

Community owned
electric, water, & sewer

THE INNOVATOR

Denison Municipal Utilities
"Essentials for Life"

October 2024



In November of 1884, the people of Denison created their first water system. While the system was simple in those days, it has evolved through the years. From 1884 until the end of 1928, the water was simply pumped out of the ground and delivered to homes and businesses. Today, it is capable of serving Denison and part of the rural areas and communities near Denison. The current facility is capable of producing seven million gallons of water each day and is pumped to three water towers throughout the distribution system. This water comes from 13 alluvial wells located in the North & South well fields along the Boyer River.

Denison has had some form of sewer collection since 1914, when the city government decided to install the first collection system that allowed homes and businesses to get rid of their wastewater in a community collection system, but between 1914 and 1969 the sewage leaving the homes and businesses emptied into the Boyer River. In 1969, the community responded to the mandate from the State of Iowa to treat their wastewater and have been doing so ever since. In 1982, after many setbacks including court proceedings, governmental blockades, and archeological discoveries, the Joint Treatment Facility finally opened. This facility can treat approximately 3.2 million gallons of wastewater per day.

Electricity has been flowing in Denison since 1894. Between that year & the year that municipal electricity was created by a vote of the people in 1914, electricity was used in a minimal manner. Its only use was to run pumps that piped water into the water system and to light a few businesses that happened to be along the route of the electrical lines. In late 1913, the people of Denison realized that electricity was becoming a necessity rather than a luxury, so a special election was held in January of 1914 & by an overwhelming vote the people of Denison began to build their own Municipal Power Plant. In the early years, Denison's power was generated from coal. Now, Denison Municipal Utilities purchases power from Missouri River Energy Services & Western Area Power Administration which enables us to have some of the lowest rates in the nation.

Denison Municipal Utilities has been serving the Denison community for 140 years, starting with the birth of a water system, to purchasing a small private electric plant, to building an organization that serves all of Denison's electric, water, & wastewater needs. Today, we have 5 trustees, 30 employees & serve over 8,000 customers. We are proud to serve our community & look forward to serving you for many more years to come!



- 1884 – Municipal Waterworks was established
- 1893 - First electric lights were used to solely light one building
- 1894 – First electric light plant was built under private ownership
- 1909 – The Electric Company established day service
- 1914 – City purchased & became owner of old electric light plant with 4 employees
- 1916 - Denison possessed a new city well
- 1928 – 1st water treatment plant was built at 16th & 5th Ave S
- 1937 - Outhouses were considered a nuisance & ordered to come down.
- 1945 – 1st water tower was built on 16th Street
- 1949 – Board of Trustees of 3 men was formed
- 1956 - DMU began to purchase power
- 1957 – DMU joined American Water Works Association
- 1960 - Board of Trustees decided to purchase power from hydroelectric dams on the Missouri River.
- 1963 – 2nd water treatment plant was constructed near the West Boyer River
- 1965 - DMU joined with other Municipal Utilities to form what is now known as Missouri River Energy Services.
- 1966 – 2nd water tower was built on 24th Street
- 1969 – Wastewater Treatment Plant known as the Trickle Filter Plant began operation
- 1982 – Joint Treatment Facility opened
- 1992 – 3rd water tower was built on 18th Street
- 1993 – New Service Center was built
- 2005 – Expansion of Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 2018-2020 – Expansion at Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 2024 - New water tower was built on 24th Street



1st Electric Plant



Water Plant



Wastewater Treatment Plant



PUBLIC POWER WEEK



Denison Municipal Utilities, along with other community-owned, not-for-profit public power utilities will be celebrating Public Power Week October 6-12, 2024. These public power utilities power homes and businesses in approximately 2,000 communities and safely provide reliable, low-cost electricity to more than 54 million Americans.

“Public Power Week celebrates the reliable, affordable electricity Denison Municipal Utilities provides to our community,” said DMU General Manager, Rory Weis. “Public power puts the people of Denison first, and Public Power Week gives us the chance to emphasize the advantages of locally grown, locally owned power to our citizens,” said Rory Weis.

“Our service is reliable and safe and we take pride in serving our friends and neighbors,” said Rory Weis. Denison Municipal Utilities is proud to have served Denison for many years.”

The DMU electric department has 9 dedicated and skilled employees who maintain 3 substations and over 118 miles of transmission and distribution circuits.

Pictured at Top Left to Right:
Randy Schraeder, Joe Poggensee,
Mike Wight, Gary Kahl
Bottom Left to Right:
Aaron Coret, Nickolas Rife,
Chris Ball, Caden Smith, Joe Thomsen



To celebrate Public Power Week, DMU will be giving our customers one free light bulb during the month of October. Stop by our office between 7am - 4pm to pay your bill & receive a light bulb!



Denison Municipal Utilities
721 Broadway
P.O. Box 518
Denison, Iowa 51442
Phone: 712-263-4154
Fax: 712-263-8767
Hours: 7am-4pm

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR HEATING BILL?

Starting October 1, 2024 the elderly and the disabled can apply for the 2024-2025 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, (LIHEAP) and anyone can apply after November 1, 2024. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and type of housing.

You will need: Proof of Income for all household members age 18 and over, (income documentation from the last 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you), Social Security numbers for all household members, most recent heat bill & most recent electric bill.

Apply at:

**West Central
Community Action
145 N 7th St
Denison, IA 51442
(712)263-3538**

INCOME MAXMUMS

<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Annual Gross Income</i>
1	\$30,120
2	\$40,880
3	\$51,640
4	\$62,400
5	\$73,160
6	\$83,920
7	\$94,680
8	\$105,440

For households with more than eight members, add \$10,760 for each additional member.



DMU Closures

November 11, Veteran's Day
November 28 & 29, Thanksgiving
December 24, Close at Noon
December 25, Christmas
January 1, New Year's Day