

The Importance of Municipal Utilities

I wake up in the morning and turn on the light. A utility. Then, I head to the bathroom and use the toilet and as always, I wash my hands afterward. I wet my toothbrush and brush my teeth. Wash my face using the water from the sink. Another two utilities. Next, I go to the kitchen to make breakfast and head to the refrigerator to grab the milk. Yet another utility. I do not believe this morning routine is any different than anyone else and it verifies just how much we as a society rely on utilities in our day-to-day lives. The City of Elk River and I have electricity, water, trash, and recycling services; and it is all made feasible by the Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU).

Every day we use utilities such as electricity, gas, water, sewer, internet, trash, and more. Some of those utilities can harm the environment, which is why Elk River Municipal Utilities is such a remarkable institution. They offer rebates on sustainable utilities that both save you money and protect the environment. Some of those rebates to which my household has benefitted from include the purchase of energy-efficient appliances, air conditioning tune-ups, and electric vehicle chargers. These rebates make utilities more inexpensive so people can put more environmentally friendly utilities into their homes and know they are making a difference in our community and the future of its residents.

Elk River Municipal Utilities has five core values: Integrity, quality, communication, safety, and competition. These values make this local utility company more reliable. Its customers know that Elk River Municipal Utilities will be honest and accountable in all aspects of what they do. By supplying quality electricity, water, garbage, and recycling services that benefit the local residents, Elk River Municipal Utilities make life easier for those in the surrounding areas. The open communication between the company and its customers, the

assurance of mind that the utilities will be effectively provided, and knowing that the customers are getting the best deal for the services all make the purchasing of utilities easier.

Today, ERMU provides electricity to more than 12,300 customers and supplies water to almost 5,300 customers. Elk River Municipal Utilities supplies electricity and water to not only the people of Elk River, but also surrounding areas such as Otsego, Big Lake Township, and Dayton. The members of those communities are who ERMU relies on to provide feedback to use to make their customers' lives that much easier. Having a local municipal utility provider keeps local control over how the utilities are provided within the community. By using local resources to meet local needs, ERMU offers special programs that benefit the citizens of that area.

Elk River Municipal Utilities has the public's interest at heart and strives to provide the most affordable, reliable, and sustainable services. The local ownership of ERMU puts the money customers invest in their utilities back into the community, both through the local economy and with the potential to create new jobs for residents. The Elk River community's values are as follows: integrity, professionalism, honor, compassion, and dedication. All these principles can also be found at ERMU, which is why my hometown benefits from having such a distinguished municipal utility company that has earned multiple awards for its excellence in reliability, smart energy, public power, and safety. Now everytime I brush my teeth or take out the trash, I think about the standards that Elk River Municipal Utilities holds itself to and I know that my household will continue to be supported by them.