



Stoughton Utilities

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Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Robert Kardasz, Utilities Director

Plant a Tree This Spring, Save Energy Later *Utility Offers "Tree Power" Rebate*

Planting a shade tree this spring will add beauty to a yard and eventually keep a home cooler during warmer weather. Stoughton Utilities' Tree Power program helps homeowners with the upfront cost, providing cash-back rebates equal to 50 percent of the cost of a new shade tree, up to \$50 per tree for a total maximum rebate of \$150 per household.

"As a not-for-profit, locally owned utility, we invest in projects that improve our community and help our customers use energy wisely," said Stoughton Utilities Director, Robert Kardasz. "Tree Power is just one of several programs we offer that saves customers money and provides other benefits, too."

Tips for successful shade tree planting include:

- Plant trees after the ground thaws and before the buds begin to swell in the spring.
- Choose deciduous trees to provide shade for east-facing walls and windows from 7 to 11 a.m. and for west-facing areas from 3 to 7 p.m. in June, July and August.

- Place smaller deciduous or evergreen trees with lower limbs northwest and northeast of a home or building to provide late afternoon and early morning shade.
- Leave a space of 10 to 20 feet from the house, sidewalk or driveway for a tree that has a mature height of 25 feet in height.
- Be sure to plant trees or bushes an adequate distance from power lines, padmount transformers and utility meters.
- Call the national Diggers Hotline by dialing 811 on your phone at least three working days before planting a tree, shrubs or a garden; building a new patio; installing a fence; or starting any yard project that involves digging. A technician will mark underground lines in the work area according to color (yellow for natural gas lines; red for electric lines). Homeowners should dig at least 18 inches away from the marks to avoid personal danger or damage to buried lines.
- For more information on types of trees and shrubs to plant, see Landscape Plants of the Upper Midwest at www.midwestlandscapeplants.org.

For more information, call Stoughton Utilities at 873-3379 or download an application form online at www.stoughtonutilities.com.

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Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area; and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.