

BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES

January/February 2024



Electric - Water - Wastewater - Hydro

Can a Water Meter Freeze? Water Pipes?



First, let's go over what causes your pipes to freeze and subsequently burst in the first place. Pipes are vulnerable to freezing when exposed to extremely low temperatures, especially if they lack insulation or are located in unheated areas like attics, crawl spaces, or outside walls. Homes with inadequate heating during freezing weather are also at risk.

Why? Ice expands once frozen, causing a dramatic pressure increase inside the pipes. And if that pressure is extreme enough, your pipes can burst as a result. Take action when weather reports warn about extended periods of severe cold.

- Keep your heat on and above 55 degrees F when you're away from home.
- If possible, (currently this winter is not too snowy) leave snow cover over the area where your water line runs laterally from the curb stop to the house.
- Properly insulate and seal all exterior-facing pipes (e.g. walls, attics and basements).
- Leave utility room doors open and clear space around the water line to help prevent cold pockets of air near the pipes.
- It's colder near the floor and along the back wall of your basement than at the ceiling, so make sure warm air is allowed to circulate around your meter.



Customers have the responsibility of informing Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU) of any phone number and email changes/updates. Call 218-825-3200 to make sure we have a current phone number and email for you.



Thank you!



All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed with the State of Minnesota.



Pay your bill online at BPU.org. If you are a first time user, you will need to know your BPU account number and the amount of your last payment.



Set up a payment arrangement, call 218-825-3223.



To go paperless, please go to www.bpu.org, sign up for e-bills through "Pay Your Bill" or call 218-829-3200 and we can assist you.

2024 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 towards the recycling fee. Here's how it works:

- Take your used bulbs, and one coupon per bulb, to:
 - **Brainerd Ace Hardware- 214 West Washington St**
 - **Brainerd Batteries Plus-923 Washington St**
- Each coupon gives you 75 cents off the recycling fee for each qualifying bulb you recycle.
- During 2024, Brainerd Public Utilities will redeem up to 10 coupons per household or a small business that is a BPU customer. (Feel free to make more copies of the coupons, or stop at BPU Business office for more.)
 - Circular fluorescent tube
 - U-bend fluorescent tubes
 - Compact Fluorescent bulbs
 - High-intensity discharge lamps
 - Fluorescent tubes up to 8' in length



BPU offers a Security Lighting Program

Security lighting is available to residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

BPU maintains the security light. This service is offered for a monthly fee of \$12.50 plus tax per security light.

Call BPU Service Center today at 218-829-2193 to sign up for this program.

Dad Joke

I found a wooden shoe in my toilet-- It was clogged.



75¢ Brainerd Public Utilities Off Fluorescent Bulb Recycling

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Expires 2/28/25
Limit 1 coupon per bulb. Coupon valid only when completed.

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Brainerd Public Utilities 2024 Commission Meeting Dates

Brainerd Public Utilities 2024 Commission Meeting Dates are tentatively set for the last Tuesday of each month, starting at 9 am.

Commissioner	Phone Number
Mike Angland	218-821-1343
Mark O'Day	218-851-2827
President	Vacant
Dolly Matten – 2023 Vice President	218-851-4292
Tad Johnson	218-829-3501