiff paper or cardboard; sticky tape; damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes (for hard surfaces); and a glass jar with a metal lid or a sealable plastic bag.

During Cleanup

- **DO NOT VACUUM.** Vacuuming is not recommended unless broken glass remains after all other cleanup steps have been taken. Vacuuming could spread mercury-containing powder or mercury vapor.
- Be thorough in collecting broken glass and visible powder. Scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder. Place the used tape in the glass jar or plastic bag.
- Place cleanup materials in a sealable container.

After Cleanup

- Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials, including vacuum cleaner bags, outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of. Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials indoors.
- If practical, continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the heating/air conditioning system shut off for several hours.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

2014



Environmental Achievement Awards
are given annually for outstanding
environmental achievement
in Olmsted County.



Nominations are sought for individuals, families, youth, organizations, or businesses in any or all of the following categories:

- Climate Change • Conservation • Education • Energy • Renewables • Water • Sustainable Food Production • Other •

NOMINATE YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL HERO! • APPLICATIONS: www.rpu.org • DEADLINE: October 17

Message from the GM



October 5-11 is nationally recognized as Public Power Week. Over 2,000 communities across the country will celebrate the value that community-owned public power delivers. That value is more than the physical assets needed to provide service, but is derived from the employees that have a unique ownership in making the community successful.

RPU employees have been bringing a commitment to enhance the quality of your life in Rochester since the lighting of the first electric street lights in 1894. Much has changed in Rochester since 1894, but one thing remains constant, RPU exists to serve the community and that guiding principle is what characterizes public power.

Check back to page 4 for details on how to get a free compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) from RPU in recognition of Public Power Week 2014!



Mark Kotschevar, General Manager



Photo by Josh Banks

SEE WHAT A FREE ENERGY WORKSHOP CAN DO FOR YOUR HOME!



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

Monday 10.06.2014 • 6:30 pm • Bamber Valley Elementary School
Tuesday 11.18.2014 • 6:30 pm • Kellogg Middle School

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT CONTACT:

Stacy Boots Camp • 888.734.6365 • sbootscamp@mncee.org

At the Neighborhood Energy Challenge workshop, we learned new things and realistic suggestions for our home. It was helpful to interact with other homeowners and learn more from the questions they asked. Our energy auditor was professional and easy to work with. He explained things to us and answered our specific questions, and presented us with options and reasoning to help us make informed decisions. The knowledge we acquired, from both the workshop and energy audit, has aided us in implementing conservation and energy efficiency improvements to our home.

– Tony & Lynne Drumm
Rochester Homeowners



rpu
we pledge, we deliver

MINNESOTA
ENERGY
RESOURCES

Learn more at www.rpu.org

Choose Your Way

TO PAY YOUR RPU BILL



Simplicity and ease of doing business is what RPU's Choose Your Way to Pay program is all about. Save time by choosing the way you want to conduct business with RPU and then let us do the rest. Fill out the attached form and return it to RPU and you're done!

Go Paperless

Receive an email that payment is due and your bill is available to view at www.rpu.org.

Budget Billing

Monthly payments stay the same based on the average of the previous 12 months of service.

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 this page to: RPU Customer Service
4000 East River Road
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*

Last Name (As It Appears On Your Account): _____

First Name (As It Appears On Your Account): _____

RPU Contract Acct Number: **300000** _____

Service Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mailing Address: _____

(If Different Than the Service Address)

City/State/Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Phone Type: ☐ Home ☐ Cell ☐ Other: _____

Email Address: _____

(Required to Go Paperless)

SIGNATURE:

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

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS:

☐ **GO PAPERLESS** (Provide an email address at the lower left.)

☐ **BUDGET BILLING**

☐ **AUTOMATIC PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

PLEASE DEDUCT MY PAYMENT: (Check one.)

☐ When Bill Is Invoiced ☐ When Payment Is Due

☐ **Checking Account Debit** (Attach a VOIDED check.)*

Bank Name: _____

☐ **Savings Account Debit** (Attach a VOIDED deposit slip.)*

Bank Name: _____

☐ **Credit / Debit Card**

☐ DISCOVER  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ VISA 

Card Number:*

_____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Exp Date: ____ / ____

*To protect your privacy, RPU will destroy the credit card information on this form, as well as any voided checks and deposit slips.



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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BlueSpire



RPU Service Center Holiday Hours

The RPU Service Center
will be closed on:

**Tuesday, Nov. 11, in
observance of Veterans Day**

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Be bright



Be Bright this fall! Through December 31, while supplies last, our residential electric customers are eligible for reduced pricing on ENERGY STAR® qualified CFL and LED light bulbs. We've partnered with Arrow Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Hy-Vee, Menards, Mill's Fleet Farm, and Walmart to offer energy-efficient bulbs for as little as 99 cents each!

ENERGY STAR-labeled CFLs use 75% less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. LED bulbs use even less energy and last up to 25 times longer than traditional bulbs. But less watts doesn't mean less light! Today's CFLs and LEDs produce bright light for less cost because they use less electricity and last longer than incandescent bulbs – saving time and money on replacements.

By replacing the five most-used bulbs in your home with energy-efficient CFLs or LEDs, you can save up to \$40 in energy costs

during the first year alone. CFLs and LEDs also produce about 75% less heat than incandescents – improving safety.

With the wide range of CFL and LED shapes, sizes, and styles now available, consumers can find an energy-efficient bulb for every situation and enjoy reduced energy costs all year long.

While these financial savings are a big draw, CFLs and LEDs also offer environmental benefits to help make our community a little greener.

Remember, supplies are limited so get your discounted CFLs and LEDs before they sell out! (Discounted LEDs available at select retailers. Visit **www.rpu.org** for a full retailer list. Discounted CFLs and LEDs purchased during this promotion are not eligible for our rebate program.)

* Participating retailers subject to change.