



### GO GREEN, SAVE GREEN WITH ERMU

Saving money, decreasing energy usage, and conserving resources has never been easier with programs and rebates from ERMU. Take a closer look at the many ways residential and commercial customers can save.

#### RESIDENTIAL

- > AC Tune-Up
- > Energy Efficient Appliances
- > Electric Vehicle Charger
- > HVAC
- > Irrigation Tune-Up
- > Water Conservation

#### COMMERCIAL

- > Lighting
- > HVAC
- > VFD and ASD Drives
- > Other Equipment
- > Custom Grants

Click the "Programs & Rebates" tab at [ERMUMN.COM](http://ERMUMN.COM) to learn more or simply scan the QR code below.



## 0% Increase to Electric Rates in 2024

Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) is excited to announce the utilities commission approved a zero percent rate increase for electric service in 2024. The decision to maintain the current electric rates for the upcoming year reflects ERMU's ongoing efforts to provide reliable, affordable electricity to its customers.

"The decision to hold electric rates steady in 2024 is a testament to our commitment to the well-being of our community," said General Manager Mark Hanson. "We are grateful for the hard work of our staff, the dedication of our commission members, and the competitive pricing from Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, ERMU's wholesale power provider. All were instrumental in stabilizing electric rates for 2024."

ERMU continually invests in infrastructure improvements, technological advancements, and operational efficiencies to provide reliable and cost-effective electricity to its customers. By carefully managing resources and exploring innovative solutions, ERMU remains dedicated to delivering high-quality service while keeping rates affordable.

The commission also approved a two percent increase to water rates for operating expenses needed to maintain the high-quality water services customers depend on.

As a public utility, ERMU is owned by those it serves, with a stated mission to provide customers with safe, reliable, cost-effective, and quality long-term electric and water utility services.



## AMI Meter Installation Set to Begin in March

ERMU will begin installing smart meters this March, ushering in the next phase of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project. This round of installations will replace approximately 500 electric meters across ERMU's service territory. Once this initial deployment is complete and evaluated, ERMU will move forward with installing electric meters by neighborhood, with the assistance of Allegiant Utility Services. For project updates and information, please visit the FEATURED NEWS section of our website at [ERMUMN.COM](http://ERMUMN.COM).



### 2023 ERMU STATISTICS

#### ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Energy Sales **329,773,349 kWh**  
Peak Demand **76 MW**  
Electric Meters **13,232**  
Miles of Electric Lines **635**  
(83.5% is underground)

#### WATER DEPARTMENT

Water Sales **953,043,000 gallons**  
Peak Day Usage **6,803,000 gallons**  
Customers **5,611**  
Miles of Water Main **126**



## ERMU SCHOLARSHIP NOW OPEN

Students are encouraged to apply for the 2024 Elk River Municipal Utilities Scholarship, which offers a chance to earn \$1,000 for post-secondary education. All local high school seniors who are customers or have a legal guardian who is a customer of ERMU are eligible.

To learn more, please visit our website at [ERMUMN.COM](http://ERMUMN.COM).



## SPRING PROJECTS? CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Whether it's a small project or a large home improvement, every digging project should begin with a call to 811, the national call-before-you-dig phone number.

Every six minutes, an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. The risk of injury or even death is serious, as are the costs for repairs or fines. Whether you're putting in a fence, planting a tree, or building a deck, locating your lines before you dig can really save you!

## Making Sense of the Electrical Grid

Electricity powers the world around us, but in order for that to happen the electricity has to be made, moved, and delivered to where it's needed. To achieve that, most of us rely on power from a grid. An electrical grid is an interconnected system that works together to generate, transmit, and distribute electrical energy for use in homes and businesses.



### Generation

First, the power must be generated. This happens in power plants of all kinds, from coal, natural gas, and nuclear to hydro, wind, and solar. Grids rely on different sources of power generation for redundancy and to improve resilience.

### Transmission and Distribution

That power is then transmitted at very high voltage to cities and towns up to 300 miles away. When it gets close to its final destination, local utilities like ERMU use transformers, substations, and subsequent infrastructure to reduce the voltage and distribute the electricity through power lines to homes and businesses.

Because power, for the most part, has to be used as it's made, all these different pieces have to work together correctly to ensure that the power stays on.

### Interconnections

Although it's often referred to as "the grid," the U.S. power system is actually made up of three mostly independent grids called interconnections.

- ▶ **The Eastern Interconnection** operates in states east of the Rocky Mountains.
- ▶ **The Western Interconnection** powers everything west of that.
- ▶ **The Texas Interconnection** serves most of Texas.

Within any electric grid are interconnected local grids. These local grids provide redundancies that improve resilience against weather and other events that could cause power interruptions. The more interconnections and redundancies, the more resilient the system. That's why future advancements that could bring the three interconnections together could help improve efficiency and resilience for the entire United States.

Understanding what an electrical grid is and how it functions can help you appreciate the complexity involved in bringing power to an outlet near you.

## Lineworker Appreciation Day



Thursday, April 18, 2024, is National Lineworker Appreciation Day, a time to honor the brave and dedicated men and women who work tirelessly to keep our communities powered up and connected. Day or night and in all weather conditions, lineworkers ensure that electricity reaches our homes, schools, and businesses. Their unwavering commitment and courage often go unnoticed, but their impact is immeasurable. #ThankALineworker