

Conservation Tip: Up & Coming LEDs

Like it or not it's out with traditional incandescent and CFL bulbs and in with new LEDs (light-emitting diode).

LEDs are the most sustainable light source compared to incandescent and CFL bulbs. They are highly efficient, producing an average of 78 lumens per watt opposed to an incandescent that produces an average of 15 lumens per watt.



LED lights use 2 to 17 watts which is between a 1/3rd and 1/30th of incandescent or CFL bulbs. Incandescent bulbs can be considered a better heat source than light producer as they create 25 times as much heat as an LED to produce the same amount of light.

LEDs last up to 25 times longer than incandescent and 10 times longer than CFLs. Replacing a 60-watt incandescent with an LED equivalent will save you \$130 in energy costs over the new bulb's lifetime. The average American household would cut their annual energy bill by \$150 by replacing all incandescent with LED bulbs.

To yield the greatest savings replace the most used lights in the home. Changing any bulbs will make a difference in your energy costs.

About the Cover

MPU celebrated their 100 year anniversary October 11, 2014 with an open house.

Tours of the water and power plant were given, and various displays were set up, including continuous operation of a 20 kilowatt Edison Bi-Polar generator. The generator is one of four originally purchased in 1889, and used to power street lighting until about 1915. A sister generator is on permanent static display at the Edison Illuminating Company building in the historic Greenfield Village at The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.



Contact Us

Online

www.mpu.org

Customer Service

920-683-4600

customerservice@mpu.org

Report an Outage

Electric: 920-683-4622

Water: 920-683-4633

Diggers Hotline

Quick Dial: 8-1-1

Toll Free: 1-800-242-8511

Emergency: 1-877-500-9592

Address

Main Office

1303 S. 8th Street

Manitowoc, WI 54220

Mailings

Office

PO Box 1090

Manitowoc, WI 54220

Customer Service

PO Box 1087

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Manitowoc Public Utilities
*Dedicated to providing
customer-focused utility services*

The Connection

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Your Renewable Choice: A Cleaner, Greener Future



MPU is offering the *Your Renewable Choice* program so you can help steer the future of energy production toward renewable sources. These sources include wind and solar power, as well as power generated from the burning of biomass fuels.

As a participant in the *Your Renewable Choice* program, you are directing MPU to purchase the extra power we need from renewable sources only.

Once you enroll in the *Your Renewable Choice* program, a monthly charge for the program will appear as a separate line item on your billing statement. The charge will be \$1.70 per month for each block of 100 kilowatt hours of renewable energy that you purchase. If you purchase one block of renewable energy per month, over one year's time that is the equivalent of saving nearly a half-ton of coal!

Choose a cleaner, greener future. Call Customer Service at 683-4600 to enroll.

Note: MPU produces about 5% of its electricity from renewable sources, including recycled paper pellets. We are hard at work to come up with cost-effective ways to produce more electricity from renewable sources yearly.

MPU History

To commemorate our centennial, we commissioned local author and former UW-Manitowoc professor, Dr. Kerry Trask to research and write a book about MPU's history. After two years of research and editing, *Anchor of the Community, The Centennial History of Manitowoc Public Utilities 1914 - 2014* was published in early October.

ANCHOR OF THE COMMUNITY
The Centennial History of Manitowoc Public Utilities,
1914-2014



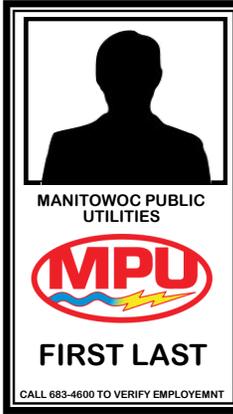
The book describes significant events from the past century, and highlights development and challenges faced from a social, political, and technological perspective.

Copies of the book are available for \$10 at the MPU front desk at 1303 S. 8th Street.

Ask for the Badge

Manitowoc residents are reminded to be cautious when allowing utility service workers to enter their homes or businesses. Residents should never hesitate to ask for proof of identification before allowing anyone to enter their homes. If you're not convinced the employee is a legitimate representative of the utility, contact the company directly for verification.

MPU employees normally wear uniforms and always carry photo identification badges. MPU service vehicles will be red with the familiar MPU logo on the doors. Each vehicle is identified with a specific vehicle number located on the fender in front of the doors. Meter readers mainly travel on foot, so a vehicle may not be seen.



Most visits by MPU service technicians are scheduled in advance, or requested. MPU offers these tips:

- Field employees will not ask for money, credit cards, or to use a customer's phone.
- Be suspicious if someone shows up without an appointment asking to check an appliance, wiring or suggesting a water or electric problem inside your home.
- Do not let anyone into your home unless you verify who they are and see the individual's identification and know the purpose for the visit.
- If you live alone and a stranger approaches, imply that there is someone else in your home or indicate that someone will be arriving at your home momentarily.
- Contact MPU at 920-683-4600 to verify field personnel working in the area or call 911 to report any suspicious activity.

Do You Know Where Your Water Shut-Off Valve is Located?

If you have a broken pipe or want to do minor plumbing repairs, do you know where your water shut-off valve is located? It's important to know where the valve is and if it's in working condition *before* you have a problem.

Every building is required to have an operable main water shut-off valve at the point where the water lateral enters the dwelling. Most often this valve is located in the basement by the utility water meter, but sometimes it might be located in a crawl space, or grade-level mechanical closet. In many homes there will be two shut-off valves, one on either side of the utility water meter.

Water shut-offs are often hidden in closets or behind storage. And in a lot of cases, a neglected shut-off valve may be inoperable, or may begin leaking if you try operating it. Most plumbers recommend testing the valves periodically to make sure they operate properly.

If your main water shut-off valve does not operate correctly or leaks, you can contact any area plumber to replace it. The plumber will coordinate with an MPU service technician to turn off the water service at the curb, permitting replacement of the valve.

It's a good idea to turn off the main water supply if you are leaving home for any extended period of time (this might not be possible if you have a hot water boiler for heat). A broken water pipe can cause serious damage to a property. Leaks can also cost you a large amount of money in water and sewer charges.

Preventive maintenance today will save you potentially costly repairs in the future!

