

Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886

# News Release Stoughton Utilities

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2022

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### STOUGHTON UTILITIES CELEBRATES PUBLIC POWER WEEK

Each year, Stoughton Utilities holds an annual Public Power Week event that highlights the benefits that "public power" brings to the utility, its customers, and the City of Stoughton.

This year, staff at Stoughton Utilities celebrated Public Power Week with a scavenger hunt. Customers were given a daily clue to help them either find the "secret location," or complete the scavenger hunt prompt. Customers were asked to send us a picture of themselves or a family member at the location or email us the answer to that day's clue to be entered to win a daily grand prize. Daily grand prize winners were given the choice between that day's grand prize or a \$300 utility bill credit. Grand prizes included an Ecobee smart thermostat bundle, an electric lawnmower, and more. Ten additional participants were randomly selected each day to receive a \$10 utility bill credit. A total of 216 photos and trivia answers were submitted throughout the week by Stoughton Utilities customers.

Public power refers to the fact that the City of Stoughton owns and operates the not-for-profit utility to provide reliable electricity to homes and businesses. Local employees provide quick responses when issues arise and assistance with identifying energy-saving improvements. Public power utilities like Stoughton Utilities are supported by customer revenues, not taxes, and provide substantial payments in lieu of taxes to local governments to help keep local economies strong.

"Because we are owned by our customers rather than shareholders, we can focus on local priorities such as helping to sponsor economic development efforts, support high school scholarships, and participate in local events," said Stoughton Utilities Director Jill Weiss. "In honor of Public Power Week, we like to give back to all of our customers with a special event.

Public Power Week is celebrated across the country every year during the first full week of October. The event honors the over 2,000 communities served by a locally owned not-for-profit public power utility. For more information about the event, call the Stoughton Utilities office at (608) 873-3379, or visit <u>https://www.stoughtonutilities.com</u>.

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#### What Makes Public Power Utilities Unique?

Most public power utilities are owned by a city or town, ranging from small villages to large metropolitan cities. They are governed by either a city council or independently elected/appointed board. Above all, they are accountable to the people they serve. Community citizens have a direct and powerful voice in utility decisions and policies. Public power utilities are not-for-profit, locally-owned and operated, and usually lower cost than private utilities.

#### **About Stoughton Utilities**

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