



Watt's News

October 2008
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Official Newsletter of Brainerd Public Utilities, PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401



Your November billing will include a brochure for contributing to your local Salvation Army HeatShare program.

Help us make HeatShare a continued success. Through donations provided by you, our customers,

HeatShare is a last resort for many, who have no other resources available, to see them through our long winter, by providing funds for heating bills and heating related repairs.

Your donation, no matter how small, will help us make this another successful year for HeatShare.



Medical Conditions

BPU shall not discontinue electric service if such action will aggravate an existing serious illness of any person who is a permanent resident of the premise where service is rendered IF the customer complies with the following requirements regarding such illness.

- The illness must be certified to BPU by a registered physician on BPU's Physician's Certification of Illness Form. The form must be filled out completely.
- Initial certification by the physician may be made by telephone if the completed form is forwarded to the utility within five days. The form has to be renewed every 30 days.
- The customer cannot use their illness as a way not to pay their utility bill. The customer will be required to make a payment arrangement to pay their past due bills.

NOTICE:

All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be completed, filed, and work inspected by our inspector. If you need the form or have any questions, please contact BPU at **825-3210** or **829-2193**.

BEFORE DIGGING:

Call Gopher State One Call at **1-800-252-1166** for water and electric locations. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least **48 hours** before digging begins.

Watt's Weather
Total Precipitation
 September 2008 **3.85"**
 September 2007 **5.02"**
Average Temperatures
 September 2008 Hi 71 Lo 49
 September 2007 Hi 72 Lo 45

Trouble with Winter Utility Bills?

BPU will work with you if you fall behind or are unable to make a payment in full.

We will help you set up a payment arrangement which allows a maximum of three (3) installment payments over a ninety (90) day period to pay past due amounts.

In addition, a customer needs to keep current bills paid during this arrangement period.

Failure to keep a payment arrangement can result in immediate disconnection.

The following agencies may also be able to help you pay your utility bill:



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE..829-5000

**CROW WING COUNTY
SOCIAL SERVICES.....824-1250**

SALVATION ARMY.....829-1120

Business Office Hours

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
218-829-8726

Repair/Service Operations Office Hours

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
218-829-2193

Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year
218-829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG WWW.BPU.ORG

Winter Energy Tips

- Close vents and doors in unused rooms.
- On sunny days, open draperies and blinds to let in the sun's warmth.
- Close draperies and blinds at night to insulate against cold air outside.
- If you have storm windows, be sure they are installed during heating season.
- The easiest and most economical way to cut energy costs is to adjust your thermostat. You could cut heating bills by as much as 10% per year by turning your thermostat back by 10-15% for 8 or more hours per day.
- Set thermostats between 65° and 70° during the winter, and to 58° when away from the house for four or more hours. For homes with elderly people or children, warmer temperatures are recommended.
- For greater temperature control, use a programmable or setback thermostat. Change or clean furnace filters once a month during heating season.
- Have your furnace or boiler tuned by a qualified technician once a year. The improved efficiency could save you as much as \$100 per year in heating costs. Plus, your furnace is one-third less likely to break down.



TREE TRIMMING

Any tree trimming requests will be put on a list to be done during the winter months. Trees that interfere with Brainerd Public Utilities' power lines, with the exception of service wires to residences or buildings, will be trimmed or removed depending on the circumstances.

Trimming or removal of trees on private property is the property owner's responsibility. Brainerd Public Utilities will temporarily remove and replace the property owner's service wires to accommodate the tree trimming or removal during normal business hours.

BPU requires 24 hours notification to temporarily remove the service wires.

If you would like to be put on the winter tree trimming list, call Phil at 218-829-2193.

Questions?

Questions on billing statements, deposits or other billing questions	825-3207
Moving in or out of a rental, Or selling/purchasing a home	825-3200
Want to pay using a credit card (Visa or MasterCard)	825-3201
Set up a payment arrangement	825-3223
Business office	829-8726
Maintenance of utilities, power out-ages, water leak emergencies, wiring permits, trees in the lines, etc	829-2193
Repair Office	829-2193

Make Your Life Easier with Our Payment Options

- Credit card payment with your Visa or MasterCard
- On-line payments (www.bpu.org)
- Direct payment plan (application available on our web-site)
- Drop your payment in one of our drop boxes located at the following locations:
 1. The corner of 7th and Laurel Street.
 2. Outside the Senior Citizen's Center at 803 Kingwood Street.
 3. Outside the East Brainerd Mall at the Dollar Store entrance.
 4. Outside our business office at 8027 Highland Scenic Road.



The following is BPU's Commission members who are also available for questions or to help you communicate better with BPU.

Don Samuelson	829-4898
Donald Sievek	829-4867
Donald Stang	829-9292
William Wroolie	829-5421
Frank Asplund	829-9737

Electric Heating Sales Tax Exemption Form

This is to certify that the main source of heat for my home (**more than 50 percent**) is furnished by permanently installed electric heating (not portable) and I, therefore, am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota state law. This is for the billing months of November through April.

Please complete this form and return it with your monthly utility payment. IF you have not previously notified BPU in the past AND if you qualify.

BPU Account Number

Customer Name

Customer Telephone Number

Customer Address

Customer Signature

Date

