

DISTRICT HEATING



Willmar Municipal Utilities



MYRON SAHLBERG

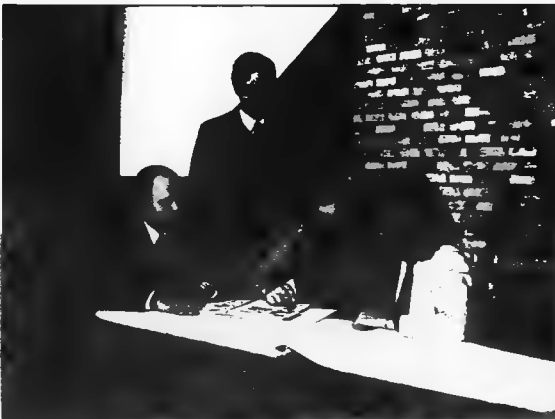
Why Is The Willmar Municipal Utilities Offering District Heating?

Co-generation Makes Sense in Today's World

Some years ago, when fuel sources were plentiful and cheap, there was not much call for conservation. But life is different now. Instead of wasting heat into the air when condensing steam back into water, why not use the steam to produce hot water that can heat businesses, industries, public buildings, and homes?

An Improvement to Steam

Modern hot water heating, a more efficient method of district heating than steam, was first developed by Scandinavian countries shortly after World War II. With the technology now tested and proven, the Willmar Municipal Utilities made the switch from steam to hot water to obtain the following benefits for its district heating customers: better temperature control, more even heating, and a system that can extend much further from the central source with virtually no heat loss ... all at a lower cost than other conventional systems.



Helps Hold Heating and Electrical Rates Down

Co-generation of electricity and hot water heat is the reason district heating has such a reasonable rate. But even for those customers who don't have district heating, there is a benefit. Revenues from district heating offset some of the operating costs of producing electricity. With that "sharing" formula, the result is lower rates for both district heating and electricity.

A Community Benefit

Modern hot water district heating is an important selling point in retaining and attracting business and industry to Willmar. It shows that Willmar is a progressive city that can offer reliable, low-cost heating.

As the system grows, more and more Willmar neighborhoods will be able to experience the benefits of district heating, and that will make Willmar an even more attractive city in which to live.

The First District Heating System in the United States

In 1982, Willmar became the first city in the United States to put in modern hot water district heating. Since that time, a number of other cities — including St. Paul, Minnesota; Provo, Utah; Albany, New York; and Trenton, New Jersey — have either installed hot water district heating or are in the process of doing so. Interestingly, they all call the Willmar Municipal Utilities for advice.

Ask the People Who Already Have District Heating.

Since 1982, when the Willmar Municipal Utilities first introduced modern hot water district heating, a number of commercial, industrial, and residential districts are now being served. Some switched over from steam district heating, while others converted from conventional heating systems.

When we introduce hot water district heating into a new commercial or residential area, we let prospective customers know of those who already use hot water heating and are willing to share their experience. We have found our present customers to be our best salespeople.



Erwin Rau

"I found that my heating bills were definitely lower and there is less maintenance required. The safety feature of no flame is really a plus. I think it's the way to go for the future. I only wish it had been available 5 years ago."



Wally Peterson

"The free heat exchanger was a terrific selling point. The conversion was very easy to do — it was no problem. My heating costs are considerably less and I really like the comfortable, even heat."

When Will It Be Available in Your Area?

The natural progression of district heating is from those areas closest to the power plant/conversion station to those areas farther out. However, other factors figure in. Our objective is to serve both large individual users — such as a school, commercial area, industrial plant, or apartment complex — and residential customers.

There has been a steady progression of construction projects since introducing hot water district heating to Willmar, and there are plans for more expansion. Quite simply, while expanding at a controlled rate, we will gradually meet as much demand for district heating as there is in Willmar.

If you wish to know more about the exciting features and benefits of district heating, just give us a call.



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