



Inability to Pay Application for Utility Shutoff Protection

Cold Weather Rule effective October 1 through April 30

RESIDENTIAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Minnesota Legislature and Public Utilities Commission have issued the Cold Weather Rule (CWR). A utility must go through certain steps before disconnecting a customer's service from October 1 through April 30 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source.

To qualify for the CWR, it is the customer's responsibility to provide income documentation to Elk River Municipal Utilities or a local energy assistance agency showing that the household income is less than 50 percent of the state median income.

If that qualification is met, a utility may not disconnect and must reconnect utility heating service during the CWR timeframe ***only if the customer enters into and makes reasonable timely payments under a mutually acceptable payment agreement with the utility.*** The payment agreement will be based on the financial resources and circumstances of the household; provided that, a utility may not require a customer to pay more than ten percent of the household income toward current and past utility bills for utility heating service, but a utility may accept more than ten percent if agreed to by the customer. The payment agreement terminates at the expiration of the CWR.

Disputes regarding the previously listed options can be appealed to Elk River Municipal Utilities.

Elk River Municipal Utilities Account Number: _____

Name on Account: _____

Service Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Work Phone Number: _____

Total Annual Income: _____ Number of Persons in Home: _____

Name of energy assistance agency to which proof of income has been provided: _____

If proof of income is incomplete, you will not be protected from disconnection.

This is a declaration of my inability to pay for electricity during the Cold Weather Rule months. I hereby authorize Elk River Municipal Utilities to exchange billing information with the local energy assistance provider. I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the notice of residential rights and responsibilities. I attest that the above information is true and correct.

This form is not valid without an acceptable signed payment arrangement. I understand the payment arrangement must be kept to be protected from disconnection.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule 216B.097

The Cold Weather Rule states that during October 1 and April 30, a utility may not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- A customer enters into and makes timely payments under a mutually agreed upon payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. The utility may verify income on forms it provides or obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

Financial Assistance Agencies

You may be eligible for financial assistance when paying your electric bill. The following is a list of agencies to contact for assistance. **If you are reaching out to a county, please choose the county in which you live in.**

Sherburne County	Hennepin County	Wright County
Tri-Cap 1.888.765.5597	Community Action Partnership 952.933.9639	Wright County Community Action 320.963.6500
Sherburne County Human Services 763.765.4000	Hennepin County Human Services 612.596.1300	Wright County Human Services 763.682.7414
Salvation Army HeatShare 1.800.842.7279	Salvation Army HeatShare 1.800.842.7279	Salvation Army HeatShare 1.800.842.7279
CAER Food Shelf 763.441.1020		