HOW TO READ YOUR UTILITY BILL

If you have questions that are not fully answered here, please contact our Customer Relations Team at 507.280.1500.

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

1. Account Number is your unique RPU number. Please reference this number when calling us with account or customer service related questions.

2. Amount Due is the amount to be paid. This total will reflect your previous balance, recent payments, adjustments, and current charges.

3. Account Information includes your account name and service address.

        NOTE: Accounts with multiple service addresses will not have an address listed here. Please see the back of your bill for specific address details.

4. Billing Period is the period of time when charges are accrued and billed to your account.

5. Total Current Charges is the total of each service (i.e. Electricity, Water, etc.) summarized for the current billing period.

        NOTE: See the back of the bill for meter readings and usage.

6. Total Amount Due is your amount to be paid. This total will include any activity since your last bill, showing your previous balance, payments, adjustments (if applicable), and current charges.

7. Message Center is the area where important messages from RPU are communicated – general and/or account specific.

8. Payment Stub (front) is the bottom portion of your statement that should be returned when mailing in your payments. This will include the amount due and the due date. If you are on autopay, this portion will indicate the date and the amount to be deducted.

9. Payment Stub (back) includes information regarding payment options, as well as compliance information, electronic check conversion, and late penalty terms.

BUDGET BILLING SUMMARY


11. Actual Charges Billed this Period is the total of your actual charges during the current billing period.

12. Difference of BB Plan and Actual Charges is the difference between your monthly Budget Billing (BB) amount and your actual charges during the current billing period.

13. Previous Carry Over Balance is the balance from your previous billing period.

14. New Carry Over Balance is the cumulative account balance at the end of each billing period. This balance takes into account your actual charges, your monthly Budget Billing (BB) Plan, your previous carry over balance, and assumes the recent Budget Billing (BB) amount billed is paid in full by the due date.

        NOTE: This balance could be a debit or credit. ‘CR’ indicates a credit.
**RPU CHARGES: ELECTRICITY**

15 **Electric Usage Charge** is the total metered kilowatt-hours (kWh) used. The rate per kWh is then multiplied by the kWh used for the current billing period.

NOTE: Two energy charges may appear during the transition between summer (Jun–Sep) and non-summer (Oct–May) rates schedules.

16 **Electric Customer Charge** is a fixed charge for all residential customers regardless of electric usage. This charge covers the cost to maintain electric facilities and infrastructure. It also includes costs for meters, distribution poles, safety equipment, miscellaneous supplies, and account administration.

17 **Clean Air Rider** covers the bond payments for the Emission Reduction Project (ERP). All residential, commercial, and industrial water customers are impacted by the charge. The amount you pay on the Clean Air Rider is dependent on your electric usage. The rate of the Clean Air Rider will change each year depending on the debt service payment schedule. The payments are scheduled to be complete by 2030.

18 **Power Cost Adjustment** is charged if the cost to supply the electricity needed for our customers exceeds projections. This adjustment is made in cases such as high fuel costs, higher market pricing for electricity, or the load is higher than projected. This adjustment is based on your electric usage.

**RPU CHARGES: WATER**

19 **Water Usage Charge** is the total metered water (Units) used during the current billing period. Each Unit of water equals 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons (1 Unit = 748 gallons). The rate structure is tiered to encourage water conservation.

20 **Water Customer Charge** is a fixed charge for all residential customers regardless of water usage. This charge covers the cost to maintain water facilities and infrastructure. It also includes costs for meters, pipes, fittings, excavation tools and machinery, and account administration.

21 **Fire Hydrant Facilities Charge** is for the installation, maintenance, and availability of water for the City and other emergency services (e.g., fire department). All residential, commercial, and industrial water customers are impacted by the charge. It is based on the rate class, not the meter size.

22 **State Mandated Water Fee** is required by the MN Department of Health and funds the required testing for drinking water.

**ROCHESTER PUBLIC WORKS CHARGES: WASTEWATER**

24 **Wastewater Usage Charge** for the first three months of the year, your wastewater charge is determined by your usage (Units). The base rate for April–December is determined by your average water usage during the months of January, February, and March. If your actual water usage in any month of April–December is less than your base rate, you will be charged your actual usage. If you use more than your base rate, you will not be charged more than your base rate.

25 **Wastewater Customer Charge** is a fixed monthly charge per sanitary connection that covers the cost to maintain sewer facilities and infrastructure.

26 **Stormwater Utility Fee** collects funds from every developed residential and commercial property in the City of Rochester to support the Public Works Stormwater Management program. Each parcel of land is assigned a parcel identification number (PIN#). The fee is based on the parcel size, land use, and the amount of impervious (hard surface) area.

27 **Stormwater Customer Charge** is a monthly charge used exclusively to support the Public Works Stormwater Management program.

**TAXES**

28 **City Tax** is the additional sales and use tax that the City of Rochester imposes on all taxable items or services in the city, including utility services. The current city sales tax rate is 0.75%.

29 **County Tax** is the additional sales and use tax that Olmsted County imposes on all taxable items or services in the county, including utility services. The City of Rochester falls within Olmsted County; therefore, this tax is required. This tax is used to fund maintenance on roads and bridges, construct public infrastructure, and for other transit and transportation projects within the county. The current county transit tax rate is 0.50%.

30 **State Sales Tax** is the sales tax charged by the State of Minnesota on retail sales of taxable products and services, including utility services. The current state sales tax rate is 6.875%.

NOTE: Utility services are generally taxable; however, some exemptions may apply. Information can be found on the Minnesota Department of Revenue website to further explain possible sales tax exemptions. Customers who qualify for a sales tax exemption must provide RPU with a valid Certificate of Exemption (ST3 form).