

Perennial NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Vol. 19
No. 5
October 2018



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Powering the Good Life

October is Public Power Month.

Button Up Your Home For Winter

There are some simple things you can do to save energy this winter.



Public Power – It Matters

Over the years I have written many articles about the benefits of public power. In continuing to do so, you would think that I might be worried that people would get tired of hearing me tout the virtues of what makes the electric utility structure in Nebraska unique and great. But I can never seem to get enough.

As we celebrate public power month in October, it's worth reminding folks that Nebraska is the only state in the nation where all electric utilities are publicly owned. This is one of the few things that sets us apart from everyone else in the country. That is of course, until Scott Frost leads our beloved Huskers back to the land of national prominence.

You might ask yourself why it's such a big deal to be served by a publicly owned utility. Does it really matter? Call me biased if you want, but absolutely it matters.

To me, the most important advantage of being served by one of Nebraska's public power utilities is the control that you can have on its operations. Being served by people that you elect to represent your interests on the board of directors and having board meetings that are open for you to attend and express your comments and concerns allows you the optimum amount of control. You not only own your electric utility, you can participate in running it. What this means is you can benefit from better service, more affordable energy, and a utility

that just plain cares about your well-being and the community that you live in. And because the utilities are local, public power customers know if they have questions about anything regarding their service, they can stop in the local office and get answers from a friendly face.



Working for
Nebraska

In addition to being affordable and reliable, public power promotes economic development and supports business growth. Public power utilities also help the local economy by making payments to communities in lieu of taxes, which helps lower everyone's tax burden.

Many of the benefits of rural public power are highlighted well by our state association, the Nebraska Rural Electric Association. To see what I am talking about, check out the website www.workingfornebraska.org to learn how rural electric systems are working for Nebraska.

I encourage you to promote public power this month and always. Be proud of it. After all, you own and control it. And don't forget to tell people how lucky they are to be served by public power. It matters.



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General Manager

Perennial News(USPS 21610)

is published bimonthly by:

Perennial Public Power District
2122 South Lincoln Avenue
York, NE 68467

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Subscription Rates: \$1.00 per issue

Periodical postage paid at York, NE.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:

Perennial News
2122 South Lincoln Avenue
York, NE 68467

Button Up Your Home For Winter

Colder weather will be here before we know it. Is your home ready? Fall is a great time to prepare your home for the colder weather.



Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates to prevent air leaks.

To lessen the air leakage through your walls, you can install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on walls. Caulk and seal air leaks around door and window frames and where plumbing, ducting or electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings. Add weather stripping to doors and windows that leak air.

Inspect dirty spots in your insulation for air leaks and mold. Seal any leaks with low-expansion spray foam made for this purpose and install house flashing if needed.

Look for any soiled areas on your ceiling paint and carpet, this can indicate possible air leaks at interior walls; ceiling or floor joists. Caulk air leaks to prevent drafts in your home. Cover single-pane windows with storm windows or replace them with more efficient double-pane low-emissivity windows.

Check your kitchen exhaust fan to verify that the damper closes properly or cover the fan to stop air leaks when not in use. Check your dryer vent to be sure it is not blocked; this will not only save energy but may also prevent a fire.

Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets. Keep the fireplace flue damper tightly closed when not in use. Seal air leaks around fireplace chimneys, furnaces, and gas-fired water heater vents with fire-resistant materials; such as sheet metal or sheetrock and furnace cement caulk.

After sealing up the places where you had air leakage in your home, you can move to the next step in winterizing your home, which is checking to make sure your insulation is appropriate. Insulation is important for reducing heat flow through the parts of the home that separate the interior from the outside elements, including walls, roof, and foundation.

Insulation in your attic should be between 12 inches and 18 inches thick. If your attic needs more than six inches of insulation installed be sure to contact Perennial about our EnergyWise Attic Insulation incentive. Homes that have crawl spaces should have insulation equal to the floor joist width.

If your attic or crawl space have enough insulation and are properly sealed and your home still feels drafty; it is possible that your furnace may not be functioning properly. A Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) specialist can evaluate if your HVAC system has design or maintenance issues. If you notice that exterior walls are cool to the touch, you may need to have a contractor insulate exterior walls.

Consider thermostat settings next, since heating and cooling your home typically represent about 35 - 40 percent of your home's total energy use. You might also want to check the accuracy of

your thermostat by placing a quality thermometer on top of it and comparing readings.

You can save as much as 10 percent per year on heating and cooling by adjusting your temperature setting by a few degrees for 8 hours a day in the fall and winter. If you have a heat pump, you should only do this if you have a smart or programmable thermostat that is designed for use with heat pumps.

If your thermostat must be set manually, keep in mind that reducing indoor temperature by one degree and leaving it there for the winter should reduce heating costs by about 3 percent. This is true for every degree of reduction for the first several; a three degree reduction could save approximately 8 or 9 percent.

Clean your HVAC system and replace the filter. If you have trouble remembering to change your HVAC filters, you can sign up for FilterEasy through Perennial's website and they will automatically send you HVAC filters on the schedule you select.

Finally, you can check your windows. Windows can be a beautiful addition to any home, but they can also greatly increase your heating and cooling bills if they are not energy efficient. During the winter, windows can let in heat from the sun which can help heat the home, but poorly installed windows can also be drafty and make your HVAC system work harder. If you elect to replace windows, make sure windows are installed according to manufacturer's instructions; otherwise, your warranty may be void.

There are additional things you can do to help keep your house nice and toasty in the winter. Install tight-fitting, insulating window shades on windows that feel drafty. Close your curtains and shades at night to protect against cold drafts; open them during the day to let in warming sunlight. Apply low-e film on the inside of your windows to keep heat from radiating out. Or install low-e exterior or interior storm windows, which can save you between 12 - 33 percent on heating and cooling costs, depending on the type of window already installed in the home. Repair and weatherize your current storm windows, if necessary.

For more tips on how to weatherize your home visit energy.gov or contact Courtney VanSkiver at Perennial at 402-362-3355.



A programmable thermostat can help reduce energy use.



October is a special month for Public Power utilities and Electric Cooperatives alike because it's National Public Power Month. It's a time set aside to celebrate the benefits gained from having a public power district or an electric cooperative in your community. October 7 – 13, 2018 is Public Power Week, which is an annual national event coordinated by the American Public Power Association in Washington, D.C.

Nebraska is the only state in the United States where every home and business is served by a publicly owned utility. Nebraska has 166 different community-owned utilities that power the "Good Life" in Nebraska. Here are some additional facts about public power in Nebraska:

Public Power is affordable. On a national average, public power rates are lower than those of other utility companies. That's because local, not-for-profit utilities have the power to put their neighbors first. Keeping energy costs affordable serves every community's long-term needs, and that's what public power is all about. Locally owned utilities achieve affordability by setting rates using community-controlled boards that hold public meetings, as well as financing improvements with municipal revenue bonds that are exempt from federal income tax.

Public Power is reliable. Community-owned utility rates pay for maintenance and reinvestments in important infrastructure needs. According to the Best State ranking from U.S. News and World Report, Nebraska was recently ranked number 1 nationally in power grid reliability. In the past several years, Perennial has worked hard to upgrade the infrastructure to safely deliver reliable electrical service. These upgrades not only improve service quality daily, they provide Perennial with more options when restoring electrical service after major storms.

Public Power means local control. Nebraska citizens have a direct and powerful voice in the utility's decisions and policies, both at the ballot box and in open meetings where business is conducted. You elect the board members who govern Perennial. Not only are members of the Board of Directors members of the community they

serve, but they are the people you choose to represent you.

Public Power is community-focused. Perennial is owned and accountable to the people we serve. Public power districts work with local, regional and state economic development organizations to position communities and regions for economic growth, because we want to help our communities to grow and attract new businesses. For

LET'S TALK RELIABLE POWER

Nebraska ranks as
THE BEST STATE
for power grid
reliability

- #1 Nebraska
- #2 Arizona
- #3 North Dakota
- #4 Rhode Island
- #5 Nevada



Through rain, wind, snow, sleet and hail,
**NEBRASKANS TRUST
PUBLIC POWER**
will get their power on as
soon as safely possible



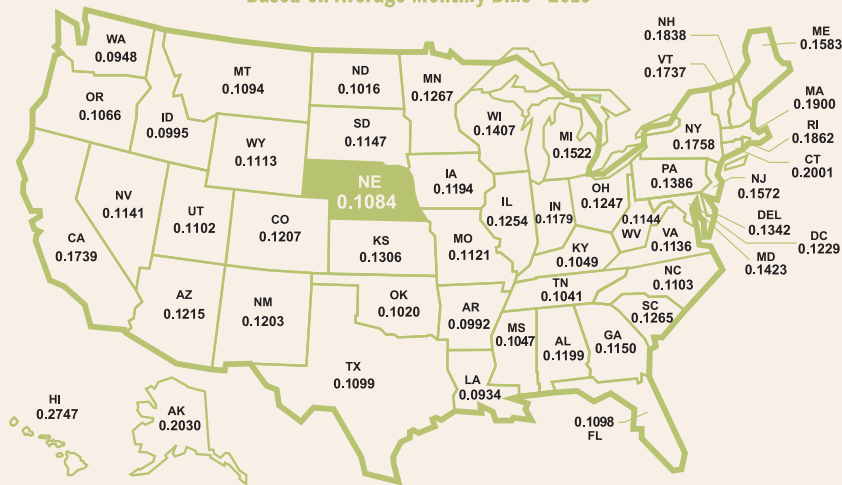
POWERING

Images provided by



Residential Electric Rates in Cents per kWh

Based on Average Monthly Bills - 2016



Source: Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Utility Report." Data obtained November 2017. All data is final.

example, Perennial actively participates in the development of the communities in our service area, through leadership roles and financial commitments.

Public Power Districts also offer customers assistance to help them understand their energy needs. The intention being to help them manage their energy resources efficiently and cost-effectively. For example, Perennial offers several energy efficiency rebates to customers. We also have an "Energy Advisor" interactive feature on our website. This free resource can help consumers analyze their bill as well as estimate how much energy each appliance in their house uses.

This year to celebrate Public Power Week, Perennial will be visiting the three schools we serve to do an electrical

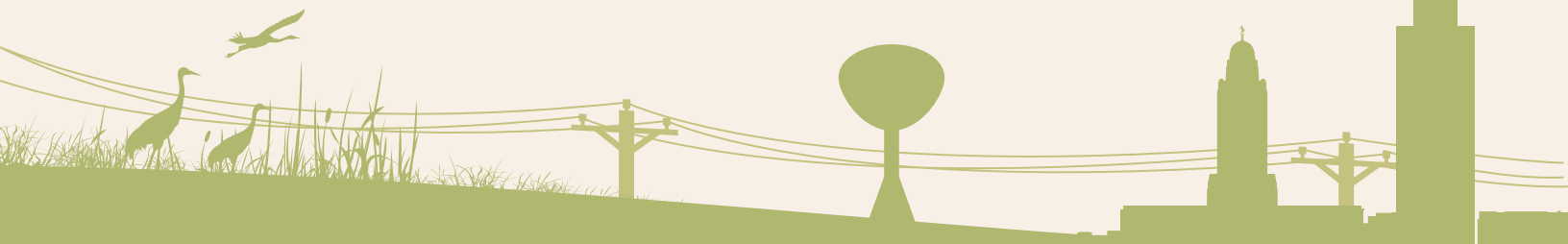
safety presentation for the elementary grades. Additionally, we will have the public powered electric car available at each school presentation. We will be at McCool Junction on Monday, October 8th, Heartland Community School on Tuesday, October 9th, and finally at Exeter/Milligan on Wednesday, October 10th. The rest of the week, we will have the public powered electric car at our office for customers to look at if they are interested in seeing an all-electric vehicle or learning more about all-electric vehicles.

Public power helps power the good life in Nebraska by remaining reliable and affordable from one generation to the next.



The public powered electric car will be available at three school presentations and at our offices to celebrate Public Power Week. Photo by Courtney VanSkiver.

the GOOD LIFE



P E R E N N I A L EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Kory McManigal

Lead Line Technician



15
YEARS

Linemen enjoy working outdoors in all kinds of weather, even the worst that nature can dish out! Kory McManigal is no exception. When asked what he likes about his job, he stated that, "He enjoys working out in the country every day and keeping the lights on for everyone." Kory McManigal is celebrating working at Perennial for 15 years this month. McManigal attend the Utility Line program at Northeast Community College (NECC) in Norfolk after he graduated from high school.

After completing the program at NECC, he started his career at Perennial in October of 2003 as an apprentice line technician. Apprentice linemen must complete

Perennial's apprentice line program and perform satisfactorily in the field for a number of years before they can advance to a journeyman line technician. Today, Kory serves Perennial as a lead line technician.

Kory resides in York with his wife Ashley and his daughters Kadence, age 10, Alivia, age 7 and Avery, age 3. After work, McManigal enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family. Perennial is blessed to have employees like Kory who work outdoors and take pride in serving the public and making sure everyone has safe and reliable electricity. Thank you, Kory for 15 years of hard work and dedication!

Jeremy Styskal

Systems Technician



25
YEARS

Jeremy Styskal began working for the District in 1993 as an Apprentice Line Technician. He was promoted to Journeyman Line Technician in 1997 and then Lead Line Technician in 2005. In 2008 his career changed significantly when he accepted the position of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Technician. This technology has given the District several benefits to better serve our customers including outage notification, transformer loading, voltage monitoring, and others. Jeremy has been a vital asset in implementing our AMI technology which continues to evolve every year.

The District also operates a SCADA, Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition, system. The District uses this technology to monitor substations, control circuit switches, and log power system data. Jeremy troubleshoots RTUs, Remote Terminal Units, and other end devices. He

is our expert in field communications and keeps the system working effectively. In 2015 his title was changed to Systems Technician to include these responsibilities.

Each summer the District serves the electric loads of irrigation wells in York and Fillmore Counties. This additional load increases power demands which can reach 100 megawatts, the equivalent of 130,400 horsepower. We try to keep this demand much lower by offering load control to irrigators. Jeremy assembles and programs load control switches which are then installed on irrigation well panels. We currently have over a 1000 switches in the District. He also shares responsibilities in operating the load control system and monitoring load reductions during control periods.

After 25 years it is easy to see how Jeremy has progressed by his promotions and career changes at Perennial. We have

valued the extra effort he has given to the job. Styskal stated, "Being in the metering field over the years has been a challenging and rewarding career. The industry constantly changes and I'm always learning something new." If you see Jeremy, make sure to congratulate him on his work anniversary. Jeremy and his wife Tammy live in McCool Junction. Jeremy enjoys fishing, and collecting antiques.

Why So Many Transformers?

Why so many transformers? One word, **RELIABILITY!** Reliability means that the energy is always there to meet your electrical needs. Just like when you go to the grocery store for food or the gas station for gas, you rely on the store to have the product you need. Several times throughout the year Perennial Public Power District needs to replenish our transformer inventory to readily respond to your electrical needs.

What exactly is a transformer? It's simple, the name says it all. It transforms the electricity that runs through Perennial's transmission and distribution power lines into a voltage in which you can use in your home or business. Perennial's distribution power lines have 12,470 volts running through them. That is a lot more voltage than homes and most businesses need. Most of our customers need 120 volts to turn on the lights and power small appliances. Some electric motors require 240 volts, and irrigation wells need as much as 480 volts.

Transformers are not a one size fits all. There are many different voltages and sizes of transformers. If you add electrical load, they can easily be overloaded causing them to fail and nobody wants that to happen. It is important for you to let our office know well in advance of any changes that you are planning to make that will result in an increase in your electric consumption and may require larger transformers and other equipment to meet your electrical needs.



Transformers are expensive and there is usually a manufacturing lead time that we need to take into consideration upon ordering. To help keep costs low Perennial participates in a joint buying group, along with other Public Power Districts in Nebraska. This 'group purchasing' increases our buying power and helps reduce the cost of the equipment and materials that we buy to serve you. We also try to order "Factory Direct" from the manufacturers, which also reduces costs.

The bottom line is, we will do all we can to keep the equipment costs low and you can help by being in contact with Perennial when you are making changes to your service.

Jeff Burk

Manager of Purchasing and Warehousing

Operations Report

Fall 2018

This summer contractor crews completed the installation of a new three-phase underground cable crossing at the Waco I-80 Interchange. Additionally, Perennial crews installed new voltage regulators north of the Waco Interchange to further support the growth in the area. Perennial crews will continue to rebuild an existing three-phase power line with larger conductors from Waco towards York. Furthermore, a three-phase line northeast of Bradshaw is being upgraded with larger conductors to increase the reliability in this area.

In the Village of Benedict, a single-phase line was rebuilt and converted into a three-phase power line. This conversion will provide better infrastructure to Benedict and it will limit the number of customers that need to have power interruptions while crews are changing out poles in the upcoming months. In addition to these two upgrade projects, crews will also continue to complete pole replacements in rural York County. Trimming trees from power lines will be done as time permits. It is important to maintenance good

clearance between tree branches and power lines for your safety and to prevent power outages. Your safety is important to us, we would like to remind everyone to always look up for overhead power lines.



Perennial crews upgrading the electrical infrastructure in Benedict. *Photo by Will Clayton*

Lastly, if you are considering an upgrade or a new service, please keep Perennial in mind when planning your project. It is very helpful if we are notified in advance about your electrical needs, so we can order material for your project.

Randy Martin

Manager of Operations

Utility Line Scholarship

Perennial Public Power District is offering a \$1,000 per year scholarship to a student planning to enroll in an accredited utility line program. Applicants must reside within Perennial's service area to be eligible.

This scholarship program is aimed at highly-motivated and safety-conscious individuals who want to become a line technician. Participation in this program offered by Perennial does not guarantee future employment by Perennial.

The application deadline for this scholarship is December 31, 2018. Scholarship applications and applicant guidelines are available on our website, www.perennialpower.com or contact Courtney VanSkiver at courtneyv@perennialpower.com.

Important Dates to Remember

November 4, 2018 - Daylight Saving Time Ends
Don't Forget to Change Your Clocks!

November 6, 2018 - Election Day
Make Your Vote Count!

November 12, 2018 - Veteran's Day
Perennial's Office Will Be Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day

November 22-23, 2018 - Thanksgiving
Perennial's Office Will Be Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temperatures are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended if your home heating system uses ductwork to deliver heat to your rooms. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

