

METROPOLITAN **UTILITIES DISTRICT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 14, 2021

For additional information:

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Metropolitan Utilities District asks customers to turn down thermostats to conserve energy during extreme cold weather

Omaha, Neb. – Due to extremely high demand for natural gas with record low temperatures across the country, Metropolitan Utilities District is asking residential and business customers to voluntarily turn down their thermostats, if possible, to help conserve natural gas supplies.

This situation is due to an extended period of frigid temperatures impacting utilities across a multi-state region.

What should I do?

- If you are healthy enough to do so, turn down your thermostat by 3 degrees. (*Note: Older adults may want to raise the thermostat to prevent hypothermia.*)
- To help stay warm, wear a sweater or other layers of clothing.
- Close the fireplace damper when not in use to avoid losing heat through the chimney.
- Leave curtains, blinds and/or shades open in direct sunlight to warm the room and close them at night to prevent heat loss through the windows.
- To avoid frozen pipes, allow heat to circulate around meters and pipes located near outside walls, in uninsulated cabinets or other enclosed areas.
- Where previous freeze-ups have been a problem, a slight trickle of water from the faucet may keep a pipe from freezing.

How long should I do this?

Please keep your heat down until 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 17.

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About Metropolitan Utilities District: The mission of the Metropolitan Utilities District, headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, is to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective natural gas and water services to our community. The District is the fifth largest public natural gas utility in the United States, serving more than 232,000 customer-owners in Omaha, Bennington, Fort Calhoun, Springfield, Yutan and Bellevue. The District also provides safe, high quality drinking water to more than 218,000 customer-owners in Omaha, Bellevue, Bennington, Carter Lake, La Vista, Ralston, Waterloo and the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District (which supplies water to Fort Calhoun). M.U.D.'s drinking water meets or exceeds all state and federal standards. For more information, visit www.mudomaha.com.