

# RPU Plugged In



**Go on the Hunt for Vampire Power this Halloween!** pg 2



**No Trick. Just Treat!**  
Free CFL Coupon Inside in  
Celebration of Public Power  
Week 2013! pg 4

**RPU May Have a Check  
for You!** pg 4

**Utility Scam Alert!** pg 6

**Water Reservoir  
Progress in Photos** pg 7

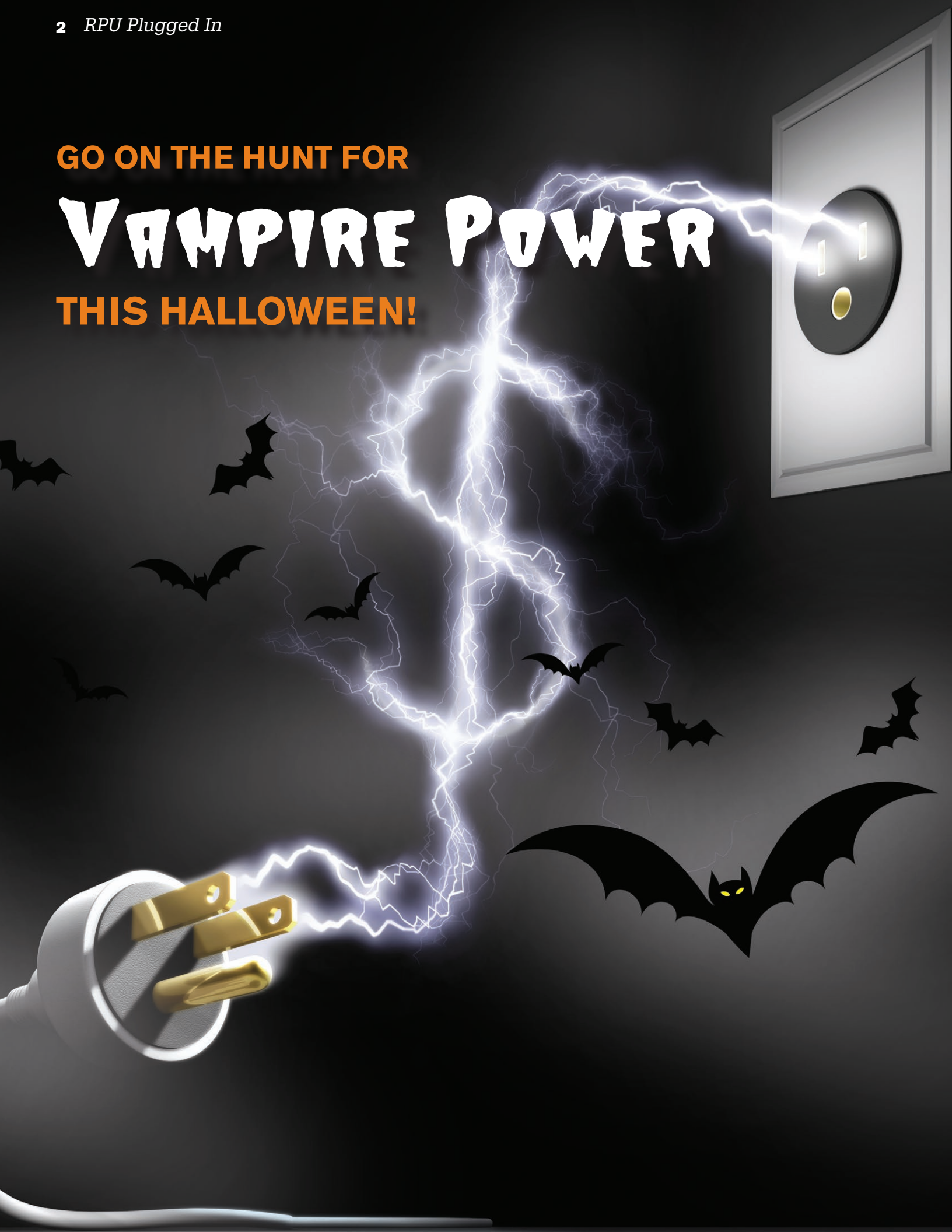
**FEATURING:** 2-3 Go on the Hunt for Vampire Power | 4 RPU May Have a Check for You! | 7 Water Reservoir Progress



GO ON THE HUNT FOR

# VAMPIRE POWER

THIS HALLOWEEN!



**D**on't be tricked this year by vampire power, also referred to as phantom power. Vampire power is the electricity that is used by those gadgets, appliances, and electronics that constantly draw electricity even when not in use. They're out there to shorten the life of your electronics and suck the money out of your wallet.

It's time to take a stand against vampire power! There are five easy steps for you to take to greatly reduce vampire power in your home.

**1. Get unplugged:** All of your chargers (cellphone, MP3, laptop, and even electric toothbrushes) continue to draw electricity even when the device is not charging. Only 5 percent of the power drawn by a cell phone charger is used to charge the phone – the other 95 percent is wasted when it is left plugged into the wall.

**2. Use a power strip:** Choose a power strip with a switch to control clusters of products. When you're not using products, turn the power strip off. The most likely targets for clusters are computer equipment (PC, monitor, printer, scanner, speakers, etc.), entertainment centers (TV, DVD player, speakers, game consoles), audio equipment (receiver, amplifier, CD player), and battery chargers.

**3. Use a Kill A Watt™ Meter:** RPU has a number of Kill A Watt™ meters that you can use in your home for free! This device will tell you how much electricity products are using whether turned on or off. Once you know how much power is being used when devices are running, or deceptively idle, you'll truly discover how much energy and money can be saved by replacing, unplugging, or using a smart power strip to cut off any power to that item. Check out a Kill A Watt™ Meter by calling RPU at **507.280.1500** or by stopping into the RPU Service Center. A security deposit is required.

**4. Turn your computer off:** Computers in sleep mode can cost an additional \$70 per year. If you are unable to do so, at least make sure the computer goes into a low-power sleep, standby, or hibernate mode. And watch out for those screen savers! Graphic intense screen savers can actually waste power.

**5. Look for the STAR:** Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR® use less energy while providing the same performance and features as conventional models. The ENERGY STAR® is awarded to products that meet or exceed the established criteria for energy efficiency; they are as much as 10 to 50 percent more efficient than conventional counterparts. They use less energy and save you money.

## CONSERVE & SAVE®

You'll also get great rebates on your purchase of ENERGY STAR® products through RPU's Conserve & Save® rebate program. Check out the RPU website for a complete listing of RPU rebates.



### VAMPIRE POWER CHART

	Watts in Standby Energy (Vampire Load)	Estimated Hours Off per Month (Vampire Energy)*	Avg kWh/ Used per Month	Estimated Monthly Cost (10¢ per kWh)
<b>Cell Phone Charger</b> (not charging, but plugged in)	1	630	0.63	\$0.06
<b>Coffee Pot</b>	1	655	.66	\$0.06
<b>Desktop PC</b> (computer and LCD Monitor)	5	600	3.00	\$0.30
<b>Computer Speakers</b>	2	600	1.20	\$0.12
<b>Computer Printer</b>	6	715	4.29	\$0.43
<b>Digital Cable Box</b>	35	600	21.00	\$2.10
<b>Dishwasher</b>	1.8	695	1.20	\$0.12
<b>Standard DVD</b>	4.5	710	3.20	\$0.32
<b>Energy Star DVD</b>	0.9	710	0.64	\$0.06
<b>Garage Door Opener</b>	2.5	717	1.79	\$0.18
<b>i-Pod Charger</b> (not charging, but plugged in)	1	630	0.63	\$0.06
<b>Microwave</b>	3	713	2.14	\$0.21
<b>Oven</b>	3	670	2.01	\$0.20
<b>Standard TV</b>	5.9	600	3.54	\$0.35
<b>Energy Star TV</b>	2.5	600	1.50	\$0.15
<b>Standard Stereo</b> (rack system)	3.2	710	2.27	\$0.23
<b>Energy Star Radio</b>	0.9	710	0.64	\$0.06
<b>Standard VCR</b>	5.1	710	3.62	\$0.36
<b>Energy Star VCR</b>	3.5	710	2.49	\$0.25
<b>Video Game Console</b>	1	690	0.69	\$0.07

\*based on 720 hours/month



**Bring in this coupon and receive a FREE Compact Fluorescent Bulb!\***

\* Available while supplies last. Only one bulb per household. Expires November 15.



# No Trick! Just Treat!

As we celebrate Public Power Week (October 6-12) and Halloween, we are giving each RPU household a free gift! Bring in this coupon and receive a FREE Compact Fluorescent Bulb (CFL). Use a CFL in place of an incandescent and reduce your energy use by up to 75 percent!

When you stop in, bring your children along and they will receive a Halloween bag with goodies and a small pumpkin (available starting Monday, October 7) to take home up until Halloween. While supplies last.

The RPU Service Center is located at 4000 East River Road NE and is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Available while supplies last. Only one bulb per household. One pumpkin and Halloween bag per child under age 10.



Business Partner Name: XXXXXX	Bill Date: XX/XX/XXXX	Account Balance: \$XXXXX.XX
Business Partner Number: 1XXXXX	Contract Account Number: 3XXXXX	

### ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES BILLING DETAILS

## RPU May Have a Check for You!

It may be from a credit on your account or a rebate check that has not been cashed. These funds must be claimed soon or, by state law, the funds will be paid to the State of Minnesota. To see if you have unclaimed funds with RPU, visit the "Behind the Meter" blog section of the RPU website ([www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org)) and look for the posting called "Unclaimed Checks 2013."

Make sure to have a recent RPU bill available to reference your Business Partner Number.

If you see your Business Partner Number listed, contact RPU at **507.280.1500**.

# HOW AND WHERE TO DISPOSE OF A CFL

*Information Courtesy of the Environmental Protection Agency*

**C**ompact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) are a nice lighting option for people who want to be more energy efficient. CFLs are relatively inexpensive, RPU rebates 50 percent of the cost of the bulbs, and they can reduce your energy usage by up to 75 percent. Depending on the application and usage, CFLs can last up to 5,000 hours as compared to a standard incandescent bulb, which lasts around 1,000 hours.

CFLs do require special handling and disposal because of the small amount of mercury used in the bulb. Please follow these handling and disposal tips to ensure safety for you and the environment.



## Before Cleanup

- Have people and pets leave the room.
- Air out the room for 5-10 minutes by opening a window or door to the outdoor environment.
- Shut off the central forced air heating/air-conditioning system, if you have one.
- Collect materials needed to clean up broken bulb:
  - stiff paper or cardboard;
  - sticky tape;
  - damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes (for hard surfaces); and
  - a glass jar with a metal lid or a sealable plastic bag.

## During Cleanup

- **DO NOT VACUUM.** Vacuuming is not recommended unless broken glass remains after all other cleanup steps have been taken. Vacuuming could spread mercury-containing powder or mercury vapor.
- Be thorough in collecting broken glass and visible powder. Scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder. Place the used tape in the glass jar or plastic bag.
- Place cleanup materials in a sealable container.

## After Cleanup

- Promptly place all bulb debris and cleanup materials, including vacuum cleaner bags, outdoors in a trash container or protected area until materials can be disposed of. Avoid leaving any bulb fragments or cleanup materials indoors.
- If practical, continue to air out the room where the bulb was broken and leave the heating/air conditioning system shut off for several hours.

Recycle your old compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) at no cost to you by bringing them to the Olmsted County Hazardous Waste Facility in Rochester, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit [www.co.olmsted.mn.us/environmentalresources/garbagerecycling/hazardouswaste/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us/environmentalresources/garbagerecycling/hazardouswaste/Pages/default.aspx) for more information. The RPU Service Center is NOT a drop-off site due to safety and handling concerns.

For more information on CFLs, disposal, and handling, visit the United States Environmental Protection Agency website at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

## Other CFL Recycling Sites

- Ace Hardware (free recycling on small CFLs only, tubes/large bulbs recycled for a fee)
- Lowe's (free recycling on small CFLs only)
- Menards (free recycling on small CFLs only)
- The Home Depot (no large quantities)
- Walmart

# Utility Scam Alert!

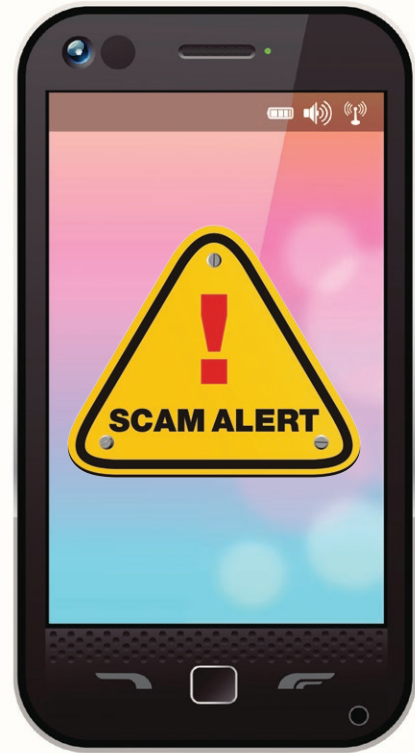
We have received several calls from customers who have been contacted over the phone by people claiming to represent a utility company and have requested payment. RPU does not have staff calling after business hours or over the weekend regarding payments and billing.

RPU will never conduct business over the phone from a blocked or private number. If you receive a call from someone saying they are from RPU, the RPU phone number that they are calling from will be shown on caller ID.

There are instances where an RPU representative may come to your door to make you aware of a service outage or project going on in your neighborhood. Our representative will have RPU clearly marked on their uniform and will have an official RPU name badge.

RPU uses a number of security measures to ensure that they are talking to the correct person on the account. RPU recommends that customers be vigilant and to use caution if they feel something is not right.

RPU's Customer Service phone number is **507.280.1500**.



**NEXT CLASS DATE!**

**TUES. OCT. 15 • 6:30pm • JOHN ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL**



## ATTEND A FREE ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP

**and get a \$400 home energy audit for a co-pay of only \$50!**

Auditors will give you information on energy efficient improvements, financing, and rebates. They'll also install **free** products that can help you start saving right away!

**Reserve your spot at the workshop:  
Contact Ashley Robertson at  
888.734.6365 or arobertson@mncee.org**

Find future, monthly workshop dates at [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org).



Installed 40 new ENERGY STAR® LED light bulbs  
**906 kWh SAVED**  
**CONSERVE & SAVE® \$176 REBATE\***

Installed a new ENERGY STAR® clothes washer, dishwasher, and 2 refrigerators  
**259 kWh SAVED**  
**6,542 GALLONS SAVED**  
**CONSERVE & SAVE® \$150 REBATE\***

Installed a new 16.0 SEER Central Air Conditioner  
**688 kWh SAVED**  
**CONSERVE & SAVE® \$350 REBATE\***

# CONSERVE & \$SAVE®

\*Rebates available on a first-come first-serve basis while funds last. See rebate applications for minimum efficiency requirements.

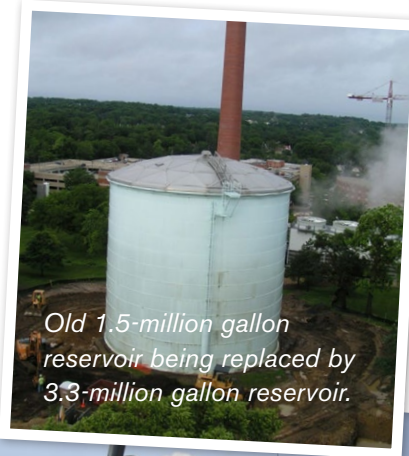
# 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW Water Reservoir Progress in Photos



*Old Saint Mary's Reservoir – Constructed in 1930.*



*Steel rebars placed prior to pouring of replacement reservoir concrete floor.*



*Old 1.5-million gallon reservoir being replaced by 3.3-million gallon reservoir.*



*Old reservoir totally removed.*



*Pumping 250-yard continuous concrete pour of reservoir floor.*



*Demolition of old Saint Mary's Reservoir.*



*Concrete placed in forms to cast wall and dome panels.*



*Scaffolding in place to support construction of center portion of concrete dome.*



4000 East River Road NE  
Rochester, MN 55906  
**507.280.1500**  
www.rpu.org

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
BlueSpire



### RPU Service Center Holiday Hours

The RPU Service Center will be closed  
the following days.

**November 11 in observance  
of Veterans Day.**

**November 28-29 for Thanksgiving.**

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



Environmental Achievement Awards  
are given annually for outstanding  
environmental achievement in  
Olmsted County.

# 2013

**Nominations are sought for individuals, families,  
youth, organizations, or businesses in any or all  
of the following categories:**

- Climate Change
- Education
- Renewables
- Sustainable Food Production
- Conservation
- Energy
- Water
- Other

**NOMINATE YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL HERO!**

**APPLICATIONS: [www.rpu.org](http://www.rpu.org) • DEADLINE: October 18**

Images may be from one or more of these sources: ©Thinkstock, ©iStock, ©Fotolia. ©2013 Rochester Public Utilities