



## DISCOVER SAVINGS WITH ERMU

With programs and rebates from ERMU, it's easier than ever to save money, decrease energy usage, and conserve resources. Take a closer look at the many ways residential and commercial customers can save.

### RESIDENTIAL

- > Appliance and Home Efficiency
- > Electric Vehicle Charger
- > Heat Pumps
- > HVAC Equipment
- > Lighting and Lighting Controls

### COMMERCIAL

- > Lighting
- > HVAC
- > VFD and ASD Drives
- > Other Equipment
- > Custom Grants

Click the "Programs & Rebates" tab at [ERMUMN.COM](http://ERMUMN.COM) to learn more or simply scan the QR code below.



## New Substation to Support Growth

The eastern area of Elk River is growing quickly with new residential, commercial, and industrial developments. While the current electrical system meets today's needs, data shows a new substation is essential to prevent overloads and support future demand.

ERMU is building a new substation in the center of this growth to strengthen voltage support, increase capacity, and reduce energy losses while providing more efficient, reliable power for customers. The new substation will also feature modern safety designs, advanced equipment for improved reliability, and lower long-term maintenance costs. Together, these upgrades will ensure Elk River's power system is ready to serve the community for many years to come.



## ERMU GM Joins MMUA Board of Directors



Elk River Municipal Utilities General Manager Mark Hanson has been elected to a one-year term on the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) Board of Directors.

MMUA, a nonprofit founded in 1931, serves 120 hometown utility communities across Minnesota by advocating for their needs, strengthening their operations, and empowering their leaders to ensure reliable, affordable, and sustainable utility services for ratepayers.

*"I look forward to supporting MMUA's mission and advocating for municipal utilities across Minnesota," - Mark Hanson, P.E.*

## Tree Trimming for Safety

Each year, ERMU field staff and contractors trim tree branches to minimize the risk of interference with power lines, reducing outages and ensuring safety. This work is typically scheduled for winter, after leaves have fallen, allowing for better visibility of branch structure and more precise cuts. Additionally, colder temperatures help protect trees from diseases and parasites entering freshly cut limbs. If you see tree trimming crews in your area, be sure to give plenty of space while they perform their work.

Regular maintenance of the electric system, including tree trimming, supports ERMU's commitment to reliable service and prioritizes safety for employees, customers, and the community.

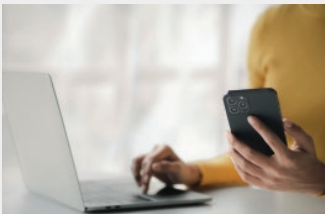
If you see a branch close to a power line, please avoid trimming it yourself. Instead, contact ERMU for a safe, professional assessment and guidance on next steps, including any customer responsibilities.





**DOWNLOAD THE  
RECYCLE COACH APP**

Do you find yourself always wondering when your recycling gets collected or what items are recyclable? Get answers by downloading the City of Elk River's Recycle Coach app today. Visit [elkrivernm.gov/156/Garbage-and-Recycling](http://elkrivernm.gov/156/Garbage-and-Recycling) or simply scan the QR code.



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Stay connected on utility news and information, community events, and important announcements by following ERMU on social media.



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Elk River Municipal Utilities



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## Will Closing Air Vents Actually Save Money?

Heating and cooling costs can take up a lot of space on your energy bills. During winter, you may be looking for quick and easy ways to reduce those costs. One commonly used method is to close air vents in unused rooms, reducing the amount of space that needs heat. It sounds like a good idea, but does it really work? The short answer is no, closing your house vents in unused rooms does not save energy. Read on to learn why and what you can do instead.



### Balancing Act

It's a common misconception that closing off vents in some rooms will reduce the amount of space you need to heat or cool, thus lowering your energy costs. In reality, closing vents in unused rooms can actually increase your energy use.

HVAC systems are designed for balance, so that the amount of air returned to the air handling unit is roughly equal to the volume delivered through the supply vents in each room. When vents are closed, air pressure in other rooms increases. The extra pressure pushes air out through any openings in walls or windows which may even waste more energy than operating your system as usual.

The air that escapes from the room must be replaced, increasing the amount of air being drawn and the load on your heating and cooling system. Also, the increased duct pressure results in lower air flow and increased strain on the blower motor.

### Better Ways to Save on Energy

While closing central heating air vents in unused rooms won't save money on energy bills, there are plenty of other smarter, safer strategies to consider:

- ▶ **Use a programmable thermostat:** Maximize heating and cooling only when you need it.
- ▶ **Seal air leaks:** Weather-strip doors and windows to keep conditioned air inside.
- ▶ **Add insulation:** A well-insulated attic and walls help regulate temperature.
- ▶ **Replace air filters regularly:** Clean filters mean smoother airflow and less strain on your system.
- ▶ **Schedule HVAC maintenance:** Annual tune-ups keep your HVAC system running efficiently.
- ▶ **Use ceiling fans:** Improve air circulation so your system doesn't have to work as hard.
- ▶ **Consider an ENERGY STAR® upgrade.** ENERGY STAR® -certified systems are independently tested to use less energy than standard models while still providing the level of comfort you expect.

Closing vents to save on energy costs might sound like a quick fix, but it is a costly myth. Keep airflow balanced, maintain your system, and utilize better strategies to stay comfortable and save money this winter. Find rebate savings on ENERGY STAR®-certified products and programmable thermostats at [ERMUMN.COM](http://ERMUMN.COM).