

# THE INNOVATOR

Denison Municipal Utilities

April, 2015

## 2015 DMU Customer Survey

On March 9th we mailed and emailed a customer survey to 562 randomly selected customers to help us focus on those areas where the customer feels improvements are needed and also highlight where the customer thinks we are doing a good job. If you would like to participate in the customer survey just go to [www.dmuonline.com](http://www.dmuonline.com) and click on Customer Survey.

We appreciate your opinion and strive to satisfy our customers.

A summary of the results will be featured in the July 2015 newsletter.



**Look for the Star!**  
Buy a qualified ENERGY STAR electric clothes dryer and get \$80 off your purchase from DMU.

ENERGY STAR qualified clothes dryers:  
Use at least 20% less energy than conventional models. Meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

To apply for your rebate stop at our office or visit [www.dmuonline.com](http://www.dmuonline.com) and click on Bright Energy Solutions on the left side of the screen.



## Find out how much energy that "old" appliance is actually using

Are you aware of how much energy that old spare refrigerator or freezer in the basement or garage is using? With the Kill A Watt EZ power monitor, you can discover how much electricity your household appliances consume.



Simply plug the Kill A watt EZ into any household outlet and plug your appliance into the Kill A Watt EZ and the monitor will display how much electricity is being consumed, regardless of whether the appliance is turned on. The Kill A Watt display will count electricity consumption by the kilowatt hour (kWh) enabling you to calculate your electrical operating costs by the day, week, month-even an entire year. For best results your appliance should remain plugged into the Kill A Watt EZ for three days.

Simply stop by our office at 721 West Broadway or call us at 712-263-4154 for details. DMU does have a Kill A Watt EZ monitor available for customers to use free of charge for a one-week time period.

According to 2013 APPA electric rate survey DMU's total revenue/kWh rate of 5.9¢/kWh ranks #2 among all Iowa municipal investor owned and cooperative utilities.

Following is a comparison of DMU's rate to the average rate of Iowa Municipal Utilities:

<b>Residential:</b>		
DMU	7.0	kWh
Iowa Ave.	10.01	kWh
<b>Commercial:</b>		
DMU	6.2	kWh
Iowa Ave.	8.4	kWh
<b>Industrial:</b>		
DMU	5.5	kWh
Iowa Ave.	6.6	kWh

## Denison Municipal Utilities

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**Community owned  
electric, water, & sewer**



## Top 5 Energy-Saving Apps

You're always looking for a way to lower your energy costs, but have you considered using your smartphone? Though you may associate smartphone apps with games, there are many apps available that can help you monitor energy use and save money on your utility bills.

From identifying your biggest waste of energy to calculating operating costs, there is an app for everyone. Here are a few currently available:

1. **Energy Cost Calculator.** The free app calculates the cost and energy usage of electrical equipment and machinery in your home. It calculates the cost per day, week, month and year.
2. **Light Bulb Finder** makes it easy to switch from conventional bulbs to energy-efficient equivalents. View bulb images as well as cost and savings. Purchase bulbs directly through the app.
3. **Green Outlet.** This app helps you predict your monthly bill based on energy consumption. By having an estimate of your monthly bill, you can adjust usage to lower monthly costs.
4. **Ecobee3.** When used with the ecobee WiFi thermostat and wireless remote sensors, this app can measure the occupancy of the rooms in your house and adjust the thermostat accordingly. It allows you to adjust the comfort within your home whether you are alone, entertaining guests or away on vacation.
5. **Battery Doctor.** Tired of wasting energy charging your phone every day? This free app helps to charge your phone faster and more completely, saving energy. It also includes power management features that boost battery performance, extending the amount of time between charges.

Check out the App Store on your smartphone to see what options are available for you! (This article previously appeared in the DMU Bright Ideas newsletter, and is used with permission.)

Buy **ENERGY STAR** Lighting Products and get money back.

Buy qualified **ENERGY STAR** lighting products for residential use and get a rebate from DMU through this program.



**ENERGY STAR** qualified lighting products:

- 1) Use about 70 to 90% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs.
- 2) Last 10 to 25 times longer.
- 3) Produce about 70 to 90% less heat, so they are safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.
- 4) Meet strict quality and efficiency standards that are tested by accredited labs and certified by a third party.

**\*\*CFL screw-in lamp** \$1.50 ea.  
**\*\*LED screw-in lamp** \$3.00 ea.  
**\*\*LED recessed can fixture or retrofit kit** \$4.00 ea.



## Indoor Lighting: 5 Ways to Save

Lighting is essential for comfort and security, but it accounts for 15% of the electrical costs in a typical home, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Reducing lighting energy use is one of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce your utility bills. The following are five low-cost measures that can help you start saving money today.

1. **Turn off lights.** Lighting empty spaces is not exactly a bright idea, but that light switch is easy to overlook. Encourage every member of your household to turn off lights when they leave a room.
2. **Switch to energy-efficient bulbs.** Replace inefficient incandescent lamps with high-efficiency compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or light-emitting diodes (LEDs). These newer technologies use about 75% less energy than conventional bulbs, and they last longer. Purchase products with the ENERGY STAR label to ensure quality and performance.
3. **Make use of free natural light.** There's plenty of sunlight available during the day, and it won't cost you a dime. Turn off lights and open blinds, shades, and other window treatments to let in the sunshine.
4. **Take control.** Install three-way lamps and dimmer switches to reduce energy use while using the exact amount of light you need. Consider installing occupancy sensors to control lights in the garage, storage rooms, and other parts of the home that are rarely used.
5. **Focus light only where you need it.** Instead of lighting an entire room, focus low-power light where you need it (task lighting). For example, try using a portable lamp for your home office, or install under cabinet lighting in your kitchen.

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