

Watt's News

March 2007
Volume 20, No.3

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

Automatic Bank Pay or Recurring Credit Card Enrollment Promotion... **\$10 Off Your Electric Bill**

By authorizing payments through our Electronic Payment Plan, your bank will automatically withdraw the amount of your bill from your checking or savings account or credit card on the 10th or 25th of each month, depending on your account number.

We will continue to send you your electric bill, so that you know the amount to be withdrawn. Enroll in the program and we'll give you a one-time **credit of \$10 off your electric bill. This is for a limited time!**

If you are interested in receiving an Electronic Payment Plan Application form, please contact Kara at 825-3201 or AnnMarie at 825-3200. You can also download the form from our website at www.bpu.org.

Did you know?

Ice floats because as water freezes, it becomes lighter (less dense) than liquid water. If ice did not float, lakes would freeze from the bottom up, freezing/killing all the plants and fish as well. But the ice on top keeps the water underneath protected from the cold. It is like a blanket that keeps the water at a safe temperature for the living things in the lake.

Information from: www.ecokids.ca

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

Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation

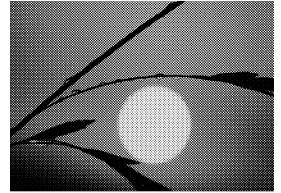
February 2007 12.65"

February 2006 7.31"

Average Temperatures

February 2007 Hi 8 Lo -5

February 2006 Hi 22 Lo -1



When the well is dry,
they know the worth of the water.
Benjamin Franklin

Water Loss In gallons/ minute	Annual Gallon Loss (in 1,000)	At \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons
1	525	\$ 788
5	2,628	\$ 3,942
15	7,884	\$ 11,826,
20	10,512	\$ 15,768
25	13,140	\$ 19,710
30	15,768	\$ 23,652
35	18,396	\$ 27,594
40	21,024	\$ 31,536
45	23,652	\$ 35,478
50	26,280	\$ 39,420

Checking for Water Leaks

Assuming there are no leaks in your house can cost you money!

The City would like to offer the following tips and encourage all customers to monitor their homes for possible water leaks. Leaks not only waste water; they cost you money!

First Sign

One of the first indications of a water leak is an unexplained increase in the usage amount and dollar amount on your monthly water bill. If there is an increase in usage that cannot be explained (extra people in the house, lawn watering, faucet left on, etc) there is a possibility that a toilet is leaking, a faucet is dripping, or there is a break in the water line between the meter and the house. Other sources of leaks can be the sprinkler system, the water softener, or the automatic fill on the swimming pool.

Monitor Your Meter

To identify leaks, we suggest that you monitor your meter. You will need to conduct the monitoring during a time period when you will not be using water. Monitoring while no one is home is ideal. First, turn off all water inside and outside the house. Write down the reading on the meter and the position of the sweep hand. Do not use any water for at least two hours. At the end on the monitoring period, read the meter a second time. If the second reading is different from the first, water flowed through the meter, indicating there may be a leak.

Check Toilets First

If a leak is detected, we recommend that you check your toilets first. Our experience shows that most leaks occur in the toilet. A leaking toilet tank can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day and cost you 76 cents per day, \$22.80 per month!

A toilet flapper hung partially open can waste up to 1,666 gallons of water per day and cost you \$2.82 per day, \$84.60 per month!

To check for a leaking toilet you will need some food coloring (any color). Flush the toilet. Then put enough coloring in the tank to color the water. Do not flush the toilet for at least an hour. If the water in the bowl of the toilet becomes colored there is a leak that will need to be repaired.

If you do have a leak, there are a number of possible causes. If you remove the tank lid and can easily identify the cause, correct the problem and try your leak test again. Consider that “fixes” such as bending the float back to shape, or adjusting how the rubber flapper falls, often end up failing soon afterward. In most cases, you will simply want to replace the toilet flapper (the rubber thing at the bottom of the tank that keeps water in the tank) and/or filling mechanism. These are available at hardware stores and home centers for about \$8 each.

Did You Know?

Dumping household cleansers, pesticides, oil, gasoline, etc. down the toilet, drain or storm sewer pollutes aquatic ecosystems and harms every creature that depends on them (including humans).

Water Faucets

Water faucets, inside and outside of the house, can also be leaking. 100 drips per minute can waste up to 33 gallons per day. That's 11 cents per day, \$3.30 per month, and \$39.60 per year! In most cases, a leaking faucet is caused by a worn washer or "O" ring.

If there is a leak in the water line there will be a spot in the yard that never dries up. This could indicate that the water line below needs to be replaced.

Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure all leaks are repaired in a timely manner. Brainerd Public Utilities is responsible for the main water line and the meter itself. Leaks on the BPU's line do not affect the charges on your water bill.

How Much Water is there on our Earth?		Drinking Water 0.03%
Ocean Water: 97.2%	Freshwater Lakes: 0.009%	Atmosphere: 0.001%
Glaciers and other ice: 2.15%	Inland Seas: 0.008%	Rivers: 0.0001%
Ground Water: 0.61%	Soil Moisture: 0.005%	You are 75% Water

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.