

The Connector



Winter 2012

Outage Numbers

If there is power outage during regular business hours (M-F 8-4:30) please call our office at 763-441-2020. If the outage is after-hours, please call 1-888-606-4660. Using this number versus the office number will eliminate getting a busy signal.



As the weather continues to get colder, please be sure to keep your neighbors in mind. You can make a tax-deductible donation to The Salvation Army's HeatShare program to help aid in the costs of resident's heating bills.

To make a donation, please visit our website at www.elkriverutilities.com and click on our HeatShare link or send in a donation with your utility payment.



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2012 Rates Approved

The Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) Commission has approved the new electric rates for 2012. The water rates will remain unchanged for the final year of our 3-year freeze.

ERMU purchases all of our electric power from a wholesale supplier that generates and delivers the power to the ERMU distribution system. We then distribute the power to you, our customers, through our power lines. Our power supplier has increased rates for 2012 that is equivalent to an 8.33% increase in our wholesale power costs. Although we are passing on some of the increases, we are not passing along 100%.

The power we purchase from our supplier makes up the majority of our budget (approximately 75%). By design, our budget is running on a very tight margin of 1.86%. The approved 2012 rates are shown on the right. For our customers, you will see an increase of 4%-7%.

A portion of the rates that customers pay is for the delivery of power from the generation site to the ERMU distribution system. We are able to offset some of these costs because of investments we've made in purchasing portions of the transmission grid. This helps keep the rates down.

We have worked diligently to control the budget and keep our costs down. As always, it is our mission to provide our customers with safe, reliable, cost effective and quality long-term electrical and water utility service.

Customer Owned Generation

Are you producing some of your own electricity? Maybe you have solar panels (photovoltaic array) or a wind turbine to generate electricity. If so, by Minnesota State Statute 216B.164 Elk River Municipal Utili-



ties (ERMU) will purchase electricity from you for qualifying facilities. An

Residential

Basic Monthly Charge	\$9.50
Summer Energy Charge (May-Sep)	\$0.1249/kWh
Winter Energy Charge (Oct-Apr)	\$0.1116/kWh

Non-Demand Commercial

Basic Monthly Charge	\$16.00
Summer Energy Charge (May-Sep)	\$0.1199/kWh
Winter Energy Charge (Oct-Apr)	\$0.0995/kWh

Demand Commercial

Basic Monthly Charge	\$50.00
Summer Energy Charge (May-Sep)	\$15.89/kWh
Winter Energy Charge (Oct-Apr)	\$11.27/kWh
Energy Charge	\$0.0598/kWh

interconnection contract is required and there are different rates depending on the size of your generator. If you have any questions, please call us at 763-441-2020.

2012 Trash Schedule

New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day are official holidays. If your scheduled trash pickup day is on or after an official holiday, your service will be delayed one day. A holiday that falls on a Saturday or Sunday will not affect the schedule.

Trimming the System

We will be trimming trees around power lines throughout the winter season. If you have any questions about your trees, please give us a call.



Elk River is Powered by Nature and Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) is Powered To Serve.

Powered by Nature is a brand that resulted from the City of Elk River's branding process and sums up the major characteristics of our community—small, friendly, outdoorsy, and well-located.

ERMU added our own twist by adding Powered To Serve, which signifies our mission to provide our customers with safe, reliable, cost effective and quality long-term electrical and water utility service. Check out the branding blog at poweredbynature.blog.com

Project Conserve Update

Project Conserve is an Energy City project designed to help Elk River residents conserve electricity, home heating and transportation fuel, and water. The program helps reduce what goes into the waste stream.

We are presently about one-half of the way through Phase III scheduled resource audits. For those of you who are participating in Phase III, we will hold our third workshop on April 17 at 6:30 P.M., April

19 at 2:30 P.M., or April 21 at 9 A.M. For those who wish to sign up for Phase IV, please look for an application in your August utility bills. If you have any questions, please call 763-635-1068 or 763-635-1330.

Well Sealing Cost Share Assistance Program

Do you have an unused or abandoned well on your property? Now is the time to properly seal it to preserve community water quality. **We will fund the lesser:** up to \$400.00, or 1/2 of the well sealing cost paid to the property owner after the well sealing construction is completed.

ERMU has recently received a grant for source ground water protection from The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Funding for the Source Water Protection Grant Program comes from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment Fund. The grant will help to assist Elk River wellhead protection zone residents with sealing unused/abandoned wells.

Well Sealing Cost Share Program Information available at (763) 441-2020 or www.elkriverutilities.com.

The Clean Water Fund: Protecting and restoring Minnesota's waters for generations to come



**Here's your chance to WIN \$50.00 !!
Enter the 2012 Photo/Drawing Contest !**

Win \$50.00 if your photo/drawing is chosen as next year's cover picture for the Elk River Municipal Utilities Water Quality Report.

- Contest Rules -

- Participants must be 18 years old and under & an Elk River Area resident
- **Photos/Drawings must include:** an iconic Elk River image or something to do with water
- Please do not have people's faces visible
- **Submittal Deadline:** February 20th, 2012
- **Email picture to:** ahaug@elkriverutilities.com
- **The winning picture will be chosen:** March 1st, 2012
- Picture/Drawing will be published along with your name on the front cover!

