



## Sun Prairie Utilities' Newsletter - December 2023



### New Facility Update

It's becoming real, as we are nearing the home stretch of the design process for Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) New Operations Facility!

Kueny Architects and SPU staff have recently been working out the details of the Office of Energy Independence (OEI) Microgrid Solar and Battery Storage Grant, along with continuing to evaluate the goal of acquiring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification.

As of the start of December, Construction Drawings are 75% complete. Milestones ahead in the next couple of months include 100% Construction Drawing completion, along with approvals from the Public Service Commission, City Council, and Utilities Commission. Once those are completed, Kueny Architects will initiate the bidding process, likely in the first quarter of 2024. Once bids are considered and accepted, SPU will need to approve the borrowing. If all goes well, construction will begin in the spring/summer of 2024 and be complete in summer/fall 2025.

For details and updates on the progress of the new facility, please visit our website at [sunprairieutilities.com/new-facility](https://sunprairieutilities.com/new-facility). We invite you to send comments and feedback by email to [information@myspu.org](mailto:information@myspu.org).

### Lighting Effects Drive

Sun Prairie Utilities' (SPU) office is accepting donations for Sunshine Place's [Spirit of Giving Program](#)! The program assists families who live in or attend the Sun Prairie Area School District during the holiday season.

For a \$20 donation to Spirit of Giving at the SPU office (125 West Main Street), you can receive a strand of LED holiday lights! These lights use 1/10th of energy compared to traditional mini lights.



SPU staff are collecting donations through Dec. 5. The offer is while supplies last and is limited to three LED strands of lights per customer.

Share your holiday spirit and donate today!

[Additional details.](#)



## Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

Flex your decorating skills and email Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) a picture of your gingerbread house for a chance to win a \$100 gift card/certificate!

The SPU crew is looking for creative designs that are sweeter than sweet! Entries will be judged based on construction, decoration, creativity, and holiday essence. Are you up for the challenge?

After your sugary confection is ready, email a selfie of you and your gingerbread house to [information@myspu.org](mailto:information@myspu.org). Title the subject line "Gingerbread House" and include your name, address, and phone number to submit your entry.

The top three entries will each receive a \$100 gift card/certificate to a Sun Prairie restaurant of their choice. In addition, SPU will donate \$10 to the Sun Prairie Food Pantry for each valid entry submitted!

The deadline to email your masterpiece is Dec. 15, so start designing your gingerbread house soon!

[View contest rules.](#)

## Winter Tips, Protect Your Pipes

As frost develops farther in the ground, your water is at a greater risk of freezing inside the service pipe to your home.

Sun Prairie Utilities' field staff compiled a few helpful tips to prevent your pipes from breaking:



1. Disconnect garden hoses and use an indoor valve (usually in your home's basement) to shut off the source of water to the spigot. Then, drain the water from the pipes that lead to outside faucets.
2. Insulate the pipes in your crawl spaces and attics. This helps them stay warm during the colder months.
3. While away, keep the thermostat at the same temperature during the day and night. Steady temperatures will help keep your pipes free of ice.
4. When the weather is very cold outside, let cold water drip from faucets that have exposed pipes. The movement of the water helps prevent the pipe from freezing.

It's also helpful to keep an eye on certain water lines during the winter. These pipes are more prone to freezing:

- Water supply lines in unheated areas inside your home (like a basement, crawl space, attic, garage, or inside/under kitchen cabinets).
- Pipes exposed to extreme cold (like outdoor hose valves, swimming pool supply lines, and water sprinkler lines).
- Any pipe that runs along an exterior wall with little or no insulation.

[More helpful tips.](#)



## Sign Up for RoundUp

Round your monthly bill to the next whole dollar, and the extra cents will go toward local help organizations!

For example, a bill that comes to \$76.43 would round to \$77.00, with \$0.57 as a donation to the RoundUp program.

Organizations that receive the donations include the [Sun Prairie Food Pantry](#), the [American Cancer Society](#), [Shelter from the Storm](#), and the [Sun Prairie Action Resource Coalition \(SPARC\)](#) Hunger Heros for Sun Prairie students.

If you choose to participate, your maximum yearly donation could be \$11.88, with an average yearly donation of around \$6.00.

There are two ways you could get started:

1. [Sign up digitally.](#)
2. Sign the [RoundUp](#) form and return it to the Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) office.

Once signed up, SPU will round every monthly bill you pay until you notify employees you want to stop. SPU will mail a statement every January reflecting your previous year's tax-deductible RoundUp donations.

[Learn more.](#)



## Holiday Hours

Sun Prairie Utilities' office will be closed the following weekdays so employees can be with their families during the holidays.

- Dec. 25-26, 2023
- Jan. 1-2, 2024



To report an outage, please call (608) 837-5500 and follow the prompts. Select staff will be on call in case of a water or electricity emergency.

## Need some assistance paying your utility bill?



Click to learn about available resources that could help.



## Help a neighbor pay for their utility bill -



Click to learn about our Gift of Light Certificate



### Contact Us

Follow us on social media and/or sign up for email and text outage alerts through MyAccount.



This message was sent to Sun Prairie Utilities' customers.