

green talk



Yard Waste and Organics Sign-up

As part of the new five-year recycling contract with Waste Management, we are offering residents the opportunity to opt-in and sign up for curbside weekly yard waste and organics collection.

The City must have a minimum of 100 residents sign-up in order for the collection service to begin. We currently have 91 residents. The cost of the weekly collection service for 2020 is \$14.15/month and will be billed on your quarterly utility bill.

The following are food and organics, and yard waste items that would be collected:

 <p>Produce Fruits & vegetables</p>	 <p>Meat All cooked and raw meat products including bones, shells, fish, beef & chicken</p>	 <p>Diary Milk, yogurt, ice cream & cheese</p>
 <p>Bakery & Dry Goods Pasta, beans rice, bread & cereal</p>	 <p>Floral Plants & flowers</p>	 <p>Compostable Serveware Wooden utensils, paper plates & cups</p>
 <p>Soiled Paper Goods Coffee grounds & filters, tea bags, soiled paper bags, tissues, paper towels, napkins & uncoated take-out containers</p>	 <p>Leaves, Grass Clippings, Pine Needles, Small Twigs & Brush Brush items must be bundled into limbs no larger than 3 inches in diameter, no longer than 3-4 feet in length and less than 2 feet in diameter on the bundles</p>	

****NOT ACCEPTED**

Sod, dirt, tree stumps, hay, mulch, wood chips, sawdust, lumber, pine cones, animal feces and deceased animals.

If you are interested in this service, please fill out and return the form at the City's website www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us.

Utility Rate Increase

Effective January 1, 2020

Utility rates have increased in the water, sewer and stormwater utility funds as approved in the 2020 Budget. These increases are needed to support necessary capital improvements and repairs needed to the systems. The new rates are:

Residential Water Rates

The water rate structure is made up of two components; the fixed demand charge per quarter and the tiered usage charge.

The residential single family Water Demand Charge for water has increased from \$17.48 per quarter to \$18.88.

The residential water usage charge per unit (1 unit = 748 gallons of water) increased to:

- **Tier 1:** 0-20 Units (100 cubic feet per unit or 0-14,960 gallons) — \$2.89
- **Tier 2:** 21-33 Units (14,461-24,684 gallons) — \$3.02
- **Tier 3:** 34-45 Units (24,685-33,660 gallons) — \$3.65
- **Tier 4:** Over 45 Units (Over 33,660 gallons) — \$5.10

Commercial, schools, irrigation and multi-family customers also have separate tiered structures designed to promote water conservation for their types of usage.

Residential Sewer Rates

- Sewer Demand Charge increased from \$15.39 to \$15.85 per quarter
- Sewer Usage Charge increased from \$5.81 per unit (100 cubic feet) to \$5.98
- Non-metered sewer service charge increased from \$148.80 to \$153.26 per quarter.

Residential Stormwater Charges

- Single Family dwelling unit fee increased from \$28.13 to \$30.94 per quarter.

Residential Recycling Rate

- Recycling Charge fee decreased from \$9.26 to \$8.81 per quarter.



A BIG Thank You for Extra Efforts in Recycling!

The City would like to send a special thank you to the **Van De Velde Family on Bruening Court** and the **Linde Family on Warner Avenue North** for their extra efforts in recycling. Keep up the good work! For their extra effort, these families may stop in at City Hall and pick up a free *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* water bottle. Each quarter we will pick two families to acknowledge.



Water Conservation Rebate Program

The City once again was awarded a Metropolitan Council Grant as part of the Council's 2019–2022 Water Efficiency Grant Program. The amount of the grant is \$6,300. Mahtomedi is one of forty cities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area that applied for and was accepted into this grant program.

Grant funds will be used for the City's ongoing water conservation program. The City is offering \$50 rebates to Mahtomedi Water Utility Households replacing washing machines or toilets. Residents can bring in their original purchase receipts and documentation of applicable required certifications (i.e. user manual) and get a \$50 check. Toilets must be labeled Water Sense Certified and use 1.28 gallons per flush. Washing machines must be Energy Star-Qualified High Efficiency Certified. Rebates are available on a first come first serve basis. One rebate check per household.

Forms are available on the City's website at www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us For more information, contact City Hall at 651-426-3344.

Potential Changes to Your Trash Bill

Did you know that the average household produces about one ton of trash per year? Everything that you put in your trash cart is delivered to the Recycling & Energy Center (R&E Center) in Newport, MN, where it is processed to recover metals for recycling and make renewable fuel used to generate electricity. By processing trash at the R&E Center and through recycling, yard waste, food waste, and household hazardous waste collection programs, over 90% of waste in Ramsey and Washington counties is diverted from landfills.

In 2020, the R&E Center will be ending a subsidy and adjusting its rates. **For the average household, this may equate to an increase of about \$1.00-1.25 per month on your garbage bill.** The disposal cost (the fee haulers pay to deliver trash to the R&E Center) is approximately 1/3 of the total cost of garbage service (other costs include insurance, labor, fuel, trucks, etc.). If your bill is increasing by more than \$1.25 per month, this is likely due to other business factors for your hauler.

Funds that previously subsidized waste management will be used to help residents, businesses, and the county better manage waste, providing quality public service and protecting health and environment for current and future generations.

For More Information

Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy
www.morevaluelesstrash.com/tipfees-rebates

Avoid Energy Waste in Cold Weather

The Minnesota heating season is in full-swing as cold weather crept in earlier than expected. And as temperatures continue to dive throughout the state heating bills will be moving in the opposite direction. In addition to straining our wallets, high energy bills can also signal energy waste.

Another indication that a home could be wasting energy is the existence of drafts and cold spots in the home. A lack of insulation and air sealing creates a condition where warm air escapes through the top of the house, and cooler air is then pulled in from below. As a result, we need to turn up the temperature, which makes the furnace work harder.

Energy waste is also observable from outside the home in the form of ice dams on the roof. **The main cause of ice dams is warm air escaping into an attic that is not properly sealed and melting the snow on the roof.** Many of us will notice some icicles during the winter months but in the more extreme cases excessive ice build-up can lead to water damage inside the home.

If some of these symptoms such as high bills, draftiness or ice dams sound familiar your home would likely benefit from some basic energy efficiency improvements. **A good first step is to schedule a Home Energy Squad visit.**

The Home Energy Squad will visit your home to install energy saving products such as:

- LED bulbs
- Door weather-stripping
- Faucet aerators and shower heads
- Water heater wrap
- Programmable thermostat

At the same time, the Home Energy Squad team will conduct an energy assessment that includes:

- Insulation inspection
- Blower door test
- Infrared camera
- Carbon monoxide safety check
- Help with next steps

The Home Energy Squad is provided by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy and delivered by the local nonprofit, Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). Mahtomedi residents also receive a discount and pay only \$50 (normally \$100) for the assessment plus all of the materials.

To schedule your home visit, call 651-328-6220.

