



## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) is your community-owned, not-for-profit electric and water utility. SPU is dedicated to exceeding customer expectations with innovative, reliable and sustainable services and a friendly, personal touch. After all, we are your friends and neighbors who share your values and understand local needs. We are here to serve as your community partner, resource and advocate. This is the value of public power for Sun Prairie.

Customers and the community are the focus of all we do, which is why our utility invests in more than water mains, meters, and poles. We award scholarships to local seniors, support worthy local events and causes, help customers save electricity and money, and invest in critical infrastructure and modern technology to ensure we are prepared for the future. This report outlines some of our recent efforts.



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us by phone at (608) 837-5500, online at [sunprairieutilities.com](http://sunprairieutilities.com), or with a visit to our office at 125 W. Main Street in Sun Prairie.

Sincerely,  
Rick Wicklund – General Manager, Sun Prairie Utilities.

## GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

SPU has a longstanding tradition of supporting worthy local causes and hosting events to demonstrate our support and appreciation for customers and the community. Our outreach includes providing volunteer time and donations, hosting utility events like a Facebook scavenger hunt, and more. In 2018 we were especially proud to support our local elementary schools' Fun Runs with donations and race-day volunteer time. SPU staff cheered, provided race-day bags, and supplied water bottles for each school. Here are some additional organizations and efforts SPU supported in the past year:

- Sun Prairie Action Resource Coalition
- Shelter from the Storm Ministries
- American Cancer Society Relay for Life
- Sun Prairie Little League
- Chamber of Commerce Golf outing
- GRIT Reading Program
- Sun Prairie Fire Department
- Sun Prairie Public Library Foundation Book'n It Run
- Sun Prairie Chamber Expo
- Sun Prairie Optimist Club Pancake Breakfast
- Sunshine Place
- Boy Scouts of America
- Sun Prairie Youth Baseball & Softball
- Colonial Club Home Delivered Meals Program



*Sun Prairie Utilities provides energy education to schools and community groups throughout the year, including this PowerTown safety demonstration for local Boy Scouts.*

## SPU Awards High School Scholarships

SPU awarded academic scholarships to four deserving seniors in 2018.

- Jonathan Gunderson
- Kayla Haas
- Kylee Riedel
- Nathan Sondgeroth

## Moving Forward: Electric Vehicles

SPU has long recognized the potential for electric vehicles (EV) to make more efficient use of the electric grid while also helping customers achieve emissions-free transportation. The SPU fleet includes a Chevy Volt plug-in hybrid EV, and we will soon install at our office a Level-2 charging station for use by visitors to the downtown area. We also offer a financial incentive to help SPU customers install Level-2 chargers at their home or business.

## Solar Power in the Parks

Charging your phone or other devices with solar power is as easy as a walk in the park. SPU has installed free, solar-powered USB chargers in Carriage Hills Park, Orfan Park and Cannery Square.



Cannery Square

## Chase Honored for Distinguished Service

Serving our community is SPU's focus, and the same is true for the local elected and appointed officials who govern our utility. In 2018, Sun Prairie Utility Commission Chair Ted Chase was honored with a Distinguished Service Award from WPPI Energy, our community's nonprofit power supplier. Chase has served our utility for more than 27 years at both local and national levels, including advocating with members of Congress for sound energy policies at the annual American Public Power Association Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C.

A lifelong city resident, Chase is also an active member of the Lion's Club and is well-known throughout Sun Prairie.

His many years of experience and dedication make him the ideal Distinguished Service Award recipient.



Ted Chase (right) with WPPI Energy President/CEO Mike Peters.

## SPU Supports #SunPrairieStrong

SPU's electric and water crews played an active role in responding to the gas leak explosion that occurred on Main Street in July. Our electric staff initiated a controlled service outage to minimize the risk of further damage to the surrounding area, and our water staff ensured that adequate water capacity and pressure were available to support the fire department's efforts to contain fires in the affected area. We replaced water mains along both Main Street and Bristol Street as part of the restoration of this intersection.

## KEEPING COSTS DOWN

### Helping Customers Save

In 2018, SPU invited local residents to a free event showcasing ways to save energy and money at home. The "Energy Efficiency for Your Home" presentations featured energy-saving tips, information about products and incentives, and a look at the benefits of conducting a home energy assessment.

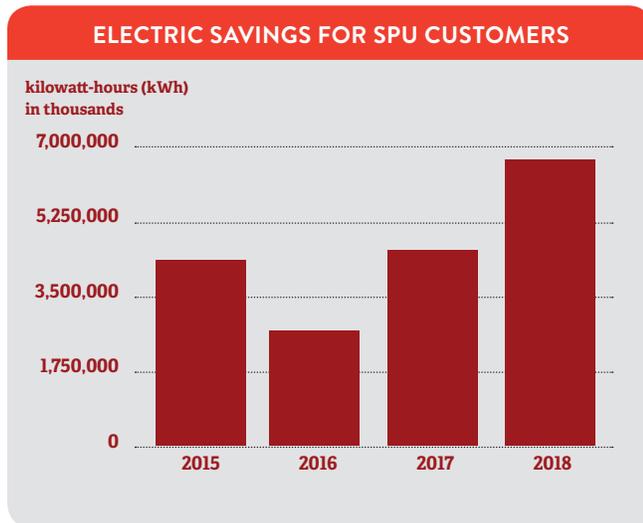
SPU also offers resources year-round to help customers manage their utility bills, including:

- An alternative time-of-use rate that provides savings for customers who are able to shift their usage to times when electricity costs less to generate
- Energy and water-saving programs and incentives
- Budget billing
- Energy assistance for income-qualified customers, available through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). To learn more about the WHEAP application process, customers should contact Wisconsin Energy Services at (800)506-5596.

We're always here to help local homes and businesses save. For more information, visit [sunprairieutilities.com](http://sunprairieutilities.com) or contact Energy Services Representative Clint Cry at (608) 825-1756.

## Delivering Results

In 2018, SPU helped customers reduce energy waste by more than 6 million kilowatt hours – that's enough electricity to power 8,000 homes for a month.



## Smart Ideas Yield Big Savings in New Schools

Thanks to solar technology and support from SPU, our community's two newest elementary schools will save hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Together with WPPI Energy, SPU provided design assistance and more than \$50,000 in incentives to help Meadow View and Token Springs elementary schools design and construct high-performance buildings incorporating efficient lighting, windows, roofing, insulation, and heating, venting and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Additional incentives were provided by Focus on Energy, the statewide energy efficiency program that SPU makes available to its customers. Together, the two new schools will deliver more than \$485,000 per year in energy savings for the district.

In addition, both schools installed a rooftop solar photovoltaic system to collect energy from sunlight and convert it into renewable, emissions-free electricity. These highly visible projects demonstrate the technology and educate the community and students on its benefits, operation and performance. SPU and WPPI Energy provided a grant of more than \$22,000 towards the cost of the systems, covering 42 percent of the project costs.

...Now, that's smart thinking!

## ELECTRICITY NEWS

### Platinum-Level Reliability

Reliable, local service means that we respond quickly when there's an outage. SPU has earned the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Platinum-level Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3®) designation. RP3 designation honors utilities that maintain the highest standards of reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement. SPU earned RP3 designation — which is current for three years — at the platinum level in 2018.



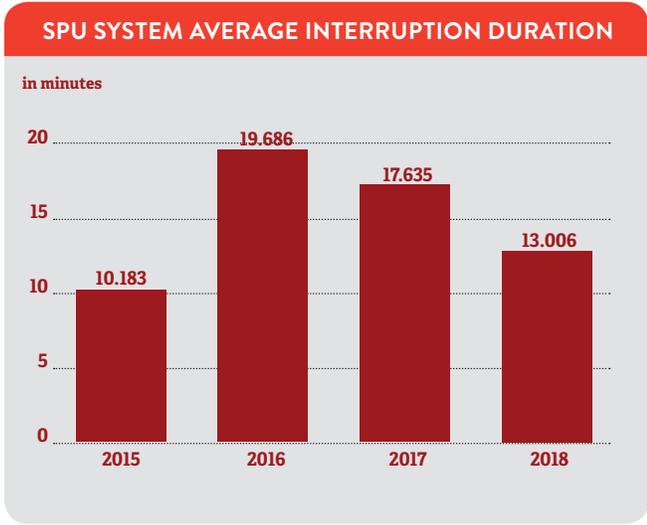
### Maintaining & Improving Our System

With 44 miles of overhead lines, 172 miles of underground lines and five substations, regular maintenance is crucial to the reliability of the SPU electric distribution system. We completed a number of capital improvement and preventative maintenance projects in 2018 to help ensure excellent reliability for customers.

- We completed a long-range facilities and forecasting study that will ensure system reliability and capacity for years to come.
- We continued making upgrades to the South substation reclosures, relocating controls from outside to the inside of this facility.
- We conduct continual visual and infrared inspections to proactively monitor and identify potential issues on our distribution system. We complete this work efficiently and cost-effectively with shared infrared inspection equipment and staff support through WPPI Energy.
- As our community continues to grow, our work is ongoing to add new electric service for residential and commercial developments.
- We implemented a program to replace city street lighting with LED fixtures to coincide with new city road improvement projects.



*Maintaining and improving our system is a top priority for SPU's staff.*



**New Wind Resource: Bishop Hill III**

As a member-owner of our non-profit wholesale power supplier, WPPI Energy, SPU works together with 50 other likeminded utilities to gain strength in numbers and meet our community’s electric needs with a power supply that is diverse, cost-effective and responsible.

In June, we celebrated the opening of our newest resource: the 53-turbine Bishop Hill III Wind Energy Center in Henry Co., Illinois. WPPI Energy will purchase power from the 132-megawatt project through mid-2040. This cost-effective resource is projected to lower wholesale costs for our utility over the long term. WPPI Energy is further reducing wholesale costs by selling Renewable Energy Certificates associated with the project.

**Reducing Our Carbon Dioxide Emissions**

Not only does Bishop Hill III Wind Energy Center further diversify our power supply portfolio, but the emissions-free facility will also offset an estimated 414,800 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) annually. By 2021, solar power from another new resource – the Point Beach Solar Energy Center – will come online, keeping us on track for a nearly 40% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2025.



*Bishop Hill III Wind Energy Center.*

**Advanced Meter Installation Continues**

SPU is continuing to install advanced meters for both water and electric service across its customer base. Advanced meters help us deliver more proactive customer service, improve our system reliability and operate more efficiently. The technology will also enable more options for customers to track and make informed decisions about their usage, gain more control over their monthly bills, and more.

**Water News**

SPU’s municipal water system includes seven groundwater wells throughout the city. Our three water towers and three in-ground reservoirs hold a total of 3.5 million gallons of water and supply over 11,000 residents with water. We regularly maintain and update our system to ensure that we can continue meeting all regulatory requirements while providing reliable, clean water service at competitive rates.

- The water tower at Sheehan Park was renovated in 2018. Most visible among all the interior and exterior improvements was a complete exterior repainting featuring an eye-catching new design. It took approximately 30 days of work to hand-roll the paint.
- As part of the city’s capital improvement plan, we upgraded a portion of our system’s water main facilities.
- We conducted annual scheduled maintenance and flushing for water valves and hydrants.
- Our annual Consumer Confidence water quality report is available at [sunprairieutilities.com](http://sunprairieutilities.com).



*The newly repainted water tower at Sheehan Park.*