

## **Energy City Insights – Warm Weather Rebates**

Elk River residents are fortunate enough to have a local electricity and water supplier – Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU). ERMU strives to provide residents with safe, reliable, cost-effective, and quality long-term electric and water services. Because they are a municipal utility, they are owned by those they serve and governed by members of the community. ERMU also provides rebate programs to help residents save energy, water and money. As we move into the warm, summer months, it's a great time to check out some of these cost-saving programs.

### **WiFi Thermostat Rebate**

ERMU provides rebates for HVAC systems including air conditioners, which most of us use throughout the hot summer months. If you're not in the market for a new, high-efficiency system, you can save on your existing air conditioning unit by purchasing a WiFi thermostat. These smart devices allow you to control your cooling (and heating) remotely, and feature in-depth reporting on usage and alerts.! WiFi thermostats can range in price anywhere from \$30 to \$200, with proven efficiency benefits and cost savings. Currently, ERMU is offering a \$25 rebate for a WiFi compatible thermostat -details can be [found here](#).

### **Irrigation Tune-Up and Smart Irrigation Rebate**

Summer irrigation accounts for more than half of the water used in most homes during the warm months for watering lawns, gardens, and landscaping. Often, residential outdoor water use is incredibly inefficient too. Overwatering can waste about 50% of the water consumed due to watering lawns when it is not needed or watering areas unnecessarily like driveways and sidewalks. If you have an irrigation system, consider installing a WaterSense smart irrigation controller to help reduce water use and ensure you're being the most efficient possible with your irrigation. ERMU offers a rebate of up to 50%, not to exceed \$250, for the installation of an approved [WaterSense labeled smart irrigation controller](#).

Elk River Municipal Utilities provides many other great options to help residents be more efficient with their electricity and water use. Visit their website for more information about other available programs such as [Clean Energy Choice](#) and [Electric Vehicle Charging](#).