



BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES @ Your Service

March 2015
Vol: 27, No: 03

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

Business & Repair

Office Hours

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Business Number:

829-8726

Repair Number:

829-2193

Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year:

218-829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG

WWW.BPU.ORG

Facebook:



Brainerd Public Utilities

Call Gopher State One

at 1-800-252-1166 for
water & electric locations
before digging.

All requests for locations
must be made by calling
the above toll free number
at least 48 hours before
digging begins.

All electrical work

performed in the City of
Brainerd requires a
“Request for Electrical
Inspection” form to be
filed, and work inspected
by our inspector.

Please call **825-3210**
or **829-2193** for more
information.



The Inside Story: Water Conservation at Home ▶

Conserving water is good for all of us. Using less water means less energy is used to treat it, pump it, and distribute it. By conserving water, you are helping maintain our natural resources.



Turn it down. The average bathroom faucet runs at the rate of about 2 gallons of water per minute. Try running water at less than full flow. Turn the water off while you floss and brush your teeth.



Sing in the rain. A full bathtub requires about 70 gallons of water, while taking a five minute shower under a low-flow showerhead uses 10-25 gallons.

Check hoses. It is a good idea to replace dishwasher and clothes washer hoses every five years. Hoses don't last forever and can create devastating damage-and waste lots of water-if they fail.



Fill 'er up. Running the dishwasher or washing machine when they are only half full uses just as much water as full loads.



Be a drip detective. Check all your faucets, toilets, and appliances for water leaks and fix them. A leaky faucet that fills an 8-oz. container in less than 30 minutes could waste as much as 1,225 gallons of water each year. Death to the drip!



Resist the flush. Inside the home, water use is pretty evenly distributed among appliances, but nearly 30 percent is flushed down the toilet. Avoid unnecessary flushing and you'll save big.

How much
water is your home
wasting?



Go low-flow. You can save thousands of gallons each year by replacing old toilets with ultra-low flow toilets that use 1.6 gallons per flush or less.

Sewers & Paper Products ▶ (Reminder from City Of Brainerd Engineer's Office)

Paper Products: Paper towels, disposable diapers, and feminine products cause many problems in the property owner's service as well as in the City main. These products do not deteriorate quickly. They become lodged in portions of the service and main, causing sewer backups. These products should be disposed of in the garbage.

BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES

POLICY 2008-15 Adopted 12/30/08

NON-SUFFICIENT FUND CHECKS AND ACH PAYMENTS

If a check made payable to Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU) is returned for non-sufficient funds (NSF) or the account has been closed, or if a customer has their utility bill paid by ACH, and notification is sent for non-sufficient funds or the account has been closed, the following procedures will take place.

- BPU will send a notice, by regular mail, to the check issuer when a check or ACH is returned for NSF from a financial institution. The notice shall contain language of MN Statute 609.535 pertaining to issuance of dishonored checks.
- Restitution has to be made within five (5) business days and must be paid by money order or cash. There will also be an additional \$30 service charge. There are no arrangements allowed when a NSF check is received.
- If restitution is not made within the required time, the electric service will be disconnected at the service address where the check was issued. Before the service will be reconnected, the NSF check, \$30 service charge, entire balance of account, a deposit, if one has not been previously paid, and a reconnect fee will have to be paid.
- If more than two (2) checks or ACHs are returned to BPU within a twelve (12) month period, all future utility payments will have to be paid by money order or cash. However, if a customer signs up for the automatic bill payment plan in lieu of paying the required utility deposit, and an ACH or recurring credit card is returned to BPU within the first twelve (12) months of service, the customer will automatically be taken off bank pay and will have to pay the required utility deposit, along with the other required charges.

2015 Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Program ▶

Brainerd Public Utilities makes bulb recycling as easy as a trip to your local hardware store. And, we'll even help pay the recycling fee. Here's how it works:

- Take your used bulbs*, and one coupon per bulb, to:

[Brainerd Ace Hardware ▶](#)

214 West Washington Street

[Brainerd Batteries Plus ▶](#)

923 Washington Street

- Each coupon gives you 50 cents off the recycling fee for each qualifying bulb you recycle.
- During 2015, Brainerd Public Utilities will redeem up to 10 coupons per household or a small business that is a BPU customer.



Bulb Recycling Is Good For The Environment, & It's The Law ▶

Used fluorescent and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps require special care because they contain a small amount of mercury. Because mercury is harmful to the environment, Minnesota law prohibits the disposal of fluorescent bulbs in household garbage.

Although fluorescent bulbs may require special care after they've burned out, they'll last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, and they use 75 percent less energy. With today's improved lighting technology, you can get the same warm quality of light as regular bulbs.

*Circular fluorescent tubes, U-bend fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs, high-intensity discharge lamps, fluorescent tubes up to eight feet in length.

 <p>Brainerd Public Utilities</p> <p>50¢ Off Fluorescent Bulb Recycling</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State <u>Minnesota</u> Zip _____</p> <p><i>Coupon expires 12/31/15. Limit one coupon per bulb. Coupon valid only when completed.</i></p>	 <p>Brainerd Public Utilities</p> <p>50¢ Off Fluorescent Bulb Recycling</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State <u>Minnesota</u> Zip _____</p> <p><i>Coupon expires 12/31/15. Limit one coupon per bulb. Coupon valid only when completed.</i></p>
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