

## Welcome

Welcome to the winter edition of our e-Newsletter, your one-stop link to valuable information from Xcel Energy. You'll find easy-to-use links for reporting lights out, to view your light locations, and learn more about available products. We're happy to consult with you to find an outdoor lighting solution that fits your needs – contact us now!

**Spotlight: The City of South Saint Paul – Lighting the future with the past in mind**  
Grand Avenue is a natural gateway to two major areas in South Saint Paul; the Mississippi River Industrial Area and to the Upper Commercial/Retail area. So, several years ago when the city decided to upgrade Grand Avenue as the 'Gateway' between these two areas, it was the perfect time for the city to consider replacing the existing street light system.

“It was important for us to maintain a friendly, open feel for residents and visitors who travel from our River Industrial Area to our Upper Commercial/Retail area,” said John Sachi, city engineer for the City of South Saint Paul. “One of our goals was to identify a street light fixture that created a welcoming environment and could be installed throughout the city. Xcel Energy partnered with us by providing several options that fit our needs, and we ultimately decided on the Acorn fixture.”

The acorn fixture was most recently installed in a large street light project along Concord Street that covers a span of nearly two miles. Because of the partnership with Xcel Energy, South St. Paul was able to carry the same brand continuity throughout the city.

Getting the right lighting system was only one part of the process. Equally important was finding one provider that could do it all – consistent pricing, quality service and maintenance, and an expert partner to find and implement solutions. “Xcel Energy's Outdoor Lighting group is exactly that – I only have to make one call,” concluded Sachi.”

## Objective performance street lighting information available

National Lighting Product Information Program (NLPIP) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Lighting Research Center (LRC) released a publication called Specifier Reports: Streetlights for Collector Roads, which provides objective performance information on street lighting technologies including high pressure sodium (HPS), induction, light-emitting diode (LED), and pulse start metal halide (PSMH). NLPIP followed up with an addendum to the report and addresses industry comments. Read the full report including addendum.

## Holiday/Festoon Lighting Program reminder

Xcel Energy's Holiday/Festoon Lighting Program was developed to provide service to customers who have street lights with outlets that are used for holiday lights on a seasonal basis and are not on a metered system that tracks electric service during times of use. Electric service for use of the outlets are billed once per year (normally in February),

based on the estimated number of bulbs, hours and wattages multiplied by current state regulated and approved kWh price for small general services provided by the city.

If there are any changes to the number of bulbs, wattages, and hours used by your city please contact Xcel Energy Outdoor Lighting Support Services at 1-800-960-6235 to request a new Holiday/Festoon Lighting Program form. By completing and returning a new form, you will help ensure an accurate bill.

All outlets must be installed in compliance with electric code, laws and Xcel Energy's specifications. If you have questions please contact Robert Correll at 651-229-2583.

Interested in installing NEW street lights?

Xcel Energy is committed to working with communities in our service territory on new street lights installations. We provide our customers with high quality street light products and service. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to Ed Bieging or call 651-229-2400 to review your needs. He will also provide bid information for standard or decorative street light installations and service agreement options.

Signs on Xcel Energy Poles?

Don't do it! Why not?! Our street light poles are not manufactured to withstand additional weight, or the effects of wind catching signs, which causes damage. Simply put, placing signs on our poles impacts the pole's structural integrity. So to keep everyone safe, we ask that you not put anything additional on our poles. And, if you have, please take care to remove all signs from them. If you question whether or not a pole is owned by Xcel Energy or owned by the City, please contact us at 651-229-2400.

Did you know? Helpful information you can share.

Lights Out

Go ahead - share the Light Out feature on our website to residents so they can report outages too. If you have Xcel Energy serviced lights, we encourage you to include the link and phone number (800-960-6235) in your community's communications. This could lighten your work load and expedite service.

FAQs now available

We've added a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section to this site. Get answers to your questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Check out the last tab on our landing page. Don't see the question you need an answer for? Let us know. Contact us to find out.

Do businesses in your city want to save money and energy?

Have them contact send an e-mail to our Business Solutions Center experts for an energy audit.

Minnesota Electric Rates Update

On Nov. 3, 2010, we filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for approval of a base electric rate increase for 2011 and 2012. As part of this filing, the MPUC has allowed us begin interim rates which began on Jan. 2, 2011. Under

interim rates, a typical residential customer's monthly bill would increase by approximately 5.3 percent, or \$3.92, based on use of 675 kilowatt-hours. A typical small business customer's monthly bill would increase by approximately 5.2 percent, or \$5.75, based on use of 1,035 kilowatt-hours. The MPUC will evaluate our filing and make its decision regarding final rates late in 2011. More information can be found online. A public hearing schedule will be posted on the MPUC's website when available.

#### Online Rates and Tariff Information

All of our rates and tariff information are available online.

#### Archived Newsletters

##### Spring 2010

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##### Spotlight: The Village of Saint Anthony – Shining the light on solutions

“We are committed to living our mission ‘...to be a progressive and livable community, a walkable village, which is safe and secure’,” according to Jay Hartman, director of public works for the Village of Saint Anthony. Xcel Energy's Outdoor Lighting group has worked with the Village of Saint Anthony for several years and has forged a partnership to help the Village reach its goals.

However strong the relationship, Hartman indicated it was still their fiduciary responsibility to invite other lighting providers to the table. “Xcel Energy came in with a consultative approach, listened to our needs and concerns. Together, we found the right solution, at the right price and we knew we could count on their service.”

As the Village began its improvement plans, which included creating new walkways, an important goal was safety. “We have received a lot of positive feedback from our residents. The new lighting has improved their feelings of safety,” Hartman said.

In addition, the Village wanted to set itself apart from neighboring communities – creating ‘a village in the city’ feel.’ So, choosing a light fixture that fit the image was important. Xcel Energy provided a variety of options to choose from. Ultimately, the Village chose the ‘Vernon.’ Its design pleasantly blends an old-fashioned look and classic styling to enhance outdoor settings.

Over the past several years, Xcel Energy has installed street lights for the Village. If you're driving by these locations, you'll notice how they capture the community's unique qualities: 29th Avenue NE, Saint Anthony Boulevard, Old Highway Eight and Highcrest, Silver Lake Road, Chandler, and Silver Lane (from Stinson to Silver Lake Road).

Other aspects of choosing the fixture were cost effectiveness, efficiency, and the ability to stand up to the elements. "Our main concern was road salt, but the decorative fiberglass pole has held up nicely," added Todd Hubmer, the Village's consultant from WSB & Associates. "As technologies develop, we'll look to Xcel Energy to provide cost-effective fixtures that provide additional energy efficiency."

"While all of these goals are important – what really matters is the level of service we have come to expect," continued Hartman. "We know that year after year, whether it's making small adjustments to make our community more comfortable, installing new fixtures, or simply routine maintenance, the outdoor lighting specialists with Xcel Energy have our best interests in mind."

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#### Minnesota Electric Rates Update

New electric rates went into effect on April 1, 2010. The overall average increase for residential customers is 5.1 percent. Because the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved final rates less than the interim rate, customers will receive a refund. A typical resident's refund will be approximately \$18.27. For more information about electric prices for other customer rate classes, please visit [XcelEnergy.com](http://XcelEnergy.com) and click on "About Energy & Rates" under the "Company" tab.

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[IEnergy.com](http://IEnergy.com).