

Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

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May 2026

If you've been to a gas station or grocery store recently, you likely have noticed the cost increase on nearly everything. Unfortunately, we are feeling those same effects here at the Utilities. We've experienced rate increases from our wholesale suppliers of electric, water and gas. We are also seeing increasing prices in the costs of meters, pipe, and wire. I know rate changes, especially when the cost of everything else has gone up, are not a welcome sight. However, safety and reliability remain top priorities for our customers and that means having the right equipment and personnel to get the job done. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We will continue working hard to serve you and the community.



- Jennifer Wippert
General Manager



**Jennifer Wippert &
Kyra Van Berkum**

MRES Scholarship Winner:

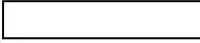







Each year, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) awards up to five \$1,000 scholarships to students pursuing education related to the electric industry. These scholarships are renewable for up to three years — providing up to \$4,000 in total financial support. The program supports workforce development by

encouraging students to explore careers in the energy industry, but also to consider future employment opportunities with municipal electric utilities, such as RRMU. This year, we are pleased to award a \$1,000 scholarship to **Kyra Van Berkum**, who plans to study mathematics at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. **Congratulations!**



WHAT'S THAT FLAG IN MY YARD?

Several projects are happening in Rock Rapids that have required the RRMU crew to go out and mark utilities. If you see a row of flags in your yard, someone has called 811 to request a locate and may be planning to dig. After the locate is requested, Iowa One Call notifies all utilities that may have buried lines in the area to mark their location with colored flags that correspond to specific utility types. Work being performed by these contractors is almost always in the right-of-way, or within an existing utility easement. It's crucial to preserve and maintain the location of flags. Obscured or displaced markings may lead to accidental damage. If you are planning to do any digging in your yard, please call **811** or go to iowaonecall.com to request a locate.

	WHITE - Proposed Excavation
	PINK - Temporary Survey Markings
	RED - Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
	YELLOW - Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
	ORANGE - Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
	BLUE - Potable Water
	PURPLE - Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, and Slurry Lines
	GREEN - Sewers and Drain Lines



Electric Rates

Safe and reliable electric power are some of the top goals of our electric utility. The Board of Trustees review the rates on a regular basis to ensure that financial resources are in place to finance the electric utility and infrastructure improvements. The Board of Trustees previously approved the purchase of a new diesel generator to assist the community in the event of an outage and for peak shaving events. An additional project on the horizon is the need for updated meters through the community.

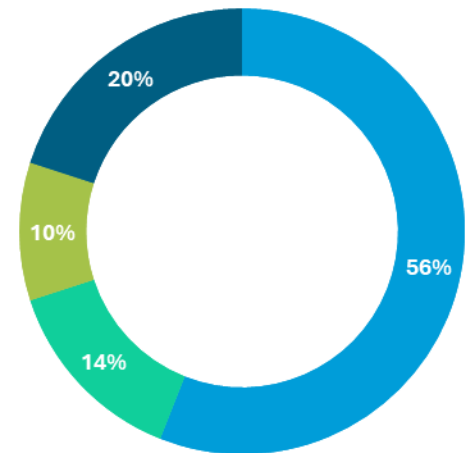
In addition to costs for infrastructure improvements, the cost of wholesale power has gone up. RRMU purchases its power from Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) and Western Area Power Agency (WAPA). MRES has increased its rates 4.7% for 2026 and WAPA has increased its Firm Demand (\$/kilowatt-month) charge from \$6.60 to \$7.00 and Firm Energy (mills/kWh) from 16.55 to 17.60. These increases, along with planned infrastructure improvements, mean that RRMU must adjust its rates to reflect these changes. These new electric rates will go into effect July 1st, and will be seen on your bill in August.

Residential	Current Rate	New Rate
Sept- May	\$0.078/kWh	\$0.084/kWh
June- Aug	\$0.095/kWh	\$0.102/kWh
Minimum Charge	\$16.00	\$17.50

RRMU values our customers and we want to be transparent about why our electric rate increase is necessary.

How Your Electric Rate Dollars Are Spent:

- **Wholesale Power:** 56% of our budget is spent on buying wholesale electricity.
- **Indirect Expenses:** 14% this covers depreciation, interest, and taxes.
- **Labor:** 10% goes to the wages and benefits of our employees directly related to the electric utility.
- **Direct Expenses:** 20% is for controllable costs, such as line maintenance, billing, member meetings, and safety programs.



Sewer Rates

Plans for the building of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant continue to move forward! RRMU is eagerly looking forward to receiving bids in the upcoming month for the new facility. To lessen the costs for rate payers, RRMU has been awarded a grant from the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for technology related to removing emerging contaminants, a loan from USDA Rural Development at a low interest rate, as well as a grant from USDA Rural Development. While these grants and loans help defray the costs, a rate increase will still be necessary. These new sewer rates will go into effect on July 1st, and will be seen on your bill in August. This chart shows the increase for the average family using 4,000 gallons a month.

	Current Rate	New Rate
	\$4.50 per 1,000 gallons	\$5.40 per 1,000 gallons
Minimum Charge	\$45.00	\$56.00
4000 gallons	\$63.00	\$77.60

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

To view the full USDA Nondiscrimination statement, visit www.rockrapids.net.