

RPU Plugged In

Vampire Power Could Be Taking a Bite Out of Your Electric Bill





Environmental Achievement Awards CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!



The deadline for nominations is Oct. 16, 2015.

The 2016 Environmental Achievement Awards will mark 24 years of recognizing local individuals, businesses, and organizations for extraordinary efforts to benefit the local environment in Rochester and Olmsted County.

Each year, we're always excited to see what nominations come in. There are a lot of great things happening in the Rochester community that truly benefit the environment

and we want to recognize these efforts. **Nominations will be reviewed and rated based on qualities such as creativity, partnerships, unique fundraising, reuse of materials, conceptual ideas, etc.**

If you are aware of someone that you would like to recognize for their environmental effort, visit the RPU website (www.rpu.org) and fill out a nomination form.

How does your home's energy use compare?

ATTEND A FREE ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP AND QUALIFY FOR A \$50 HOME ENERGY AUDIT!*

UPCOMING CLASSES:

Saturday 10.10.2015 • 10am
Saint Mary's University – Cascade Meadow

Monday 11.16.2015 • 6:30pm
Bamber Valley Elementary School

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT CONTACT:

Stacy Boots Camp
888.734.6365 • sbootscamp@mncee.org



LEARN MORE AT: www.rpu.org

Environmental Achievement Awards Recipients

• 1992 to 2014 •

Lifetime Achievement

Doris Blinks
Harry Buck
Gael Entrikin
Dr. Don French
James D. Jones
Richard Mase
George Poch
Byron Stadvold
Dr. Paul Zollman

Agriculture

RC&A Hart Farms
Helen McDougall-Ellinghysen
Oronoco Township

Businesses

AmericInn
Barlow Foods
Boulder Dam Canoe & Kayak Rental
Gerrard Corporation
Good Food Store
Guyers Appliances
HyVee Food Stores
IBM Corporation
Donald Layton and Richard Argue
Mayo Clinic
The Nelson Companies/Stonybrook Builders
One-Hour Martinizing
Pace Dairy
Peoples Cooperative Services
People's Food Co-op
PossAbilities
Progressive Ag Center
Rochester Iron & Metal Recycling, Inc.
Rochester Post Bulletin
Root River Estates
Sargent's Landscape Nursery
Seneca Foods
Söntés Restaurant
Wrought Iron Handicrafts
Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center

Educators, Students, & Partnerships

John Adams Middle School "Butt Kickers"
John Adams Middle School Rebels of Science
Sam Bailey
Bamber Valley Elementary
Anthony "Tony" Floyd
Friedell Middle School & RNeighborWoods
Karen Hager/Longfellow School
Glenn Heins
Jessica and Stephanie Hensel
Kelly Hollister
Dr. John Kudlas
Kelly Leibold and Anika Hooyer
Ray Lundquist
John Marshall Science Social Service Club
Marvin Mikesh
Mayo High School
Greg Munson
Ben Nomann

Olmsted County Solar Initiative
Justin Palmen
Kirk Payne
Angela Plank
Rochester Community & Technical College
Rochester Public School
Rochester Regional Science Fair
Susan Schreurs
Summer of Service Program
and the City of Rochester
Sunset Terrace Elementary School
Nicole Ward
Piper Winn

Elected Officials

Dave Bishop
Carol Kamper
Jean Michaels

Families

Ray Bills and Coralee Grebe Family
Bill and Peg Dunnette Family
Terry and Joyce Grier
James and Mary Jones Family
Doty and Hank Klein
Nate and Sandy Redalen
Mike and Roxanne Schlasner
John, Debbie, Johnny, Charles & Angela Weiss

Individuals

Glenn Atkinson
Sister Joy Barth
Sister Rafael Tilton
Lisa Boardman
Louie Bortolon
Bill Boyne
Jeff Broberg
Bill Bruins
Edward Cohen
Kimm Crawford
Joel Dunnette
Norm Erickson
Ron Fuller

Pam Hansen
Andy Hart
Maggie Herman
Sue Jansen
Barbara Lucas
Ward Lutz
Norrie MacIlraith
John McCormick
Bob Mapel
Andy Masterpole
Dave Moehnke
Bernard Nigon
Vern Olson
Michael Pappas
Robert "Pete" Pederson
Flo Sandok
Christine Schultze
Lance Sorensen
Greg Thompson
Ruthann Yaeger

Organizations

A Litter Bit Better Program
Autumn Ridge Church
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
City of Eyota
Earth Community Coalition
First Homes
Friends of Indian Heights
Friends of Oxbow
Global Action
Hadley Valley Partners of Rochester
Hiawatha District Boy Scouts of America
Hickory Hill 4-H Club
High Point Condo Association
Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association
Izaak Walton League
Kutzky Park Neighborhood Association
Master Gardeners of Olmsted County
Mechanical History Round Table
NeighborWoods
Northern Hills Prairie Advisory Commission
Olmsted County Elections & Purchasing Dept
Olmsted County Youth Commission
Pheasants Forever
Prairie Smoke
Project Green Fleet
Quarry Hill Nature Center
Residences of Old Town Hall
Rochester Area Builders and
Zumbro Land Conservancy
Rochester Volunteer Tree Inventory Team
City of Rochester, Public Works Dept.
Trout Unlimited
Whitewater Watershed Project
Zumbro Valley Medical Society
Zumbro Watershed Partnership

Special Recognition

Rich Peter
Jack Remick and the Cascade Meadow
Wetlands & Environmental Science Center





Vampire Power Could Be Taking a Bite Out of Your Electric Bill

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 cellphone 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.

1 Get unplugged: All of your chargers (cellphone, 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 cellphone charger is used to charge the phone – the other 95% is wasted when it is left plugged into the wall.

2 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.



3 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 much electricity products are using

whether 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.

If you would like to use a meter, call RPU (507.280.1500) or stop in the RPU Service Center to check out a meter for free. A \$25 deposit (cash/check) is required, but is returned to you when the meter is brought back. Supply is limited and there may be a waiting list.

4 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.

5 Look for the STAR: Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR® 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 their conventional counterparts. They use less energy and save you money.



You'll also get great rebates on your purchase of ENERGY STAR® products through RPU's CONSERVE & \$AVE™ 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



Baihly Water Tower

Photos by Josh Banks

RPU Finds Innovative Solution to a Vexing Problem

RPU has had a problem with turkey vultures at the Apache and Baihly water towers for a number of years. During certain times of year, they flock to these areas and use the towers to congregate and make a big mess in the process. It costs thousands of dollars to properly clean the outside of a water tower, so preventing the turkey vultures from gathering on the towers is a worthwhile effort.

Motion may be the solution to keeping the turkey vultures away from the towers. In August, an RPU Water Operator

had the idea to install wind dancers on the top of each tower to activate during the time of day that the turkey vultures would gather. This solution was very inexpensive and has shown promise in protecting and keeping the towers cleaner.

If you see something moving in the wind at the top of these water towers, the wind dancers are doing their job by keeping the turkey vultures away.

Public Power Week 2015

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

RPU has served the City of Rochester for more than 120 years and currently employs over 180 local full-time employees.

One of RPU's most-visible facilities is the Silver Lake Plant (SLP). Though it's not producing electricity anymore, SLP is still a valuable asset to RPU and the City of Rochester.

- Now that SLP has transitioned from electric generation to steam production, how has SLP changed?
- What does it look like inside of SLP?
- What else does RPU use SLP for?

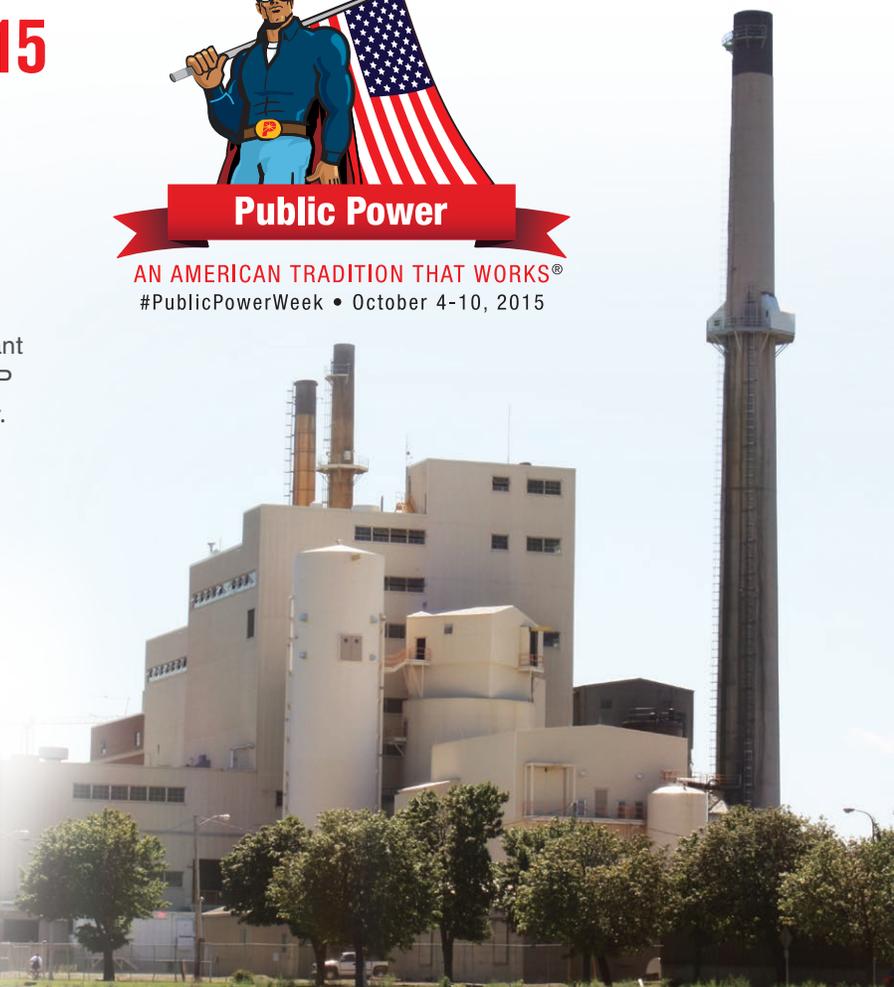
If you have questions about SLP, or are just curious to see inside, sign up for a Public Power Week tour on Friday, Oct. 9. Tour times will be 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 2:30 p.m. The tours will be free, but you will have to sign up for a time. Space is limited for each tour.

Call **507.280.1540** to sign up for a tour time.

* Please wear solid sole shoes.



AN AMERICAN TRADITION THAT WORKS®
#PublicPowerWeek • October 4-10, 2015



What You Should Know About the Minnesota Cold Weather Law and Winter Bills

RPU's objective is to ensure that residential customer accounts are protected during the cold weather period and to follow the requirements of Minnesota Statute 216B.097.

Minnesota Statute 216B.097 states that a municipal utility must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- 1) the household income is at or below 50% of the state median income. RPU may verify income on forms it provides or obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of

public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50% of the state median household income;

- 2) the customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household. "Reasonably timely payment" means payment within five working days of agreed-upon due dates;
- 3) the customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

To be protected from service disconnection during the cold weather rule period, customers are required to complete an application that is available by contacting RPU. Before

disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15, RPU will provide the following information to the customer:

- 1) a notice of proposed disconnection;
- 2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
- 3) a list of local energy assistance providers;
- 4) a form on which to declare inability to pay; and
- 5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

The contact information for the local energy assistance provider is:

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY ACTION
800.277.8418
www.threeriverscap.org

Conserve & Save® Rebate

Johnson Printing Lighting Project

Energy savings: Approximately 178,125 kilowatt-hours per year

Energy Solutions Partners:
The Thees Group LLC and Winkels Electric

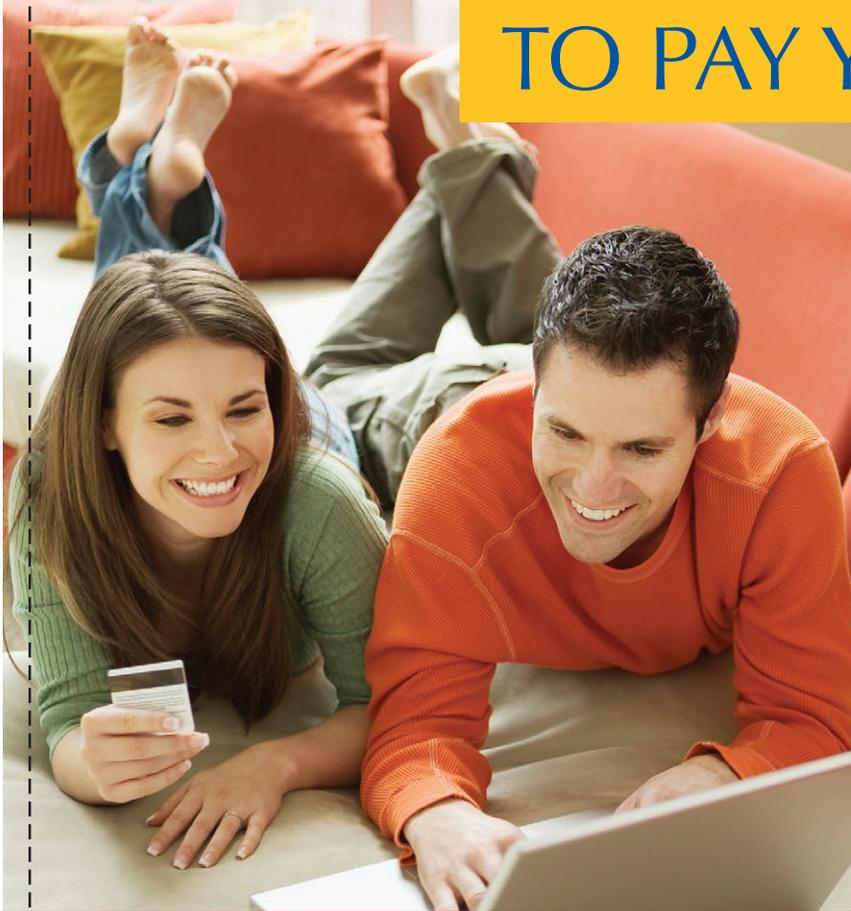
CONSERVE & \$AVE®



Pictured (l-r): Jan Blevins (RPU), Erik Johnson (Johnson Printing), and Dan Thees (The Thees Group LLC). Winkels Electric not available for photo.

Choose Your Way

TO PAY YOUR RPU BILL



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 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*

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 Withdrawal (Attach a VOIDED check.*)

Bank Name: _____

Savings Account Withdrawal (Attach a VOIDED deposit slip.*)

Bank Name: _____

Credit / Debit Card

DISCOVER  MasterCard  VISA 

Name (As It Appears on Card): _____

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



Halloween Bags and Pumpkins for Kids!

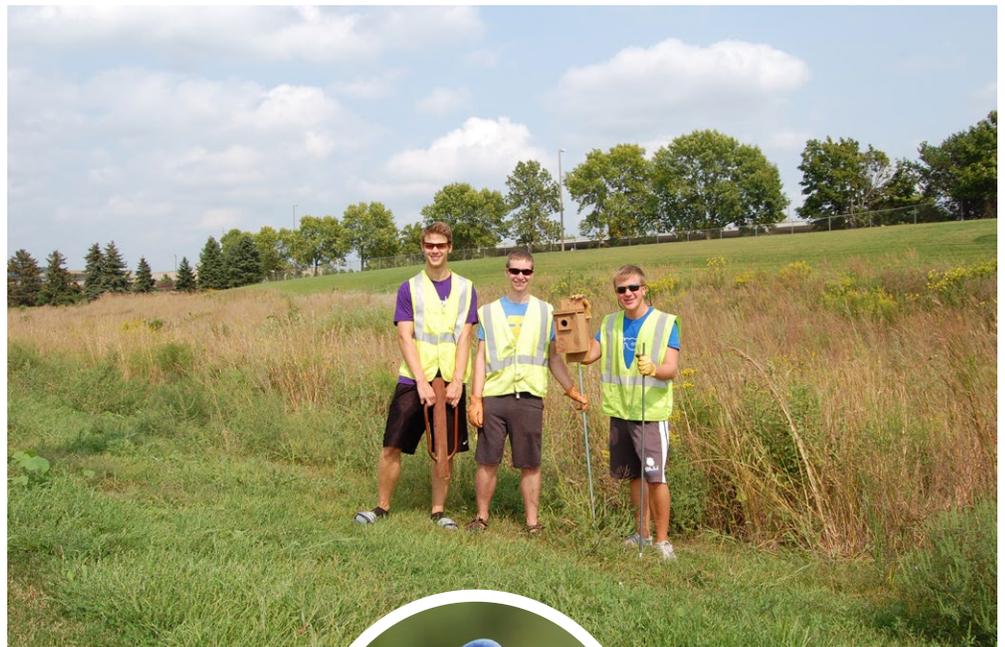
Kids 12 and under will receive a FREE Halloween bag with goodies and a pumpkin for stopping into RPU with their parents/guardians during the month of October.

While supplies last.

RPU SERVICE CENTER Holiday Hours

The RPU Service Center will be closed on:

Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day



Pictured (l-r): Andrew Schweyen, PJ McEligot, and John Paul Becker



Bluebird Houses at RPU

Bluebird houses were installed in front of the RPU Service Center as part of a Boy Scout project. John Paul Becker, PJ McEligot, and Andrew Schweyen from Troop 186 built the 12 bird houses and installed them among the native grasses along East River Road.

