

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. The cost of the weekly collection service for 2019 is \$13.75/month and will be billed on your quarterly utility bill.

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



Produce
Fruits & vegetables



Meat
All cooked and raw meat products including bones, shells, fish, beef & chicken



Diary
Milk, yogurt, ice cream & cheese



Floral
Plants & flowers



Bakery & Dry Goods
Pasta, beans rice, bread & cereal



Soiled Paper Goods
Coffee grounds & filters, tea bags, soiled paper bags, tissues, paper towels, napkins & uncoated take-out containers



Compostable Serviceware
Wooden utensils, paper plates & cups

Utility Rate Increase Effective January 1, 2019

Utility rates have increased in the water, sewer and stormwater utility funds as approved in the 2019 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 \$16.97 per quarter to \$17.48.

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) — \$2.68
- **Tier 2:** 21-33 Units (14,461-24,684 gallons) — \$2.80
- **Tier 3:** 34-45 Units (24,685-33,660 gallons) — \$3.38
- **Tier 4:** Over 45 Units (Over 33,660 gallons) — \$4.72

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 \$14.94 to \$15.39 per quarter
- Sewer Usage Charge increased from \$5.64 per unit (100 cubic feet) to \$5.81
- Non-metered sewer service charge increased from \$144.46 to \$148.80 per quarter.

Residential Stormwater Charges

- Single Family dwelling unit fee increased from \$20.09 to \$28.13 per quarter.

Residential Recycling Rate

- Recycling Charge fee increased from \$8.05 to \$9.26 per quarter.

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

Recycling is Collected Every Other Thursday

Set your cart behind the curb or street edge after 5:00 p.m. the night before collection but no later than 7:00 a.m. on your collection day. When a holiday falls on a scheduled collection day, the collection will be one working day later. Set your cart with the wheels/handle facing your house. The automated trucks cannot service containers set out backwards. Leave at least 2' from any obstructions.

A BIG Thank You for Extra Efforts in Recycling!

The City would like to send a special thank you to the **Losano Family on East Shore Avenue** and the **Clayton Family on Mahtomedi Avenue** 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.

Rebate Program for Water Conservation

There is still time to get your rebate! As part of the City of Mahtomedi's 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 and funds are available until they are gone. One rebate check per household and the City will accept original receipts for toilet or washing machines purchased in the last six months.

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

Bring on the Green this Spring!

As the weather warms and the days get longer, spring is a great time to do some deep cleaning and reinvest in your home's comfort and efficiency. While you're at it, make sure to take advantages of the many opportunities to go green and save money! Three easy ideas are described below.



- 1 Are you looking to get rid of an old, still-functional fridge or freezer — perhaps a pop fridge in the garage? Xcel Energy has a safer, more helpful way for you to recycle your old appliances. A professional will take away your old fridge or freezer for free and you get cash back with a \$35 rebate. **Note:** the unit must demonstrate full operational capability when inspected at the time of pickup.

Make an appointment for your free refrigerator pickup by calling 800-599-5795, or schedule online at xcelenergy.com/Fridge

- 2 If you're looking to make a shift to clean-energy sources, consider signing up for Windsource®. It is a program that allows you to pay a little extra every month to source up to 100% of your electricity from renewable energy. Your Windsource subscription is added right to your Xcel Energy bill, making it easy to go green.

For questions, or to sign up for Windsource, call 1-800-895-4999 or visit xcelenergy.com/Windsource

- 3 If you don't know where to start with your home energy improvements, call in the pros by scheduling a Home Energy Squad® visit. Home Energy Squad is an energy conservation program provided by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to help homeowners save energy and money. The City of Mahtomedi is offering a half-off discount for its residents. For only \$50, a team of energy experts will come to your home, evaluate your energy savings opportunities, and install free energy-saving materials, including:

- LED lights
- Door and attic hatch weather stripping
- High-efficiency showerhead and faucet aerators
- Programmable thermostats (or smart thermostats available for purchase at a discount)

Additionally, your visit can include an energy assessment to evaluate your home's air sealing, insulation, and other energy improvements at no additional cost. This assessment report will recommend cost-effective next steps and qualified local contractors to complete the work. The half-off discount is only available for a limited time so call soon!

For more information, or to schedule your Home Energy Squad visit, call 651-328-6220 or visit HomeEnergySquad.net.

Home Energy Squad is provided by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy, and delivered by the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), a local nonprofit. Signing up for a visit will help Mahtomedi reach the goals outlined in its Energy Action Plan, which can be found at ci.mahtomedi.mn.us.

Green Home Living Tips

We are all looking for ways to conserve energy and save dollars on utilities. Here are a few creative ideas for a positive impact on the environment and your pocketbook.

Draw the Drapes — Close your drapes when it gets dark outside. This will help cut heat loss through windows at night. Move furniture away from heating registers; blocking or restricting airflow makes heating systems work harder.

Place Lamps in Corners — The light will reflect off two wall surfaces instead of one.

Keep Those Fixtures Clean — Dirty bulbs don't give as much light.

Put a Lid on It — When you put a lid on a pot or pan, heat is trapped and food cooks faster. Dinner is done sooner and less energy is used.

