

THE POWER OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP

Community Minded

Community Proud

Community Owned



September, 2006

Take the Wisconsin Focus on Energy's "Change 5 Challenge" and You could save at least \$60 each year when you replace the 5 most used lights in your home with Energy Star qualified models, and here's a good motivator!

Starting October 1st, Wisconsin residents will be able to save \$2 on the purchase of select Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent bulbs by utilizing the instant cash back rewards. This year the participating retailers in Wisconsin include: Ace, True Value, Do it Best, select Hardware Hank stores, Menards, Mills Fleet Farm, and Shopko.

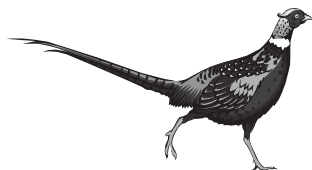


Now that's a bright idea!

Public Power Week is October 1st-7th, 2006

Rice Lake Utilities would like to invite our consumer/owners to help us celebrate Public Power Week October 1st-7th, 2006. Public Power Week is a national event sponsored in conjunction with the American Public Power Association (APPA). APPA is the service organization for the community and state owned electric utilities. Rice Lake Utilities is part of this organization as a member of the Municipal Electric Utilities in Wisconsin (MEUW). MEUW utilities are 81 strong in Wisconsin and distribute over 11 percent of electricity to Wisconsinites. Most MEUW utilities have roots going back close to a century or more. We all operate on a not-for-profit basis and our business affairs are conducted in an open forum. Our commissioners consist of local consumer/owners in the community who directly make the decisions that impact not only other consumer/owners but themselves also. By being part of a not-for-profit entity, Rice Lake Utilities is able to keep our rates among the lowest in our area. We also pride ourselves on our history of providing reliable service while keeping our costs to a minimum.

So please join us the week of October 1st-7th as we say "thank you" to our consumer/owners. As part of our week long celebration we will have refreshments in our lobby along with a chance to win great door prizes.



FEDERAL TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT IMPROVEMENTS

Tax credits (which reduces the amount of income tax you pay) are available for many types of home improvements including; adding insulation, replacement of windows, and certain replacement of high efficiency heating and cooling equipment. The maximum amount of homeowner credit for all improvements combined is \$500 during the two year period of the tax credit. This tax credit applies to improvements made from January 1st, 2006 through December 31st, 2007. For a complete listing of eligible tax credits log on to www.energystar.gov and click on *tax credits under the energy bill* or call the Energy Star Hotline at 1-888-star-yes.



UNDERSTANDING THE POWER COST

ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE (PCAC) ON YOUR BILL

Rice Lake Utilities purchases power from its' wholesale supplier, Xcel Energy. The cost of this power is passed on to our customers through the PCAC which most people have noticed in recent months on their bill. The PCAC like other commodities is based on supply and demand. When the demand for electricity is high the price for purchasing power also increases. Xcel Energy's power cost forecast is based on normal weather, however when weather deviates, (which occurred in July when a heat wave descended on much of the country resulting in record demands for electricity), it has a substantial impact on the power cost adjustment. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), "during the first six months of this year, average U.S. residential electricity prices rose by about 11 percent compared with the same period last year." The surge in electricity prices is contributed to an increase in cost for coal and natural gas which account for 68 percent of the electricity generated. In their short term energy outlook the EIA "expected prices to increase further during the short term forecast period, but at a slower rate, as moderation in natural gas and coal fuel costs are passed through to retail customers". "Significant relief from the high crude oil and gasoline prices is not likely to occur soon as the current tight market must also cope with strong gasoline demand, which typically reaches its seasonal peak in August, and the traditionally more active months of hurricane season". In 2006, these prices are expected to increase by 8.9 percent and in 2007, by another 3.6 percent.



RICE LAKE UTILITIES CONTRIBUTES TO PROPERTY TAXES

Since 1987 Rice Lake Utilities has contributed over \$5.5 million dollars in lieu of taxes to the city general. This year the electric portion of the payment is \$205,324 and the water portion is \$115,890 for a grand total of \$321,214.

Tax equivalent payments made by Rice Lake Utilities helps lower property taxes for the citizens of Rice Lake .



Going away for the winter? If so you might want to notify Rice Lake Utilities for emergency purposes and to also have your bills forwarded.



Don't forget to stop by Rice Lake Utilities and pick up your free Halloween bag.

RICE LAKE UTILITIES ADDS A FOURTH OSPREY TOWER

Rice Lake Utilities received a big thank you from the Wisconsin DNR for placement of another Osprey nest located on Augusta St. east of Hwy 53. Rice Lake Utilities first placed an Osprey nest 10 years ago at the future Lumbering Hall

Rice Lake Utilities line worker constructs the platform on Augusta St.



of Fame site, and according to Kevin Morgan, DNR Wildlife Biologist, it was an "immediate success and has been used ever since". Since then Rice Lake Utilities has



placed platforms at the softball fields and by the Bungalow Bar, both of which have been

in use ever since their placement as well. The Augusta St. platform makes number four and we are all hoping with the success of the other three that this one will be equally successful.

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