



PRESS RELEASE

MANITOWOC PUBLIC UTILITIES
PHONE 920-683-4600 FAX 920-686-4315

1303 South 8th Street P.O. Box 1090 Manitowoc, WI 54221-1090

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHONE: 920-683-4600

Manitowoc Public Utilities Celebrates Public Power Week

Manitowoc Public Utilities (MPU) is celebrating Public Power Week October 4 through 10, along with more than 2,000 other community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities that collectively provide electricity to 49 million Americans. In anticipation of Public Power Week, the MPU Commission resolved at their September 14, 2020 meeting the following:

1. That MPU will continue to work to bring lower-cost, safe, reliable electricity (and water services) to community homes and businesses just as it has since the utility was created; and
2. That the week of October 4-10 be designated Public Power Week in order to honor MPU for its contributions to the community and to make its consumer-owners, policy makers, and employees more aware of its contributions to their well-being; and
3. That our community joins hands with more than 2,000 other public power systems in the United States in this celebration of PUBLIC POWER.

“Public Power Week gives us a chance to showcase our utility to our customers who, unlike an investor owned utility (IOU), are our shareholders. We are disappointed we cannot hold our annual open house event this year due to the pandemic, but rest assured it will return when conditions are safe” said MPU General Manager Troy Adams. There are many successes to celebrate at MPU, including safe and reliable service and low rates.

An electric and water rate benchmarking study was recently completed and the results are impressive. Electric retail rates are some of the lowest in the state, over 10% lower than the lowest investor owned utility. “This is not surprising” say Adams. “The first obligation IOUs have is to their shareholders; they’re expecting their dividends. An IOU’s second obligation is to their customers. With public power, there are no shareholders in a traditional sense. Our customers are our shareholders. Dividends are not extracted out of our community.”

Water utility rates are also extremely competitive, with retail rates in the bottom 10 percent of all water utilities in the state. “It is very important for MPU to continue to provide low rates and safe and reliable service, especially during these challenging times.”

Today, Manitowoc Public Utilities is responsible for the City’s electric, water, broadband, and steam utility as well as overseeing the waste water treatment plant; plus providing services to the Central Brown County Water Authority, Great Lakes Utilities, and the Villages of Reedsville and Cleveland’s water and wastewater systems.

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Public Power Week is an annual national observance coordinated by the American Public Power Association. The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. The Association represents public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. It advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Its members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power. More at www.PublicPower.org.