



Special points of interest:

- Water Utility Long Term Planning
- Easy Bill Pay Options
- 2013 Resource Conservation Program

Water Utility Long Term Planning

Earlier this fall, Spencer Municipal Utilities hired Bolton & Menk to conduct an in-depth review of our current water treatment plant. This review will include reviewing the life expectancy of the current equipment, the current operating capacity of the plant, review our treatment method, and determine an upgrade plan to increase capacity.

The water plant was constructed at the current location in 1969 and underwent a significant upgrade to meet Iowa Department of Natural Resources requirements in 1999.

The study has been progressing and will enable us to formulate a long term asset management plan to upgrade the water treatment plant to allow SMU to sustain the ability to provide quality water for years to come to our customers and community.

Our water treatment plant is a lime softening plant and based on the information collected thus far in the progression of the study, we will continue to lime soften in order to provide the high water quality our customers expect.

In conjunction with the Bolton & Menk study, SMU also hired LBG to conduct an analysis of our well field capacity, how to best manage the well field, and to aid in determining the potential location for new wells. This project will also include drilling test wells once a feasible location is determined and provide long term answers for years to come on where Spencer's water will come from.



Easy Bill Pay Options

With the New Year upon us and resolutions in the plans for 2013, you may be thinking of switching to a more paperless option to pay your bills. We have a couple ways available for you to do that at Spencer Municipal Utilities.

By going to our website and clicking on the 'Online Bill Pay' button on the top of every page, you can pay your bill with a credit or debit card whenever you would like.

Another option is to sign up for automatic bank draft. When set up, this will automatically take the amount due on the statement you receive each month, from the bank account on the due date. There is an ACH form to fill out and provide to SMU along with a voided check to process this form of payment request-then you don't need to remember to pay the bill each month.

For a copy of the form visit our website at www.smunet.net or stop in to our Customer Service Center at 712 Grand Avenue.



2013 Resource Conservation Program

Spencer Municipal Utilities is committed to helping customers save energy and water and the 2013 Resource Conservation Incentive Program is designed to help, not only make things more efficient in your home, but save some money as well. Here are the highlights of this year's program:

Home Energy Assessments

We are continuing to offer Home Energy Assessments to customers in 2013. The customer cost remains the same at \$100, and if you complete some of what is recommended in the assessment, you'll get that back in the form of a refund. We offer assessments to customers who heat their home with electric heat.

Trade-A-Light

The Trade-A-Light program will be continuing in 2013 the same as it did in 2012. Under the Trade-A-Light program, customers can trade an incandescent light bulb for a CFL of similar light output. For example, if you bring us a standard 60-watt light bulb, we'll give you a 13-watt CFL...absolutely free! Also, to encourage customers to recycle their burned-out CFL's, you can bring in a spent CFL and we'll swap it out for a new one! As part of the program, we stock several types of CFL's so stop in and see what we have for an equivalent!



ENERGY STAR Appliances

In 2013, SMU is continuing to offer rebates for several ENERGY STAR appliances including: televisions, clothes washers, dishwashers and refrigerators. When you are looking for a new appliance this year, look for the blue ENERGY STAR logo on the appliance. If you are purchasing a new refrigerator to replace an existing unit, we need proof of disposal either from the appliance dealer or the City of Spencer Solid Waste Division.

Insulation, Energy Efficient HVAC and Water Heater Rebates, and Lighting



If you became familiar with the rebates we offered in 2012 for insulation, energy efficient HVAC and water heater rebates, as well as lighting, everything in those categories stayed the same for the 2013 program. We still offer rebates for the programmable thermostat, the central AC or heat pump annual checkups and the ENERGY STAR lighting fixtures, to name a few.

When applying for an insulation rebate, an important thing to note is you need to have a pre-insulation check as well as a post-insulation check done in order to qualify for a rebate. The pre-insulation check can either be in the form of a home energy assessment, or simply give us a call before you start the work and we'll schedule a time for a staff member to take a look at the project before it is started as well as when it is complete. You can give us a call at 580-5800.

Rebate Forms and Deadline

The deadline for turning in rebate forms will be the same procedure and deadline as they were in 2012. The forms must be submitted within 60 days of invoice date or project completion.

All of the materials and information regarding the 2013 Resource Conservation Program, including the rebate forms, will be available on our website after the first of the year at www.smunet.net.



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