

RURAL ELECTRIC

NEBRASKAN

October 2020

**Celebrating
Public Power
in Nebraska**



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NEBRASKAN

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Tom Kent, president and CEO of Nebraska Public Power District, explains how their focus has always been, and will continue to be, on the customers. With respect to performance, we operate to ensure maximum efficiency, effectiveness and excellence.



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On the cover

Nebraskans have several reasons to celebrate Public Power Month. Our state is the only one in the nation that is totally served by public power. Photograph by Wayne Price





by Wayne Price

Is a job in the electric utility industry in your future?

I might be biased, but in my opinion, public power districts and electric cooperatives are great places to work. Before I started working at the Nebraska Rural Electric Association I worked at Norris Public Power District for eight years. When I graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a journalism degree in 1992 I never expected that I would get a job in the electric industry.

That just sort of happened by chance. In 1994 I was working for the *Beatrice Daily Sun*, my first job with a daily newspaper. I covered the city and agriculture beats and was assigned a story on Norris Public Power District. I interviewed the general manager and when it was over he asked if I would be interested in coming to his office to interview for a position in their marketing department.

I did and was offered a job writing and designing their monthly publication, *The Norris Electric News*. I was responsible for helping to educate the customers about the district's programs and activities. I also learned how to do energy audits and met with customers looking to save money on their electric bill.

When I heard the position of editor for the *Rural Electric Nebraskan* was open I applied. And the rest is history, as the saying goes.

Retirements are on the rise throughout the electric utility industry. I wanted to take a moment to share the advantages of working with our team.

We are here to serve our customers not only with safe, affordable, and reliable electric power, but also with community support and programs that help you save energy and money. Because we make a difference in people's lives, those of us who work in the electric utility industry tend to be a happy bunch.

In general, public power districts and electric co-ops offer competitive salaries and benefits in a time when many companies are scaling back. And they offer a stable work environment. Many employees start here and stay here throughout their career.

While our lineworkers remain our public face, it takes many more departments to run a public power district or electric cooperative. On a typical staff we have communicators; accountants; key accounts representatives, who work with our commercial and industrial members; billing

clerks; public relations professionals, who cultivate relationships with local, state, and national opinion leaders and keep them updated on issues important to us and the communities we serve; information technology professionals; warehouse staff; and staking technicians and engineers, who plot where new power lines will be built.

The average rural electric utility has 48 employees. In Nebraska,

Norris Public Power District in Beatrice, Neb. employs the most with 87 while Roosevelt PPD in Mitchell, Neb. has the fewest with 11. In most cases, the largest group of employees at an electric utility is lineworkers, followed by administrative assistants and engineering and operations staff.

I strongly encourage young people to consider career opportunities within the electric industry network. Working at a public power district or electric cooperative is a pleasure, and we're looking out for you by recruiting the best and brightest employees to serve you to the best of our abilities.

You can learn about job openings at www.nrea.org or national opportunities at www.TouchstoneEnergy.jobs.



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If you would like to reduce the cost to keep your home toasty and warm, ask yourself this question: “What’s in my attic?”

Properly insulating your attic can be one of the best ways to reduce your energy bills. The good news is that attics are often one of the easiest places in a house to insulate. Moreover, purchasing adequate insulation is not that expensive!

Loose-fill or batt insulation is typically installed in an attic. Although installation costs may vary, loose-fill insulation is usually less expensive to install than batt insulation, and when installed properly, loose-fill insulation can also provide better coverage.

So how much is enough? First, you will need to determine the R-value of the insulation you currently have. The term R-value refers to the measurement of thermal resistance of the insulator. The higher the R-value, the more the insulator is resistant to heat. Building code for new home construction in Nebraska requires a minimum R-value of R-39 or R-48, depending on where you live in the state. To maximize the benefit of attic insulation the U.S. Department of Energy recommends an R-value of R-60. Any amount

higher brings little additional benefit.

The best way to find out if you have enough insulation is to measure. Using a measuring tape or yard stick, measure the thickness of insulation in several spots around your attic. Use these measurements to come up with an estimated average. Now, multiply that estimate by the R-value per inch for the type of insulation you have. Blown in loose cellulose, blown in fiberglass, and fiberglass batts usually have values of R-3.5, R-2.5 and R-3.2 per inch, respectively.

The next step is to prepare for your project. Some of the basic tools you will need are protective clothing, a dust respirator, gloves, goggles, full cover pants and shirt, and perhaps additional lighting. Obviously, you will also have to purchase all the insulation necessary to cover your attic. If you plan to use blown in insulation, check to see if your retailer provides a blower for you to borrow at no additional charge.

It is recommended that you lay out some temporary flooring across the joists in the attic to provide safe and easy access to all areas. It is best to start blowing in the insulation at the outer edge of the attic space and

work your way back to your attic access. When working on the edges, you need to ensure that you fill far enough to cover the tops of the exterior walls. However, be careful not to block the flow of air through soffit and/or eave vents. Also, be sure not to insulate over light fixtures that are not rated I.C. (insulated ceiling) because it could cause a fire. It is usually helpful to have two people for the job – one operating the gun and the other loading insulation in the machine. Make sure to load slowly into the machine to avoid clogging it. Everything else is pretty straightforward. After you have a proper layer of insulation in your attic, you can expect to see your energy bill drop!

If you primarily use electricity or a heat pump to meet your heating requirements, check with your electric utility to see if you might be eligible for an EnergyWise Attic Insulation Incentive. Customers participating in the residential EnergyWise attic insulation program are eligible for an incentive of \$.15 per square foot with a maximum incentive amount of \$300 per existing residential dwelling. New construction and/or additions do not qualify.

CELEBRATING PUBLIC POWER IN NEBRASKA



We take electricity for granted in Nebraska and the entire United States for that matter. The people who can remember what it was like before their family had electricity are becoming fewer every year. It is easy to forget how dependent we have become on electricity in our everyday lives. We flip the switch and expect our homes and offices to be filled with light. In the span of about 100 years we have seen electricity evolve from a big city luxury to a nationwide necessity. It keeps us safe and comfortable, and it connects us to our friends and family.

It doesn't hurt to be reminded about the importance of electricity, as well as the central role public power has in helping local businesses thrive, and the contributions it makes to our towns, our state and the nation.

We encourage our readers to take part as we celebrate Public Power Month in October.

Public Power Month honors the nation's more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities, like those that serve your homes, ranches and businesses.

Public Power serves the interests of the community. The not-for-profit rates hold down household and business costs, and Nebraska has some of the lowest electric rates in the country. Lower electricity rates attract and keep businesses that provide jobs for our citizens. They are also good for our household budgets.

When it comes to service, you know your electric provider is just down the street or a phone call away if you have problems. And you know their track record of keeping the power on and restoring it immediately in the case of weather-related outages, such as blizzards and tornadoes.

Nebraskans have several reasons to celebrate Public Power. Our state is the only one in the nation that is totally served by public power. Other states have investor-owned utilities

that are in the business to make money. Electric utilities in Nebraska are in business to provide affordable, reliable and safe electricity.

Sure, we have public power districts, and municipal systems and electric cooperatives in Nebraska, but they can all be generally called public power. Why? Because every one of those entities is governed by citizens elected to represent the people that the PPD, or the city, or the cooperative serves with power.

Nebraska is not served by any Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs). Nebraska has, like other states, set up electric service territories across the state. These are served by either a cooperative, a municipality or a public power district.

A **cooperative** is a not-for-profit group that joins together to provide some sort of product or services. Electric cooperatives across the nation provide electric service to those that live in their service territory. Cooperatives normally



October is Public Power month. And it's time to celebrate the benefits of getting energy from a locally-owned, not-for-profit utility.

Like affordable electric rates.

Customers pay only what it costs to produce and deliver electricity. There are no profit motives and no stockholders. That means utilities can focus on keeping rates low and customer service high.

allow all of those they serve (who are called members) to vote who will represent them on the governing board. Often, these elections are held at an Annual Meeting that all members may attend. Only members can serve on the board. A cooperative is an excellent example of representative democracy.

In many cities and villages, the citizens are served by the **municipality**. As you are aware, any citizen who has registered to vote can participate in city elections. Decisions on electric services and rates are governed by the governing board of the city and is another form of representative democracy.

Finally, the **public power district**. Like other entities, they serve all those who need service in their designated service area. Public power districts, like cities and cooperatives, also do not operate to make a "profit" on electric services. Far more important, the PPD is also governed by a board of directors that

are elected by the registered voters in general elections. Again, those elected board members serve those who elect them.

All three types are not-for-profit. All three are governed by your friends and neighbors who have been elected to the board of directors by you.

TAKE A MINUTE TO CALL YOUR ELECTRIC UTILITY AND TELL THEM "THANK YOU" FOR WORKING TO KEEP RATES LOW AND YOUR POWER ON.

Nebraska's rural electric utilities are dedicated to energy efficiency, too. Public Power Month is a good time to look at your local electric utility's low- or no-cost programs designed to help reduce energy consumption and save you money. The programs help consumers gain control over their energy use.

Many offer free energy audits to help homeowners identify problem areas and potential high energy use culprits. These include improper insulation, old leaky windows and inefficient heating and cooling systems. Some utilities also offer rebate programs that reward homeowners for installing high efficiency heat pumps and water heaters. Replacing an old, propane furnace with a high-efficiency electric heat pump will save hundreds of dollars on heating and cooling each year.

Budget billing and automatic bank withdrawal are also available at many utilities. These programs help customers manage their energy dollars each month.

In Nebraska we create electricity from a number of sources, including coal, nuclear, hydro-power and wind. The energy efficiency programs offered by local electric utilities help reduce the need for additional power plants to be built in the future.



Illustration by iStock / Rawpixel

Make your decorations the only scary thing outside this Halloween



More and more people decorate their yards for Halloween with elaborate lighting displays with as much enthusiasm and as many materials as they do for the Christmas holidays. Strings of decorative lights, fog machines, strobe and black lights, animatronics, and electrically powered decorations all add to the ambience of Halloween, but improperly used, can create added dangers of fire, shock, and other potentially disastrous accidents. Beware of the hidden electrical dangers that could spoil your holiday.

Safe Electricity urges everyone to use caution and look for potential hazards while decorating and operating these displays.

These decorations have been packed away since last year in basements, garages and sheds. Weather, time and even mice can damage cords and insulation on electric decorations, making them unsafe. Make sure you discard any damaged sets and buy new.

Safe Electricity offers these tips to make your Halloween safe and fun:

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Check for cracking, fraying or bare wires, as they may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

- Replace any damaged decorations.

- Make sure any lights, animated displays, or other electrical outdoor products are Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and marked for outdoor use.

- Follow the care and instructions that accompany your electrical decorations.

- Don't overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.

- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If your outlets don't have them, either contact a qualified electrician to install them or use portable GFCIs instead.

- Keep electrical cords out of walkways to avoid tripping hazards.

- Turn off all electrical decorations and lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Consider using a timer.

- When decorating outside, always make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

Avoid any tricks this Halloween by enjoying your treats and decorating safely.

Technology revolutionizes the most important piece of furniture in your house!

NEW!

Got mobility or balance issues? UpBed™ is the ONLY adjustable bed that puts your feet safely on the ground.

The only adjustable bed that helps you “Get Up and Go” by yourself!

For millions of Americans, Rise & Shine has become a thing of the past. Mobility and balance issues have forced many people to struggle getting in and out of bed. Not being able to get out of bed by yourself can be inconvenient, undignified and downright dangerous. To solve this problem, this product has been recently introduced exclusively in continuing care and other health care facilities. Now, thanks to *firstSTREET*, the leading marketer of innovative products for seniors in the United States, that same bed can enable people to get up, get going and live independently in their home. It's called the UpBed™, and there is nothing else like it available to the public. The secret to the UpBed™ is its revolutionary system for raising the mattress to any position for a variety of activities. It features a state-of-the-art mattress with memory foam for a great night's sleep... like sleeping on a cloud. With the touch of a button, it gently raises your upper body to a “sitting up”

position, perfect for reading a book or watching TV. Another touch and it moves to a full sitting position, enabling you to eat, knit, play cards... all in a comfortable position. Time to get out of bed? It's never been easier or safer. The bed elevates slowly, and the bottom of the mattress curls in, enabling you to put your feet firmly on the floor while the bed lifts you gently towards the “nose over toes” position where you simply stand and walk away. It's easy, safe and no other bed can do it.

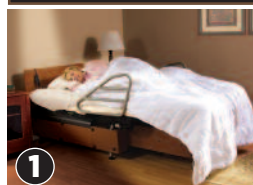
Nothing is worse than spending the night worrying how you are going to get out of bed. Call now, and a helpful, knowledgeable product expert can tell you how you can try out the UpBed™ for yourself, in your own home. The bed will be delivered to your home and completely set up- they'll even take away your old bed if you want. It comes with a manufacturer's warranty and *firstSTREET*'s exclusive 30-day home trial, so don't wait, call today!

Call now to find out how you can get your own UpBed!

Please mention promotional code 113513.

For fastest service, call toll free 24 hours a day. 1-888-891-1917

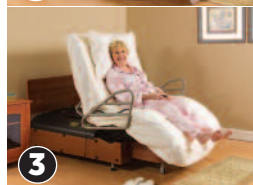
4 PRODUCTS IN ONE!



It's a “Bed”- for a comfortable and relaxing night's sleep



It's a “Sit Up Bed”- for reading, watching TV and resting



It's a “Chair”- for crafting, eating, visiting with friends and family



It's a “Lift Bed”- that puts your feet safely on the floor - you're ready to go!

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BLACKOUT

COULD IT HAPPEN HERE?

Rolling blackouts in California in August were caused by an increase in demand as millions of customers stuck indoors during record high temperatures turned to air-conditioning units for relief. California relies on large scale wind and solar farms, along with importing electricity from other Western states, to meet customer demand.

The demand was compounded by cloud cover (and possibly smoke from wildfires) which reduced solar generation. Early retirement of fossil and nuclear plants, coupled with increasing reliance upon renewable resources that are not dispatchable and generate depending upon the availability of sun or wind, make the power supply more susceptible to these extreme environmental conditions.

These outages, while rare, expose the problems states may face as they switch to renewable power at the expense of reliability. So could that happen in Nebraska as more wind and solar generation is developed?

According to Mick Spencer, Vice President of energy production at Nebraska Public Power District, Nebraska is in a better position to

avoid rolling blackouts resulting from insufficient electricity supply by virtue of its diverse resource mix.

“NPPD is part of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Integrated Market (IM) which provides access to electricity from generating resources, both dispatchable and renewable, in a multi-state region,” Spencer said. “SPP requires generating capacity reserve margin from all of its

participants; and the SPP IM is currently an over-supplied energy market.”

However, the California situation is a cautionary tale for Nebraska and other states in the SPP as social and economic pressure builds to close dispatchable fossil and baseload nuclear resources in favor of non-dispatchable renewable resources.

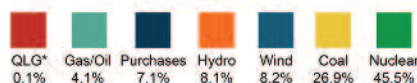
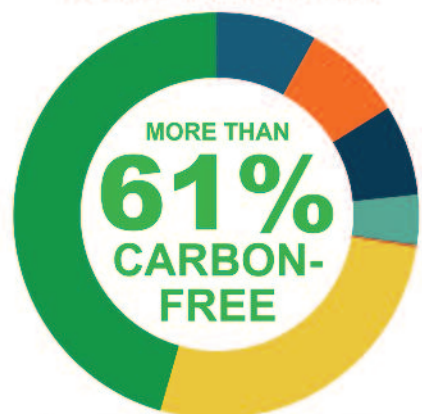
Rolling blackouts are not just a power supply issue, Spencer said. A robust transmission network is required; and the need is amplified as more renewable resources are added to the system. There are growing challenges to building transmission which pose potential future concerns. Public power is not immune to these issues.

During parts of August NPPD purchased more energy than normal due to various power plant equipment issues.

“This is an unusual situation for us, particularly during the summer,” he said. “However, obtaining sufficient electricity to meet our customers’ needs via the SPP IM has been seamless. This example demonstrates the value of regionally-pooled generation.”

NPPD Energy Generation Resources for Nebraska Customers

2018-2019 Rolling Two-Year Average



*Qualifying Local Generation (QLG) includes renewable energy facilities installed by our wholesale customers and in NPPD retail communities.



HUNTERS URGED TO STAY SAFE IN THE FIELD THIS SEASON

HUNTERS HAVE THEIR SIGHTS ON WILD GAME WHEN PREPARING FOR HUNTING SEASON. A FEW MOMENTS DEVOTED TO SAFETY CAN HELP PREVENT AN ACCIDENT WITH UTILITY EQUIPMENT.

BEFORE LEAVING FOR A HUNTING TRIP, MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE SAFETY ITEMS TO SIGNAL FOR HELP IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. ALWAYS CARRY EMERGENCY SUPPLIES IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT. A CELL PHONE, WHISTLE, AND FLASHLIGHT ARE NECESSARY ITEMS TO CARRY WITH YOU THROUGHOUT A HUNTING TRIP.

NOTE THE LOCATION OF POWER LINES AND OTHER ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT BEFORE YOU BEGIN A HUNT. BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL AND OBSERVANT IN WOODED AREAS WHERE POWER LINES ARE EASY TO OVERLOOK.

OBEY ALL SIGNS OR POSTINGS THAT ADVISE ELECTRICAL SAFETY, ESPECIALLY WHEN SELECTING THE LOCATION FOR A TREE STAND. TREE STANDS ARE THE LEADING CAUSE FOR HUNTING INJURIES. IF YOU ARE USING A TREE STAND, MAKE SURE YOU READ THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS AND INSPECT THE STAND FOR WEAR BEFORE USE.

NEVER USE POWER POLES TO SUPPORT A TREE STAND. LOOK FOR AN IDEAL TREE FOR YOUR STAND, ONE THAT IS STURDY AND ALIVE. WHILE GOING UP TO THE STAND, KEEP AT LEAST THREE POINTS OF CONTACT WHILE YOU CLIMB.

Hunters should commit themselves to staying safe in the field, as the next few weeks will see the start of many hunting seasons, such as dove, early teal and archery deer.

Nebraska Hunter Education Coordinator Jackson Ellis says hunter safety involves the use of hunter orange, firearm rules and proper preparation.

FIREARM SAFETY RULES

Many dove and teal hunts are in a group setting with friends and family. Be sure to know where everyone is located. Establish shooting lanes and do not swing your firearm outside of your safe zone of fire. Be in constant communication with your group.

Ellis said nearly all firearm incidents can be prevented by following four rules:

- Control the muzzle, ensuring that a firearm never is pointed in an unsafe direction.
- Keep your finger out of the trigger guard and away from the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- Be sure of your target, and what is beyond it.

“Whether you miss your target or the bullet travels through it, be sure that your target has a safe backstop behind it to stop the bullet,” Ellis said. “Never shoot a rifle at sky-lined game, or toward water, a roadway, house or feedlot, or at sounds or movement through brush. Make sure to identify your target as legal game before aiming and shooting.”

TREE STAND SAFETY RULES

Many archers choose to hunt deer from an elevated position for a multitude of reasons, but these heights do include some necessary safety precautions.

- Don't hang stands alone; bring a friend or family member to help.
- Ensure that your straps connecting the stand and ladder to the tree are in good shape and aren't frayed or torn.
- Always wear a safety harness (fall arrest system) when hanging stands and hunting. Read the instructions and make sure the harness is sized correctly. Use a Life Line to ensure you're connected from the time you first step off the ground until you return.
- Use a haul line to bring your bow or firearm into the tree after you climb up and get situated. Never climb with your bow or firearm in your hands.
- Always use the “three-points-of-contact” rule when climbing the tree.

Source: Nebraska Game & Parks Commission

Space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly

Many people turn to space heaters—both electric models and those powered by kerosene or even wood—as a convenient source of warmth in winter months. However, space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with space heaters. More than 300 people die in these fires. In addition, an estimated 6,000 people annually receive hospital emergency care for burn injuries connected with space heaters.

Space heater hazards stem not just from fires caused by contact with or close proximity to heating elements. They also include fires started by flammable fuels used in the heaters; defective wiring in the appliance; and carbon monoxide poisoning caused by improper venting or an incomplete combustion of fuels.

Here are some tips for using your electric space heater safely:

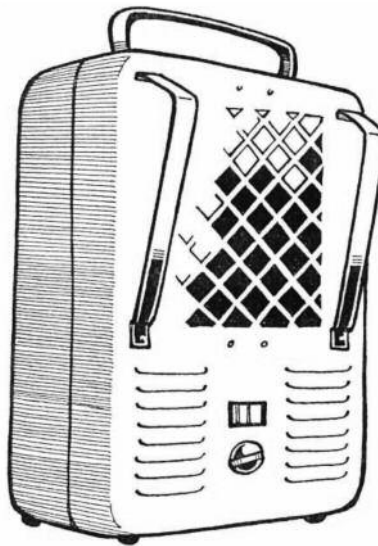
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet

from flammable items such as curtains, furniture, or bedspreads.

- Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.

- When buying a heater, choose one that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing institution such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

- Buy a heater that can handle the area that you want to heat.



- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.

- Never leave a space heater unattended.

- Never go to sleep with a space heater on.

- Never use or store flammable liquids near a space heater.

- Do not use a heater in a bathroom—it's a high-moisture area that could cause damage.

- Keep heaters away from water to prevent electrocution.

- Do not use an extension cord with a space heater.

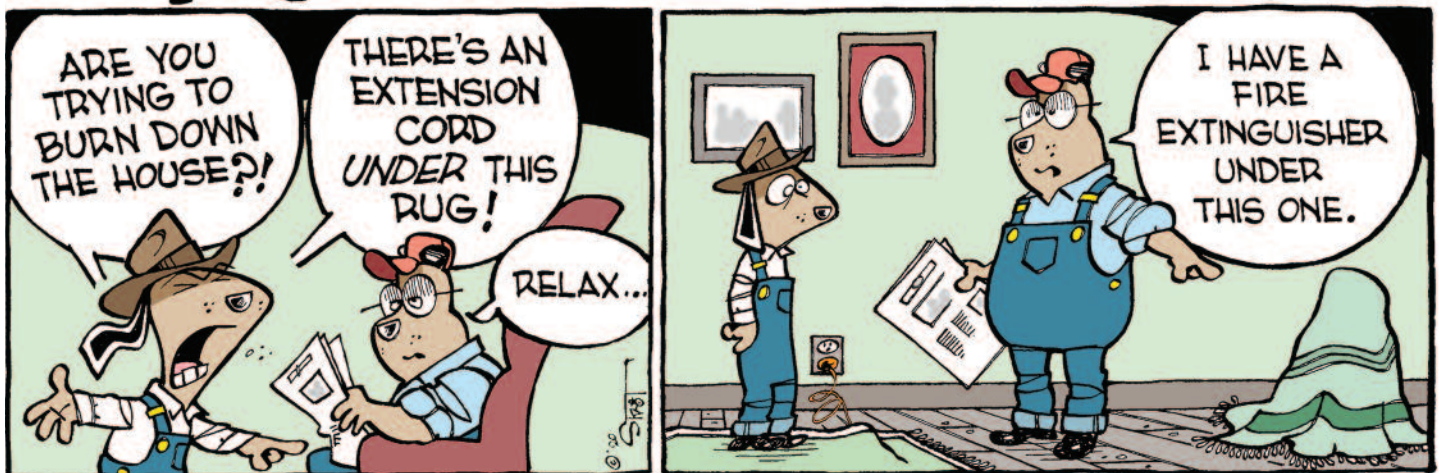
- Do not use the heater to dry clothes.

- Be sure the heater's plug fits snugly in an outlet. The cord and plug may feel warm when operating since the unit draws so much power, but they should not feel hot. If they do, unplug the heater and have a qualified repair person check for problems.

- Do not attempt to repair a broken heater yourself. It should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center.

Illustration by Wayne Stroot

Murphy



*Introducing the future
of battery-powered
personal transportation.*



The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

It's not a Wheelchair... It's not a Power Chair... It's a Zinger!

More and more Americans are reaching the age where mobility is an everyday concern. Whether from an injury or from the aches and pains that come from getting older—getting around isn't as easy as it used to be. You may have tried a power chair or a scooter. The **Zinger** is NOT a power chair or a scooter! The **Zinger** is quick and nimble, yet it is not prone to tipping like many scooters. Best of all, it weighs only 47.2 pounds and folds and unfolds with ease. You can take it almost anywhere, providing you with independence and freedom.

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a personal electric vehicle that's truly unique. They created a battery that provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. The **Zinger** features two steering levers, one on either side of the seat. The user pushes both levers down to go forward, pulls them both up to brake, and pushes one while pulling the other to turn to either side. This enables great mobility, the ability to turn on a dime and to pull right up to tables or desks. The controls are right on the

steering lever so it's simple to operate, and its exclusive footrest swings out of the way when you stand up or sit down. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the **Zinger** is sturdy and durable yet convenient and comfortable! What's more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat or trunk. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. It holds up to 275 pounds, and it goes up to 6 mph and operates for up to 8 miles on a single charge.

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The Zinger Chair is a personal electric vehicle and is not a medical device nor a wheelchair. Zinger is not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. It is not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2020 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.

Our *customers* are in focus



By 
Thomas Kent
NPPD PRESIDENT & CEO

Is there a secret to sustainable high performance? What is the foundation for optimal, continuous learning? How can we establish more meaningful relationships? These three questions are completely different, yet the answer to each is the same: **Focus**.

At NPPD, our focus has always been, and will continue to be, on our customers. With respect to performance, we operate our facilities, fleets and business offices to ensure maximum efficiency, effectiveness and excellence. We learn by benchmarking against others to grow, adapt and excel amid a changing industry. And, in our customer relationships, we aim to be transparent and open to build trust and foster a culture of collaboration alongside our public power partners.

With our customers in mind every step of the way, NPPD is embracing many opportunities this year that better connect us to the people and communities we serve in meaningful and memorable ways.

1. Our 50th Anniversary.

NPPD has maintained its competitive edge throughout the last 50 years by staying true to its mission to safely generate and distribute low-cost, sustainable energy and related services, while providing outstanding customer service. The needs of our customers have evolved since 1970, when we focused most on building out statewide infrastructure for improved reliability. Nowadays, reliability is a customer expectation. To remain competitive, we are working hard to create advantages that compliment public power's traditional role of generating and delivering electricity, through the development of value-added products and services, and the introduction of innovations to reduce our carbon intensity, all while keeping rates low. In a recent study examining total energy costs by state, Nebraska was ranked one of the lowest overall energy-cost states in the country and the lowest in the Midwest. In turn, NPPD is anticipating its fourth year of no increase in 2021 wholesale base rates, and its eighth year of no increase in retail base rates. Funds in excess of 10% of our rate stabilization fund will also be returned to our wholesale customers for the third year in a row – money they can use to further public power's mission and better support their own customers. We are positioning ourselves to provide safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable power to Nebraskans for another 50 years, and beyond.



2. Decarbonization Efforts.

Since NPPD's inception, we have played an essential role in providing electric energy and services fundamental to Nebraskans' quality of life and economic stability. The world is experiencing an incredible pace of change, including movement toward cleaner generation sources, and NPPD is committed to improving our already enviable clean generation portfolio, without compromising cost or reliability. A diverse mix of generation resources is integral. Based on a two-year rolling average from 2018 and 2019, 61% of the electricity we provide to our customers is carbon-free thanks to powerhouses like nuclear and green energy sources like solar, hydropower and wind. We know true sustainability means carefully balancing positive environmental, economic and societal outcomes. Embracing energy efficiency incentives, community solar projects or the buildout of electric vehicle infrastructure helps further our advances toward a low-carbon future. Even better, it allows us to serve electric consumers in new and beneficial ways and work with them to make even smarter energy choices. As we further decarbonize our generation mix, new and emerging technologies like carbon capture and sequestration, alternative fuel sources and improvements in battery storage will lead us into the future.



3. Diversity and Inclusion.

Though we exist to keep our customers' lights on, excellence is required not just within our operations, but in our relationships, too. 2020 has pushed many to their breaking points. At times, it's propagated fear and divisiveness. But we can, and always should, uphold integrity and honor humanity. NPPD aspires for a culture focused on inclusion, understanding and compassion. It begins with conversation, open ears and hearts, and respect for all. NPPD values diverse experiences, opinions and backgrounds. We welcome diversity of thought and expertise. And, we aim to create a safe environment in which teammates can contribute to the best of their abilities and pursue their aspirations without fear.

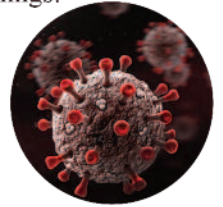


Internally, we've arranged events that allow teammates to learn from each other's experiences, while unlearning past biases or microaggressions holding us back from growth. Fear or ignorance are not an excuse for us to tolerate what is happening around us. Instead, we must take action to support, strengthen

and unite our statewide businesses and communities. NPPD is honored to take part in several discussions with diverse organizations to further these efforts.

4. COVID-19 Pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic may be far from over, but it has proved two things:

1. NPPD teammates are actively adapting to challenging times, and 2. Flexibility is key to our success and happiness. NPPD has experienced minimal positive cases of the virus in our facilities, and our multi-level corporate, facility and departmental recovery and reentry plans speak to our commitment to protect not just each other, but the communities in which we live and work. Practicing good hygiene, social distancing, cleaning and mask-wearing efforts are non-negotiable for us, and slow and steady is our mantra. NPPD is cautiously monitoring virus trends from county, health district, state and national viewpoints. As we respond accordingly, we will always put the safety of our teammates, assets and customers first so we can continue to provide the reliable power to which our customers are accustomed. In turn, we are listening to our customers and their needs. Teammates and customers have generously contributed to our Pennies 4 Power program this year, which provides financial relief to customers struggling to pay their bills.



5. Innovation and Collaboration.

We're not only committed to improving offerings to customers, but in bettering their quality of life, too. An ongoing collaboration with Paige Wireless opens the door to nearly limitless ways to do so, allowing Nebraska to lead the way as the first in North America to host a statewide Internet of Things (IoT) network like the one Paige Wireless is developing. Under this partnership, we are working closely with the Nebraska Rural Electric Association and our wholesale partners to help Paige Wireless reach the most remote corners of the state with its LoRaWAN network. This nonproprietary network will build interconnectivity by way of the IoT and low-cost sensors, radios and base stations that contain limitless applications for all. It will be a much more affordable, effective and convenient means to access and leverage data that will influence and improve our efficiencies, sustainability, and economies. Collaborating with internet service providers, wireless internet service providers, and telecommunications businesses on broadband initiatives will enable us to reach that last mile in ways previously thought impossible, driving home continued benefits to customers. For local utilities, our partnership with Paige Wireless can help us identify cutting-edge solutions to how we best generate power and continue innovating our industry to stay competitive, reliable, sustainable and low-cost.



Make your basement or crawl space more efficient

by Pat Keegan

Q : I've heard that energy can be lost through my home's basement. Is that true? If so, what can I do to make my basement more efficient?

A : Yes, basements can account for a large portion of your home's energy use, especially in colder climates. More importantly, basements are often a key area when you're looking to improve the energy efficiency of your home. Crawl spaces can also waste energy, so we'll address ways to improve the efficiency of those areas as well.

Moisture is a common problem in basements and crawl spaces, and can lead to mold, rot and lowered effectiveness of insulation. It should be noted that as you make efficiency improvements, you can solve moisture problems, but you could potentially make them worse if you're unsure of the work you're conducting. Look carefully for signs of water damage or moisture buildup, such as rotting wood, mold, a stain on a wall or floor or a musty smell. Any untreated wood in contact with a cement floor or wall could be rotting. Crawl spaces can be muddy or even have standing water in them if gutters or the slope of the landscaping drains in the wrong direction. Once drainage problems are solved, the crawl space should have a ground vapor barrier.

Before making improvements, you should also consider whether radon or carbon monoxide could be a problem. If you live in an area where radon has been a problem, you should conduct a radon test through a licensed professional or purchase a DIY home test kit. Carbon monoxide problems can be deadly. If you have any type of

combustion occurring in the basement or crawl space, whether it's a furnace, water heater or even a fireplace, make sure they have adequate ventilation and that you have working carbon monoxide detectors nearby.

Insulation is an effective tool for



reducing energy use and improving comfort, but the applications are quite different in basements and crawl spaces. In both cases, the insulation strategy and the installation must be done correctly to prevent mold or exacerbate moisture problems.

The place to begin in basements is the rim joist, which is right above the sill plate on the top of the foundation wall. Rigid foam board can be carefully fitted between the joists.

Insulated basement walls make a room more comfortable. If you're building a new home, there are advantages to insulating the outside of the foundation wall, but this isn't practical for most existing homes. You can insulate the inside of the foundation wall if you're sure moisture is not leaking through the wall from the outside. Experts do not recommend fiberglass insulation in contact with the foundation, which was a common practice for decades.

Instead, they prefer sprayed-on foam or rigid foam board applied directly to the foundation wall. A wood-framed wall can be butted up against the rigid foam and insulated with fiberglass or mineral wool batts. The bottom plate of the wall, which sits on the concrete floor, should be pressure treated wood.

There are two ways to insulate crawl spaces. Over the past several years, the most common approach was to insulate under the floor with fiberglass batts. This allowed the crawl space to be vented to the

outside, which alleviated any moisture buildup. If all the right moisture control and drainage steps have been taken, the crawl space can be unventilated, and the insulation can be applied to the foundation walls instead of underneath the floor. That said, there are pros and cons to this strategy, so do some research online or consult with a local expert.

Here are a few additional ways you can save energy in your basement:

- Insulate the hot water pipe exiting your water heater;
- Install LED light bulbs;
- Replace appliances that are located in the basement (like water heaters, washers or dryers) with newer, energy efficient models.

As you can see, there are several steps you can take to make your basement or crawl space more efficient. If you're unsure about any of these steps, be sure to talk to a professional first.

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— J. Fitzgerald, VA

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Make your voice count

*Cast your vote on
November 3*

- ✓ CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION
- ✓ LEARN WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT
- ✓ MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE
- ✓ REMEMBER TO VOTE



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ✓ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
RURAL VOTES COUNT

**ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 3RD, 2020**

Nebraska's rural electric utilities' top priority is providing consumer-members with safe, reliable and affordable energy. But this job requires a lot more than stringing and maintaining power lines. It requires political engagement. That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to the services rural electric utilities provide.

That's why public power districts and electric co-ops in Nebraska are participating in Rural Votes Count, a nonpartisan program that encourages all public power district and electric co-op members to participate in national, state and local elections. The program also aims to educate political candidates and elected officials about the important role rural electric utilities play in their local communities.

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association, the statewide organization representing 34 of Nebraska's public power districts and electric co-ops, launched Rural Votes Count in 2016. The program started as a get-out-the-vote initiative to help drive rural voter turnout.

As public power districts and electric co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show concern for community through participation in our democracy.

We also have another advantage. Elected officials and decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the rural electric utility family has put into political engagement. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities.

We know Election Day may look a little different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that's why we're encouraging all Nebraskans to stay engaged and informed of any changes to polling locations or absentee and mail-in balloting procedures.

Voting is central to American democracy. We hope you will commit to cast your ballot on November 3. To learn more about the upcoming elections and access resources that can help you stay informed, visit nrea-action.org.

Know the difference between disinfecting and sanitizing

When it comes to cleaning, not all jobs are created equal. When you've got a big mess in the kitchen—do you clean, disinfect or sanitize? These terms are often used interchangeably, but believe it or not, each are different.

Cleaning dirt or food from a surface, for example, doesn't necessarily kill germs and bacteria that can cause us to become sick. That's why it's important to know the difference between disinfecting and sanitizing. The CDC offers the following guidance.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection. Hospitals, for



example, disinfect areas that have come into contact with bodily fluids, and parents typically disinfect areas where a baby's diaper is changed.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection. Most people sanitize kitchen surfaces that come into contact with food.

Pay close attention to hazard warnings and directions on product labels. Cleaning products and disinfectants often call for the use of gloves or eye protection. For example, gloves should always be worn to protect your hands when working with bleach solutions.

Visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus for more information on how to protect yourself and your family.

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Add an Asian flair to classic dishes

Combine the best of both worlds with an ethnic favorite straight off the grill. These Asian Carne Asada Tacos require less than half an hour of prep and cook time for a quick, easy family meal.

Skirt steak is marinated in a NAKANO Seasoned Rice Vinegar-based marinade for a unique, delicious flavor combination before hitting a hot grill then layering in tortillas with your desired garnishes.

A distinctive and unexpected ingredient like rice vinegar is an easy way to bring faraway flavors to your favorite summer dishes. This pantry staple adds an Asian-inspired flavor to recipes of all kinds, from marinades to high-end meals.

Explore a new way to enjoy steak this summer with a recipe for zesty, marinated beef paired with crisp broccolini and peppers to give a familiar dish a fresh makeover using flavors from another origin.

Find more flavorful ways to put an Asian twist on your summer dishes at nakanoflavors.com.

To watch a video of this recipe being made, scan the QR Code or visit the URL



<https://youtu.be/mt3L1ZgzB2w>



Asian Carne Asada Tacos

- 1 1/2 pounds beef skirt steak
- 1 1/2 cup NAKANO Seasoned Rice Vinegar
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons sambal oelek (Asian chili garlic sauce)
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons ancho chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin

Pickled Onions:

- 1/4 cup water
- 1 medium red onion, halved, thinly sliced

- corn tortillas, warmed
- roasted tomato or tomatillo salsa
- cilantro sprigs
- sliced avocados
- thinly sliced radishes

Using fork, pierce steak at 1/2-inch intervals. In large bowl, whisk vinegar, sugar, sambal oelek and salt. Reserve 1/4 cup mixture for later use. Add soy sauce, oil, chili powder and cumin to remaining vinegar mixture. Add steak; turn to coat. Let stand 10 minutes to marinate.

To make pickled onions: In medium microwaveable bowl, combine water and reserved vinegar mixture. Microwave 2-3 minutes, or until hot. Add onions, submerging in vinegar mixture. Let stand at room temperature until cool.

Preheat grill to high heat. Grill steaks 1-2 minutes on each side, or until medium rare. Let stand 5 minutes before slicing against grain into thin strips.

Serve with tortillas, salsa, pickled onions, cilantro, avocado and radishes.

Spicy Steak and Broccoli

- 1 beef tenderloin (1 1/2 pounds), cut into 2-inch cubes
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 3 tablespoons avocado oil, divided
- 2 cups multicolored, mini sweet peppers, cut into thin rings
- 1/4 pound broccolini, cut into 3-inch sections
- 2 large shallots, chopped
- 1/4 cup NAKANO Seasoned Rice Vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon sambal oelek (Asian-chili garlic sauce) or sriracha
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger

In medium bowl, combine beef, soy sauce, cornstarch, black pepper and garlic powder.

In large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil. Add peppers, broccolini and shallots; cook 3 minutes, or until tender crisp. Transfer to clean bowl.

In same skillet over high heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil until shimmering. Add half of beef in single layer. Cook undisturbed 2 minutes, or until bottoms are browned. Stir. Cook 1 minute, or until outer surfaces are no longer pink. Transfer to bowl with vegetables. Repeat with remaining oil and beef. Return beef and vegetables to skillet over medium-high heat.

In small bowl, combine rice vinegar, sugar, sambal oelek, salt and ginger. Add mixture to pan. Cook 2 minutes, or until sauce is slightly thickened.

Ham & Bean Soup

- 1 48 oz. jar Great Northern Navy beans or 1 1/2 cup dry navy beans, soaked overnight
- Bone-in ham
- Water to cover ham (about 7 cups depending on ham size)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 6 – 7 potatoes, peeled and diced; boiled separately in pot of water

Simmer ham, onion and salt until ham falls off the bone, about 2 or 2 1/2 hours depending on ham size. Remove meat from bone, chop and add it to soup. Then add beans and potatoes and let it sit on low heat for about two additional hours.

Irene Guenther, West Point, Nebraska

Grandma's Corn Pudding

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 can (14.75 oz.) cream-style corn
- 1/2 cups sugar
- 5 slices day-old bread, crusts removed
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine, softened

In a bowl, beat eggs and milk. Add corn and sugar, mix well. Cut bread into 1/2 inch cubes and place into a greased 9 inch square baking dish. Pour egg mixture over bread. Dot with butter. Bake uncovered on a 350 degree oven for 50 to 60 minutes or until knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Serves 9. Very good!

Delores Hansen, Stanton, Nebraska

Beef Steak Pie with Potato Crust

- 1 lb. beef round steak cut into 1-inch cubes and floured
- 3 Tablespoons shortening
- 3 small onions, diced
- 3 Tablespoons flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- dash of thyme and garlic salt
- 2 cups water
- 3 medium potatoes pared and thinly sliced
- salt
- paprika

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Cut meat into 1-inch cubes. Coat with flour. Melt shortening in skillet; brown meat on all sides and put into ungreased 2 quart casserole. Add onion to skillet: cook and stir until onion is tender. Add to the meat mixture and stir; sprinkle with 3 Tablespoons flour, salt, pepper, thyme, and garlic salt. Pour water over mixture. Cover and bake 45-60 minutes or until meat is tender. Increase oven temperature to 450 degrees. Arrange potatoes on meat, sprinkle with salt and paprika. Bake uncovered for 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Serves 4.

Suzanne Riedel, Hadar, Nebraska

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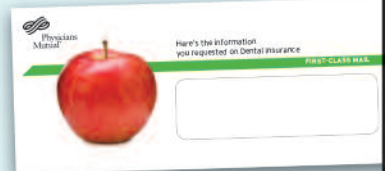
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