

# utilities

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## Electricity

Minnesota's energy prices are affordable. In 2002, Minnesota's average electricity prices (per kilowatt hour) were lower than the national average for the three main customer classes, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). In 2005, the average industrial price (cents/KwH) ranked 23 out of the 50 states, and the average commercial price ranked 47.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration (EIA)

Contacts for Electrical Utilities	
<b>BENCO Electric Cooperative</b> (507) 387-7963 Wade Hensel	<b>Xcel Energy</b> (800) 895-4999 Customer Service

## Natural Gas

Data from the EIA shows that Minnesota gas prices were lower than the national average in 2002 for two of the three major customer classes. In 2004, Minnesota's average price (dollars per thousand cubic feet) ranked 41 out of the 50 states.

Contact for Natural Gas
<b>CenterPoint Energy</b> (507) 387-1948 Barry Hager

## Energy Rebates

The largest utilities in the state by number of customers, Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy, offer programs and rebates to help business in reducing the cost of energy supply such as the motor efficient rebate program (Xcel Energy) and the dual fuel program (CenterPoint).

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## Alternative Energy

### Bio-Fuels

Dozens of companies are engaged in south-central Minnesota's growing biotechnology presence, including manufacturers of ethanol and soy bio-diesel, and world-renown companies like ADM, Cargill, and Cenex Harvest States. The region offers abundant access to bio-raw resources such as soybeans, corn, and animal production. Premier higher education institutes support biotechnology and lead the way in innovation and commercialization.

Minnesota State Mankato's Center for Automotive Research is a recognized national leader in the advancement of alternative, renewable fuel. From ethanol to biodiesel, students and faculty have over 30 years of applied experience in the industry.

## Water Supply

Mankato has a \$24 million upgrade in progress, continuing to ensure Mankato's track record of meeting and exceeding state and federal standards for high quality water. Upgrades include a new ultra membrane filtration system, one of the most advanced technologies available.

### City of Mankato

Municipal water source	.....wells
Storage capacity	.....11,000,000 gallons/day
Pumping capacity	.....7,200,000 gallons/day
Total tap water hardness	.....160 PPM
Average demand	.....5,600,000 gallons/day
Peak demand	.....8,100,000 gallons/day

#### Industrial Water Rate:

Base charge	.....\$3.35
User charge	.....\$2.49/100 cubic ft.
Over 30,000 cubic feet	.....\$1.73/100 cubic ft.

### City of North Mankato

Municipal water source	.....wells
Storage capacity	.....2,754,000 gallons/day
Pumping capacity	.....5,000,000 gallons/day
Total tap water hardness	.....418 PPM
Average demand	.....1,260,000 gallons/day
Peak demand	.....2,200,000 gallons/day

#### Industrial Water Rate:

Base charge	.....\$15.05
User charge	.....\$2.00/1,000 gallons