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CUSTOMER UPDATE



OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

www.smmpa.com

FEATURING: SMMPA SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

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OPU MEMO



Mark Fritsch,
General Manager

OPU Commission

Mr. Kim Cosens
Mr. Dale E. Simon
Mr. Matt Kottke
Mr. Kent Rossi
Mr. Randy Doyal

The electricity needs of OPU electric customers are met from a variety of sources. OPU's electricity supplier, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), provides power generated by wind, solar, natural gas, landfill gas, bio-diesel and coal. In addition, OPU and SMMPA work together to help OPU customers reduce their electrical usage through a wide array of energy efficiency and conservation programs referred to as "demand-side management" or DSM.

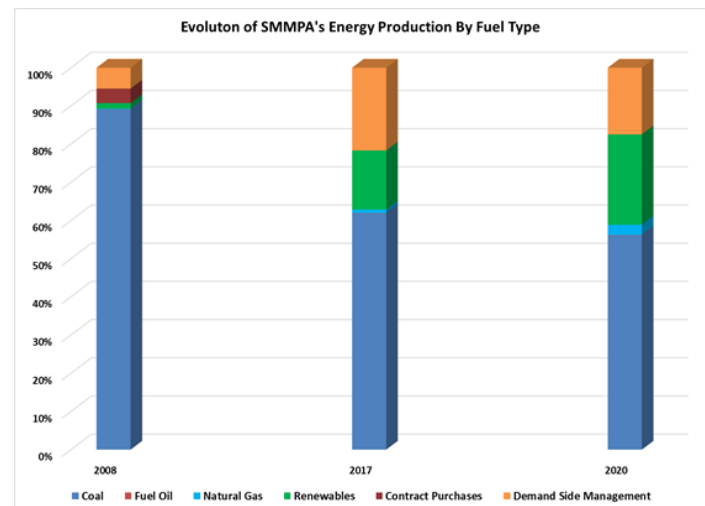
SMMPA and its 18 member municipal utilities have taken significant steps to diversify the types of generation used to meet customer needs. When SMMPA built its first generator in 1987, the only two practical fuel options under federal law in effect at the time were nuclear or coal. Since that time the Agency has added generation powered by a variety of sources. In the mid-2000s, SMMPA installed six of its own wind turbines and contracted for the output from 67 more turbines. Last year the Agency signed a long-term contract that will nearly double its amount of wind generation in 2020. SMMPA also purchases the output of the Lemond Solar Center, a utility scale solar installation that went into service in July of 2017 and is located just west of Owatonna.

In addition to renewable resources, SMMPA has further diversified its generation mix by adding new, high efficiency natural gas reciprocating engines. In 2014, the Agency began operation of the Fairmont Energy Station in Fairmont, MN, and earlier this year SMMPA's newest addition to its generation fleet, the Owatonna Energy Station, began commercial operation. These new generators are important additions for reliable operation of the electric grid. While wind and solar generation are excellent sources of clean energy, they do not run all the time and the amount of generation they produce can change significantly

hour by hour and minute by minute, depending on weather conditions. That is when these new natural gas engines can make a big difference. The engines can be started very quickly and their level of output can be changed quickly to adjust to the varying output from the renewable resources. Another benefit of the Owatonna Energy Station (OES) is the value of local generation that can help keep the lights on in the event of a major power outage. The generation at OES replaces the OPU generation that was lost in the 2010 flood.

OPU and SMMPA understand that the cheapest and cleanest kilowatt-hour of electricity is one that does not have to be generated. SMMPA began its energy efficiency and demand-side management programs in the 1990s, long before it was mandated by the State. In addition to saving customers money and making businesses more competitive, these programs have already reduced enough electricity demand to avoid the need to add new generation more than four times the size of the new Owatonna Energy Station.

OPU and SMMPA strive to provide reliable and affordable electricity and to do so in an environmentally responsible manner. The state of Minnesota set a goal for electric utilities to reduce their carbon footprints below 2005 levels by 15% by 2015 and 30% by 2025. Through diversifying its resource mix and aggressive application of its DSM programs, SMMPA exceeded the 2015 carbon reduction goal and is on track to meet or exceed the 2025 goal.



CONSERVATION TIP\$

Save water with these tips this summer: avoid watering yard when it's windy or hot, use a rain gauge and stop watering when it gets to 1 inch, position your sprinklers to avoid watering sidewalks, driveways, and roadways.

Go to www.tinyurl.com/OPU-Tips for more conservation tips.



Owatonna's Eighth Annual Owatonna Weekend Out

** All weekend activity: Walk, bike or run on your Owatonna trails this weekend and be entered into a drawing for prizes! Look for details to come on this challenge on our website and Facebook page!

Friday July 13th Activities:

- **Take a Kid Golfing Day**
All day at Brooktree Golf Course
Kick off our 8th annual weekend out by enjoying a day on the golf course! Cost is \$5 per person and \$5 per cart!
- **Movie in the Park**
Brown Park
Bring your chair or blanket and enjoy a movie at Brown Park as we show *Leap*. Ozzie's Cotton Candy and Kona Ice will be there selling concessions. Movie begins at sunset. FREE event. Pre movie activities begin 1 hour prior to sunset.



Saturday July 14th Activities:

- **Yoga in the Park**
8:00am – 9:00am at Dartts Park
Start your morning with the benefits of yoga and nature! A fun challenging all-levels yoga class held outdoors where everyone is welcome. Bring the whole family and stay for the Kids Fun Runs right after yoga! Childcare will be available during yoga for those moms and dads who want to start their Saturday off with some relaxation. Please bring your own yoga mat.
- **Owatonna Farmer's Market Family Fun Day**
8:00am – 12:00pm, Central Park in downtown Owatonna
The Healthy Eating Coalition of Steele County invites you to come out for some great fun at the Farmer's Market! All children will receive Allina Health Bucks to shop for healthy foods at the market. There will also be games and educational activities.
- **Diaper Dash ~ Toddler Trot ~ Kids K Trail Runs**
9:00am at Dartts Park
Register at the park. Races are free, all participants finishing receive a prize. A child may register for more than one race, but will only receive one finishing prize.
Diaper Dash – crawling only. A 10 foot course for 24 months or younger.
Toddler Trot – ages 2-5, a 100-meter run.
Kids K – ages 4-12. A full K trail run – ending at Brooktree Clubhouse.
Sponsored in part by Twin Cities in Motion

MAYOR
Tom Kuntz

COUNCIL MEMBERS

David Burbank
Nathan Dotson
Jeff Okerberg
Kevin Raney
Greg Schultz
Brent Svenby
Doug Voss

- **Kayaking**
1:00 – 3:00pm at Lake Chase
Ever wanted to give kayaking a try or already enjoy the activity but don't have a kayak? This is your chance to glide through the waters of Lake Chase. Kayaks and life jackets will be provided; all you need to do is show up and try it out!

- **Backyard Games**
Starting at 4:00pm at Brooktree
Wind down Saturday with a fun evening at Brooktree! We have yard games by the patio along with food and drink specials!

Sunday July 15th Activities:

- **Family Sunday Funday**
All day at Brooktree Golf Course
Children ages 5 & up are welcome to join a parent to golf at Brooktree, \$15 per pair and \$5 per cart. Parent & child must each have their own set of clubs. Please call ahead for a tee time.
- **Super Splash Special**
All day at River Springs Water Park
\$2.50 admission all day!

Dates to remember:

- Youth Fall registration dates: July 26-August 9
- Adult fall softball and kickball deadline for teams: July 26

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SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

www.smpa.com

SMMPA SUSTAINABILITY

Information for this article provided by Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA)

Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) and its 18 member utilities are committed to environmental stewardship and sustainability. Our efforts in this area range from using energy wisely, operating our facilities in as efficient a manner as possible, controlling emissions and diversifying our generation portfolio. The positive environmental impacts of our efforts are as diverse as the scope of the efforts themselves, but one measure is carbon footprint. Highlighted below are some of the major efforts we have undertaken since 2005 and the impact that has had on SMMPA's carbon emissions.

Energy Efficiency

SMMPA and its member utilities are recognized leaders in implementing cost-effective energy efficiency as evidenced by having received four federal Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR® Awards; in 2003, 2004, and 2010 for Excellence in Energy Efficiency, and in 2016 as an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year.

Based on estimated emissions rates and expected lifetime savings from energy efficiency measures, SMMPA and its members' energy efficiency efforts since 2005 have saved over 6.3 million megawatt hours (MWh) of energy resulting in CO₂ reductions of nearly 3.2 million tons. That's the equivalent of 676,860 passenger vehicles driven for one year or the carbon sequestered by more than 3.7 million acres of U.S. forests in one year*.

Wind Energy

SMMPA owns and operates two .950 megawatt (MW) and two 1.650 MW wind turbines located in member community Fairmont and two 1.650 MW wind turbines located in member community Redwood Falls. In 2009, SMMPA entered into a contract with EDF Renewables, Inc. (EDF) to purchase all power generated from 67 1.5 MW turbines located near Dexter, Minnesota.

In 2017, SMMPA entered into a second contract with EDF for 100 MW of wind capacity, beginning in 2020, from the 50 turbine Stoneray wind farm to be constructed in Pipestone and Murray counties in southwest Minnesota.

Solar Energy

The first solar component of SMMPA's energy portfolio came

on-line in June 2017. SMMPA has entered into a 20-year contract with Enerparc, Inc. for the output from a 5 MW solar array located near member community Owatonna. This facility is also serving the SolarChoice Community Solar programs currently being offered in five member communities. SMMPA is also buying the output from four 4 kW and one 10 kW solar arrays located in member communities.

While it is still early in SMMPA's journey with solar energy, the energy created in 2017 alone, resulted the same amount of CO₂ reduction as switching over 90,000 incandescent lamps to LEDs based on estimated emissions rates.

Other Renewables

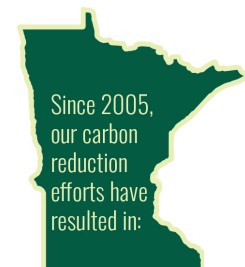
SMMPA's power supply also includes waste-to-energy and landfill gas. While not a large component of our energy portfolio, they do play a role in reducing carbon emissions.



Natural Gas

SMMPA has added 63 MW of natural-gas fired generation to its fleet with the addition of its 25 MW plant in Fairmont in 2014 and the 38 MW Owatonna plant in late 2017. Natural gas-fired power plants emit CO₂ at about half the rate of coal plants and about 27% less than the overall generation mix in the MISO wholesale generation market in which SMMPA operates.

It All Adds Up

Taken together, SMMPA has made a major commitment to sustainability and in the process, has significantly reduced its carbon footprint. SMMPA met the State of Minnesota's goal of a 15% reduction carbon emissions by 2015 and projects it will meet the goal of a 30% reduction by 2025. All of this, while still providing safe, reliable, and cost-competitive energy to its 18 member communities.



Reducing
5.5 million
tons of CO₂ emissions
=
Eliminating 
1.2 million
passenger cars from the road
or
Planting 
6.5 million
acres of trees

EQUIPMENT SERIES



Nicknamed the Maxi Sneaker, this small but powerful machine is used primarily by the OPU Gas Crew for the installation of natural gas service lines. It is also sometimes used for the installation of small electric lines, such as street lights. Utilizing a vibrating

knife blade pulling a plug, it is able to pull in a gas line to a depth of 24 inches. The benefit of the vibrating knife blade is that the disruption to the ground at the surface is minimized. This in turn reduces the labor and expense to restore the site to its' original condition.

Manufactured by Astec, this 40 HP liquid cooled piece of equipment carried a price tag of \$37,000 when purchased new in 2007. Still going strong in 2018, OPU expects to get many more years of service from this valuable tool.

OPU HIGHLIGHT



Lori Jerpbak,
Accounting Specialist

Lori Jerpbak has been with Owatonna Public Utilities for 3½ years as an Accounting Specialist. She handles Accounts Payables, credit cards, banking, account reconciliations, and many more daily tasks. Prior to working at OPU, Lori had worked over 26 years in accounting at a manufacturing company. When asked why she made the move to OPU she said, "I heard it was a wonderful place to work and it has been the best decision." She enjoys the variety of tasks involved in her job as well as her fellow employees and the company atmosphere.

Lori and her husband, Brian, have lived in Owatonna all their lives. They have a son and two dogs. When she's not at work she loves to spend time with her family, being outdoors, and going up north. In the winter season you will find her at all of the Owatonna Hockey games where she cheers on her favorite team member, her son. Lori volunteers at her church to help with balancing the weekly donations. She has served on a variety of other boards in the past, as well. Lori and her family love to travel and has been to a variety of destinations.

Thank you Lori for your hard work and dedication.

BE AN ENERGY HERO



Learn more and sign up today at:
507.451.2480 • OwatonnaUtilities.com

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Minnesota Law **REQUIRES** homeowners, do-it-yourselfers, excavators and contractors contact Gopher State One Call two business days prior to digging, driving stakes, or performing any other activities that involve disrupting the ground. ***Never assume the depth of a utility or that the depth of the utilities are consistent.***

Gopher State One Call will contact the utility companies in the area to have underground lines marked. Once all utility lines are marked, digging may begin. Proceed with caution and avoid the tolerance zone or hand dig with a shovel within 2 feet of the marked utility lines.

Watch for private facilities such as sprinklers, power lines to garages or out buildings, gas grill lines or invisible fencing as these will not be located by Minnesota utility companies.

Visit gopherstateonecall.org to learn what information will need to be given when contacting Gopher State One Call.

The service is **FREE**. Call toll free at 800-252-1166 or simply dial 811.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Don't Clean One Waterbody Just to Trash Another

Significant time and money spent treating pool water ensures it is safe and appealing to swim in. Most pool maintenance includes the use of chemicals and filtration. Backwash water from this process contains contaminants. Consider the recreational value of your local waterbodies when discharging backwash water and draining your pool/hot tub. Keep it out of your surface water.

Implementing these simple best management practices (BMPs) ensures the integrity of local water resources for recreational use and drinking water supply protection:

- Always stop Chlorination at minimum of 4 days prior to discharging water (use a test)
- Ensure you are discharging to a fully vegetated area where water can store, infiltrate, and evaporate
- Do not direct towards a roadway or surface water
- Never discharge directly to the storm sewer or nearby catch basin
- Make sure your discharge is not causing an erosion issue (avoid bare soils and placing hardened material under the hose)
- Do not interfere with your neighboring property and be considerate of their concerns

Proper implementation of BMPs during pool care and maintenance activities can help protect your waterways and public health/safety.

Bradley D. Rademacher, Water Quality/Stormwater Specialist, (507)-774-7300 or Bradley.rademacher@ci.owatonna.mn.us

REBATES

Time for a new cooling system?

Owatonna Public Utilities offers great rebates on high efficiency air conditioning equipment!



Visit www.owatonnautilities.com to learn more and download rebate applications with complete terms and conditions.

CONSERVE & \$AVE[®]

P.O. Box 800 208 S. Walnut Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060

Office: 451-2480 Service: 451-1616

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday:
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday:
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday:
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday:
Closed

Payment Options

- Online at www.owatonnautilities.com
- Automatic Withdrawal; bank account or credit card
- Drive-up drop box located in the parking lot south of building
- Drop box locations at Cash Wise Grocery Store and HyVee Food Store
- Mail
- At Owatonna Public Utilities; cash, credit card, check or money order

Moving?

Remember to contact the Customer Service Department **ONE WEEK** prior to moving, 451-2480.

2018 Safety Camp



Safety Camp is a two-day camp held annually in June for students just completing fourth grade. Thank you to Collin Wencil (left) and Dan Cammoch (right) who took the time to instruct the students on electric and natural gas safety. Also, thank you to Jared Hendricks for his work representing OPU on the Safety Camp board.



Your opinion matters to us. Please take a few minutes to tell us how we did by visiting our website at owatonnautilities.com/customerurvey or simply scan the QR code above.

From the Editors

We welcome your comments and suggestions for future issues. Feel free to give us a call at 451-2480 or send an email to schmolt@owatonnautilities.com.

Gas Leak?

If you smell gas and can't find the source immediately, go to a neighbor's house and call OPU at 451-1616.



Don't turn electrical switches on or off or use a flashlight or telephone in the home, because an electrical spark could ignite the gas and cause an explosion.

