



@ your **HAPPY★NEW★YEAR**  
**SERVICE**

January 2014 VOLUME 26, NUMBER 01

Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Wastewater

**Electric Rate Change >>>**

Water and Wastewater rates will remain the same.

Class	Current Rates			Electric Department Proposed Rates						
	Monthly Charge	All kWh	All kW	Monthly Charge	All kWh	First 2500 kWh	Excess of 2500 kWh	All kW	First 8 kW	Excess of 8 kW
Residential	\$13.25	\$ 0.0660	\$ -	\$ 13.75	\$ .0674	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Service	22.00	0.0675		22.75	0.0699					
General Service Demand	40.00	0.0342	14.00	33.50		0.0699	0.0349			15.75
LLP - Secondary	120.00	0.0265	17.50	120.00	0.0270			18.00		
LLP - Primary	120.00	0.0255	17.00	120.00	0.0259			17.30		
Industrial	120.00	0.0220	16.30	Rate Discontinued						
Duel Fuel	0.50	0.0460		1.50	0.0466					
Off Peak Energy	0.50	0.0397		1.50	0.0409					

The Power Cost Adjustment will remain unchanged at \$0.007 per kWh.

**8 Energy Efficiency Tips for Homeowners Going South for Winter >>>**

**1) Give a spare house key to a neighbor or friend.** Even though it may be unnecessary, it's always a good thing to have someone you trust check over your home to make sure it's ok and everything is secure.



**2) Have your furnace and heating system thoroughly inspected.** The one thing you don't want to happen is your furnace to fail when you're nearly 1,000 miles away.

**3) Program your thermostat to 55°F.** There's no reason to heat your home when nobody's there, however, you also don't want your home to freeze. Setting your thermostat to 55°F will prevent just that. You can close curtains and shades to help keep rooms warm. You'll also want to set the humidity to a low setting to keep the air dry, preventing condensation problems.

**4) Turn water heater to "off" or "vacation."** Why pay for hot water when nobody's home?

**5) Turn off the water supply.** Unless you have house plants that

need watering while you're away, it's a good idea to turn off the main water valve and drain some of the water in the lines. The idea is that in the event your furnace fails, this will prevent your pipes from freezing and bursting.

**6) Only plug in those things you want to leave running.** If you're going to be gone all winter, you'll want to clean out your refrigerator and turn it off. Unplug your water softener, water treatment systems, and (if you rely on one) your well pump. If you have a sump pump, you'll definitely want to leave that on and ready to work. You'll want to unplug any home electronics such as TVs, home theater equipment, printers, gadget chargers, computers, and other energy zombies. If you are using a smart thermostat with a network connection, remember to leave your network "on".

**7) Put some lights on timer switches.** Automatic lighting is an excellent way to deter intruders from your home.

**8) Plug or close your dryer vent.** This will help eliminate drafts and possibly prevent rodents from climbing into the dryer venting and setting up house. Tape a note to the dryer to remind you to unblock the vent when you return.

## Top Winter Energy Saving Tips>>>



- ⇒ When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as comfortable. Some recommend **68°F or lower** in the winter. When you are asleep or out of the house, lower the setting by several degrees. Use a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature in your home.
- ⇒ **Cover drafty windows** with a heavy duty, clear plastic sheet on the inside of window frames during winter months.
- ⇒ Set your **water heater to 120°F** and drain your water heater annually.
- ⇒ **Wash clothes in cold water**, and wash only full loads.
- ⇒ Use your **dishwasher at full capacity**, and **air dry dishes** instead of using the dishwasher's drying cycle.
- ⇒ Switch to **compact fluorescent light bulbs**. Energy-saving CFLs are available for a variety of fixtures. They provide high quality light and smart technology, plus they use less energy and last longer than incandescent bulbs. For light closest to an incandescent bulb, choose CFLs marked "warm white."
- ⇒ Set **refrigerator temperature** between 37° and 40°F, and your freezer at 0°F.
- ⇒ **Unplug old refrigerators** in garages or basements that might be used as storage, but are inefficient and not fully utilized.
- ⇒ **Unplug appliances and electronics** when not in use. Plug home electronics, such as TVs, DVD players and computers into power strips and turn off the power strips when the equipment is not in use.
- ⇒ Improve your home's heating and cooling systems by cleaning or **replacing furnace filters** and scheduling **routine system maintenance** to help air flow through the system more efficiently.

## Direct Payment Plan>>>

We are pleased to offer you the **Direct Payment Plan** for utility payments. With this plan your utility bill payment can be made automatically from your checking account, savings account, Visa or MasterCard.

### The Direct Payment Plan will help you in several ways:

1. Saves time – fewer checks to write.
2. No late payments. Your payment is always on time, even if you're on vacation or out of town, helping to maintain good credit.
3. Saves postage.
4. Easy to sign up for, easy to cancel.
5. No late payment charges.

### Here's how the Direct Payment Plan works:

1. You will continue to receive your monthly bill each month, allowing you to review the charges.
2. Your payment will be automatically deducted on the due date of your bill.
3. Payments can be made from your checking account, savings account, Visa or MasterCard.

To take advantage of this service, complete the bottom of this form & return it to Brainerd Public Utilities, PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401.

### AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize Brainerd Public Utilities and the financial institution named below to make automatic payments from the account I have specified on this authorization form. I understand that this authority is to remain in effect until cancelled in writing by myself, Brainerd Public Utilities, or the financial institution designated. If utilizing direct payment from a checking account I have attached a voided **check** showing my account number and routing transit/ABA number. My payment will always be withheld on the due date of my bill.

Brainerd Public Utility Account number (as it appears on my utility bill) \_\_\_\_\_

Customer's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Customer's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Account type: *Checking*[  ] *Savings*[  ] *Visa*[  ] *Master Card*[  ]

Bank Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Routing Transit/ABA # \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Kara at Brainerd Public Utilities with any questions: PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401, or 218-825-3201.

**WRITTEN 30 DAY NOTICE NEEDED TO BE TAKEN OFF BANK DRAFT PAYMENT**