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## **How does your municipal utility make life easier for its customers?**

As I began to ponder this question, I was struck by simply everything that our municipal utility does for our community. Never once have I gone to the faucet to pour a glass of water and had nothing come out of the tap, nor have I ever had to think about what happens after I pull the handle on the toilet. I have never had to worry about having reliable electric service, because even when there is an outage, it is fixed incredibly quickly. So often our society takes for granted the service provided by our municipal utility, that we do not even stop to think about how life is made so much easier for us because of that. Municipal utility makes life easier by providing the services that our society's efficiency depends upon in a safe and affordable way.

The municipal utility provides the electricity that powers nearly everything in our lives. In an increasingly digital age, having electricity is vital for the operation and efficiency of nearly everything. In the last five years, many people have started working from home offices, electric cars have become much more widely used, and many businesses are built around modern technology. Without reliable electricity provided by a utility company, none of this would have ever been possible. Having a municipal utility has allowed society to adapt to a lifestyle that fits its personal goals, business goals, and educational goals in a more efficient way.

In a similar way, the municipal utility provides services that many, including myself, do not even think about such as the clean water in the tap, the sewer lines that safely transport waste to a treatment facility, or the lights that illuminate dark roads. Having clean water readily accessible out of the tap is a privilege that many people around the world do not have. Even people locally that live outside of the municipality do not have high quality tap water like those of us living within it do. People are healthier because there is a place for greywater and blackwater to go rather than having it sit in a tank outside of their house. The energy supplied to

things like street lamps and stop lights allows for safe travels and security at all hours of the day.

The convenience of these simple everyday things makes life easier by allowing last minute packages to be shipped safely or family members making it home safely after a night out.

Because of the constant and reliable supply of energy, water, and waste management, many of the struggles that people outside of the municipal utility face are not a problem in our everyday lives.

Living in the service area of a municipal utility company has nothing but positive benefits to daily life. From flicking on a light switch, watering the garden, or driving down the city streets, the services that the municipal utility provides are everywhere. Despite going unnoticed by most people, they are always functioning and providing the most reliable products that allow people to continue using the modern technologies that are so vital to our society today.