



# BGMU Receives Award

The Water Division of Bowling Green Municipal Utilities (BGMU) received recognition at the KY/TN Water Professionals Conference, held July 27-30 in Knoxville, Tennessee. This event is the annual joint conference of the Kentucky/Tennessee section of the American Water Works Association and the Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky and Tennessee. It is the largest annual water technical conference and exhibition in both states.

BGMU was awarded the **Operational Excellence Award** for continued outstanding operation of its Water Recovery Facility (WRF) for calendar year 2024. BGMU has received this award for 17 of the last 18 years. This award is given annually to publicly owned and industrial water recovery facilities that have achieved permit compliance during the previous calendar year by having no more than one violation of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Each qualifying facility must present written documentation, with the appropriate state agency confirming the applicant's overall regulatory compliance.

**Andrew White**, Chief Chemist at the Water Recovery Facility, graduated from the Water Professionals Leadership Academy. The WPLA identifies and develops the next generation of leaders in the water industry through training sessions and team building activities that incorporate personal and professional development during six two-day sessions between October and May. Since the program's inception in 2017, six BGMU employees have participated in WPLA.



*Chad Oliver and Kevin Kirby accepted the award on BGMU's behalf.*

## CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12  
801 CENTER STREET  
8 AM-4 PM**

**JOIN US FOR COFFEE,  
CIDER AND COOKIES**

**PICK UP YOUR 2026  
BGMU WALL CALENDAR!  
\*FIRST 100 CUSTOMERS  
RECEIVE A FREE LED BULB.**



# Mark's Corner

The sale of electric power in the United States comes primarily through two types of entities: for-profit investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and not-for-profit enterprises like electric cooperatives and municipally-owned utilities. As our name implies, **Bowling Green Municipal Utilities (BGMU)** is a not-for-profit utility owned by the City of Bowling Green. Municipal utilities and related power agencies are sometimes referred to as “Public Power”. In a broader context, TVA and its 153 local power companies (coops and munis; LPCs) operate what’s known as a “Public Power Model”. So what does that mean to you, our valued Customer?

First, Public Power utilities are *locally controlled*. Like public schools and libraries, public power utilities are owned by the community and run as a division of local government. In the case of BGMU, we are governed by a board of directors appointed by the mayor. All BGMU board meetings are open to the public, and community citizens have a direct voice in utility decisions.

Second, Public Power utilities are *affordable*. Public power utilities are not-for-profit entities that provide electricity to customers at the lowest rates. Homes and businesses powered by public power utilities pay less than those served by IOUs. In the TVA Valley, residential rates are lower than 80% of the top 100 US utilities, and BGMU residential customers consistently pay some of the lowest average bills among all of the 153 TVA LPCs.

Third, Public Power utilities are *reliable*. According to the American Public Power Association (APPA), customers of a public power utility experience 90 fewer minutes per year without power compared to customers of private utilities. Locally, BGMU has been designated by the APPA as a “Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3)” at the very highest level of distinction. RP3 utilities have a demonstrated track record of proficiency in reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement.

Lastly, Public Power is *invested in the community*. Public power utilities are embedded into the fabric of their communities and support a range of community programs. BGMU supports several charitable, educational and beautification programs as well as business development efforts of the Chamber of Commerce. According to the APPA, public power utilities give 9% more to the community than private utilities.

So, now you know that there’s so much behind the term “Public Power”, and the beneficiary of that is YOU!

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2. Select your account, then go to Settings and choose Paperless Billing.
3. Don't have an online account yet? You'll need your BGMU account number to create one. Visit us at [bgmu.com](http://bgmu.com) and click the My Account link to register your account now!

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