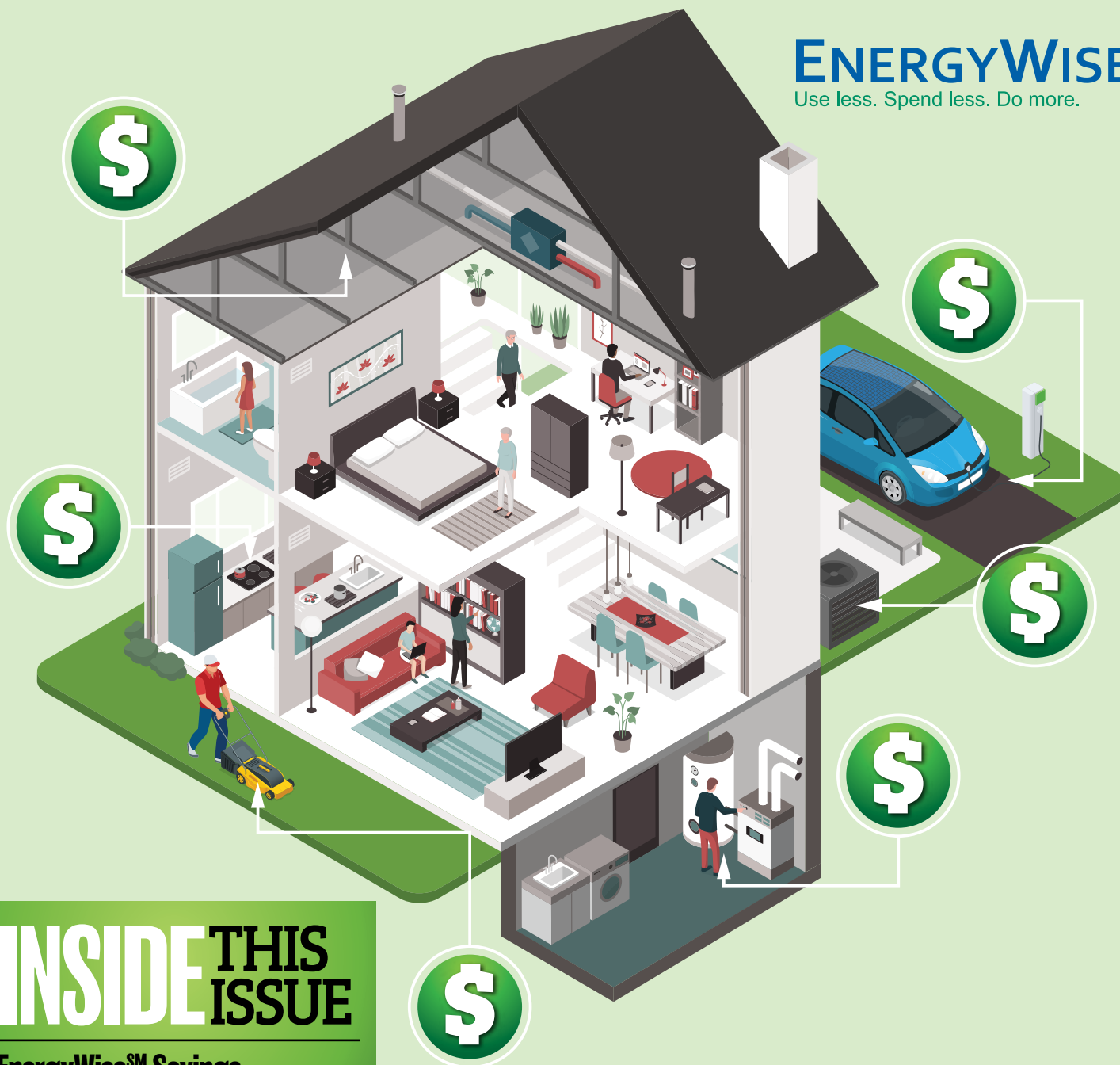


# Perennial NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

February 2023  
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No. 1

**ENERGYWISE**<sup>SM</sup>  
Use less. Spend less. Do more.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> Savings

Take advantage of energy efficient incentives to update your electrical systems and save money.

### Space Heater Safety

Here are some tips to use them safely during these chilly winter months.

Energy for Generations  
**PERENNIAL**<sup>TM</sup>  
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

## Continued Rate Reduction for 2023



**Matthew Moffitt**  
General Manager

I am sure one topic we all have in common and can relate to is the continual price increase in almost everything we need or want in our daily lives, not to mention the challenge of procuring these goods and services. The aforementioned was magnified by the storms Perennial Public Power District (Perennial) experienced in 2022. These storms cost Perennial roughly \$1.2 million dollars and drastically depleted its material stock levels. Although almost all of Perennial's uncontrollable operating expenses continue to rise to higher levels, and with the addition of the unforeseen expense of the storms, we are proud of the fact that next year will be Perennial's 10th consecutive year without a base rate increase.

I have more good news, in addition to not having to raise base electric rates next year, your board of directors approved continuing to reduce your rates by returning a Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) in 2023. The PCA returned to you in 2023 will be a credit of \$0.002450 per kilowatt-hour and reflects 50% of the rate Perennial returned in 2022. Every year Perennial's wholesale power provider, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), uses cost projections to set rates and budgets on historic data to predict its revenue and expenses. Many of their assumptions are similar to the assumptions or variables we use to set Perennial's rates and budgets, such as historic revenue,

expenses, weather, and work plan to name a few. However, one unique variable NPPD has had over the last few years is the ability to realize surplus margins through the selling of excess power into the regional market, as well as the operation of their power plants and transmission system. Recently, NPPD announced its plan for a one-year refund of surplus margins (PCA) to Perennial and other wholesale customers in 2023. Perennial's 2023 PCA rate that will be credited back to you is closely derived from this plan. The PCA is not a permanent credit, and whether a credit will be seen in 2024 is not certain.

What is certain is that Perennial continues to evaluate, plan, and adjust its operations to minimize the effects of the uncontrollable historic high inflationary environment we are experiencing. The value of stable prices, especially during today's climate, is extremely valuable. I take great pride in delivering this message to you, and that we are here for you to provide a safe and reliable service at a value. Perennial could not have accomplished this no rate increase and rate decrease streak without the dedication of Perennial's employees, the guidance of Perennial's board of directors, and having NPPD as a wholesale power provider. If we could keep the cost of groceries, rent, fuel and other household monthly expenses the same for 10-years, most of us would welcome the stability.

### On Our Cover:

Take advantage of our EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> incentives which will help you save money and energy.

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# Interactive Voice Response



Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology allows customers to interact with Perennial Public Power District 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Perennial's IVR system is compliant with both Payment Card Industry (PCI) and National Automated Clearing House Association (Nacha) standards, providing a high level of payment security. These requirements are designed to help companies that process payments to prevent credit card fraud through increased data controls. Changing to this system ensures Perennial's continued ability to accept debit and credit card payments.

If you are calling from a phone number that is associated with your account, the IVR utilizes caller-id functionality and will automatically identify your account number. If you are calling from another number, you may enter your account number, or look-up your account number by entering the phone number associated with your account.

Perennial Public Power District is committed to its customers. The personal touch and exceptional customer service you are accustomed to is still only a phone call away to answer your questions and concerns, including questions on your bill. **If you do call the office to make a payment using a credit card, you will be transferred to the IVR to make a secure payment by phone.**

Customers may continue to pay through SmartHub on their mobile device or through the Pay Your Bill link on the homepage of Perennial Public Power District's website or by signing up for autopay.

## To Make a Payment via Phone

Call 1-877-487-4642 to pay Perennial Public Power District by phone.

Once you have verified the account number or numbers given by the IVR System:

Inquire About Bill Press **1**

To Check Your Account Status Press **1**  
To Make A Payment Press **2**

To Look Up Your Information  
Using Your Phone Number Press **1**  
Using Your Account Number Press **2**

The IVR will give you multiple account numbers if you have multiple accounts.

The IVR will give you the amount due and the due date

To Pay The Total Amount Due Press **1**  
To Enter A Specific Payment Amount Press **2**



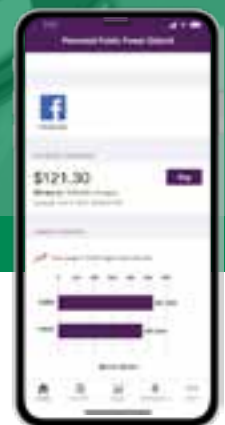
## SMARTHUB

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.

On the go and in control. SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to do business with us like never before.

- Manage your account
- Receive important notices
- View and pay your bill
- Monitor usage 24/7

...all in the palm of your hand and online.



Visit [www.perennialpower.com/pay-your-bill](http://www.perennialpower.com/pay-your-bill) for details



# Are You ENERGYWISE<sup>SM</sup>?

## Check out these 2023 EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> Incentives

EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> programs offer incentives to residential, commercial and agriculture customers to help cover the cost of a variety of energy-efficient upgrades. The following programs are available to Perennial Public Power District customers.

### Residential Programs

#### High Efficiency Heat Pump Program

| Type of Heat Pump   | Incentive Criteria (SEER Ratings)   | Incentive Criteria (SEER2 Ratings)  | Incentive |
|---|---|---|-----------|
| Ductless Mini-split   | 16+ SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF  | 16+ SEER2, 12.5 EER2, 7.7 HSPF2   | \$400     |
| Ductless Mini-split   | Variable Capacity <i>(Inverter Driven)*</i>   | Variable Capacity <i>(Inverter Driven)*</i>   | \$600     |
| Ductless Mini-split<br><i>(Multi heads, 3 ton or greater)</i> | Variable Capacity <i>(Inverter Driven)*</i>   | Variable Capacity <i>(Inverter Driven)*</i>   | \$1,200   |
| Air Source  | 15 - 15.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF  | Not Available After 2023  | \$400     |
| Air Source  | 16 - 16.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF  | 15.2 - 16 SEER2, 11.9 EER2, 7.5 HSPF2   | \$400     |
| Air Source  | 17 - 18.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF  | 16.1 - 18 SEER2, 11.9 EER2, 7.5 HSPF2   | \$800     |
| Air Source  | 19+ SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF  | 18.1+ SEER2, 11.9 EER2, 7.5 HSPF2   | \$1,200   |
| Air Source  | Variable Capacity <i>(Inverter Driven)*</i>   | Variable Capacity <i>(Inverter Driven)*</i>   | \$1,200   |
| Geothermal - 1 or 2 stages                                    | Any EER   | Any EER   | \$2,400   |
| Geothermal - Variable Capacity                                | 35+ EER, 5.0+ COP in GLHP <i>(partial load column of AHRI or Energy Star Certificate)</i> | 35+ EER, 5.0+ COP in GLHP <i>(partial load column of AHRI or Energy Star Certificate)</i> | \$3,300   |

\* Provide documentation that shows manufacturer and model number and that states the equipment "inverter driven"



#### Smart Thermostat

Homeowners may qualify for an incentive of up to \$100 for the installation of a qualifying smart thermostat.



#### Attic Insulation

\$0.30/square foot (with maximum incentive amount of \$600) per existing residential home. New construction and/or additions do not qualify.



#### Cooling System Tune Up

\$30 incentive to homeowners who have their cooling system tuned up, regardless of type or age of cooling system.



### Lawn and Garden

20 percent of purchase price for electric lawn mowers, chainsaws, tillers, and snow blowers.

### Heat Pump Water Heater

\$400 incentive for the installation of an air source heat pump water heater with an energy factor (EF) greater than 1.9.

\$650 incentive for the installation of a water or ground source heat pump water heater with a coefficient of performance (COP) value greater than 2.8.

### Induction Cooking

20 percent of purchase price for induction cooktop with a minimum width of 30 inches.

### Charge Point Charging Station

\$500 incentive for the installation of a residential ChargePoint charging station.

### Pre-wiring for Home Charging Station

\$400 incentive for new construction. Existing structure, actual cost (maximum of \$600) incentive.

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## Commercial Programs

### Variable Frequency Drive (Commercial and Industrial)

\$30 per horsepower - program is limited to drives from 1 to 200 horsepower. Equipment must operate at a minimum of 2,000 hours annually.

### Industrial Process

Customer must provide a description of existing process and the proposed changes along with an explanation of how energy savings will be achieved. In no case will the incentive be more than 50 percent of the invoiced project cost. Preapproval application

must be completed and approved to receive an incentive.

### Commercial HVAC

For a complete list of eligible equipment, visit [perennialpower.energywisenebraska.com/business](http://perennialpower.energywisenebraska.com/business).

### Prescriptive Lighting

Incentives are available to help cover the cost of a variety of energy-efficient upgrades to existing facilities (new construction does not qualify). For a full list of available incentives visit [perennialpower.energywisenebraska.com/business](http://perennialpower.energywisenebraska.com/business).



### HVAC System Optimization

An Energy Efficiency Consultant will visit site and provide an evaluation of the HVAC system.



### Corner Pivot Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)

\$12/horsepower to install a VFD in your corner pivot system.

## Agricultural Programs

### Agriculture Farrowing Heat Mats

\$40 to \$80 incentive is available for electric heat mats with automatic temperature control.

### Prescriptive Irrigation

\$500 incentive to replace all of a qualified irrigation system's existing outlet components. Visit [perennialpower.energywisenebraska.com/agriculture](http://perennialpower.energywisenebraska.com/agriculture) for more information.

### Custom Ag

This program provides incentives for agricultural energy efficiency improvements, as approved by a Nebraska Public Power District Energy Efficiency Consultant, that are not covered by other EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> programs. For more information about this incentive visit [perennialpower.energywisenebraska.com/agriculture](http://perennialpower.energywisenebraska.com/agriculture)

Contact: Courtney Giesenhagen  
402-362-3355 or 800-289-0288 | E-mail: [perennial@perennialpower.com](mailto:perennial@perennialpower.com)



# feeling chilled?

## Heat Your Space Safely

Majority of home heating fire deaths involve a space heater or other heating equipment

Heating equipment, such as space heaters, kerosene heaters, fireplaces, and wood-burning stoves, is a leading cause of fires in U.S. homes, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The term “homes” includes one- and two-family homes (including manufactured homes), apartments, townhouses, and other multi-family dwellings.

During a recent four-year period, local fire departments responded to an estimated average of 48,530 fires involving heating equipment each year. The fires resulted in 500 civilian deaths, 1,350 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage, according to NFPA's Home Heating Fires report published in 2021.

In addition:

- Heating equipment caused one in seven home fires and 19 percent of home fire deaths.
- Most home heating fire deaths (81 percent) included stationary or portable space heaters.
- More than half of the home heating fire deaths were caused by placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as furniture, clothing, mattresses, or bedding.
- Nearly half (48 percent) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January, and February.
- Failure to clean equipment, such as chimney flues, accounted for a quarter of all heating equipment fires.

In addition, approximately two in five home heating equipment fires involved items that ran on what is considered solid fuel, such as wood-burning or pellet stoves or wood-burning fireplaces. However, electric-powered heating devices were responsible for the largest share of losses, accounting for more than half of the fatalities, three in five injuries, and two-fifths of the property damage.

Follow these safety tips to use space heaters safely:

1. Read all instructions and use space heaters only as recommended.
2. Do not leave space heaters unattended.
3. Plug them directly into an outlet; most power strips and extension cords are not equipped to handle the energy spikes caused by space heaters cycling on and off.
4. Unplug any other items from the outlet you are using and try to use a dedicated circuit to avoid overload.
5. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
6. Turn the heaters off before you leave the room or go to sleep.
7. Do not use heaters that are in disrepair or have frayed cords or damaged plugs.
8. Place them on flat, level surfaces, and never on furniture, counters, or carpet, which can overheat.
9. Unplug and put space heaters away (out of the reach of children) when not in use.

Use space heaters with care. For additional safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.safepower.org).

1



Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away

2



Place on a flat, level surface

3



Make sure the cord is not frayed or cracked

4



Plug it directly into an outlet

5



Follow all instructions and use models endorsed by a reputable testing lab

6



Do not use an extension cord or powerstrip, which can overheat

7



Do not use around small children or pets

8



Do not use one with a damaged plug or prongs

# Preventing Electrical Overloads

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 47,700 home fires in the U.S. are caused by electrical failures or malfunctions each year. These fires result in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage. Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Help lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your electrical system.

## Overloaded circuit warning signs:

- Flickering, blinking, or dimming lights.
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses.
- Warm or discolored wall plates.
- Cracking, sizzling, or buzzing from receptacles.
- Burning odor coming from receptacles or wall switches.
- Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles, or switches.

## How to prevent electrical overloads:

- Never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances.
- All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Only plug one heat producing appliance into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have a qualified electrician inspect your home and add new outlets.
- Power strips only add additional outlets; they do not change the amount of power being received from the outlet.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 50 percent of electrical fires that occur every year can be prevented by Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs). AFCIs work by detecting hazardous arc-faults



and responding by interrupting power. Additionally, only use the appropriate watt bulb for any lighting fixture, using a larger watt light bulb may cause a fire.

Lastly, if you've added additional electrical load, such as a welder, switched to an electric hot water heater or a new building, you could be overloading your transformer. Please call Perennial so we can make sure your transformer is the correct size to prevent overloading the transformer.

## PERENNIAL EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Josh Seaberg

*Journeyman Line Technician*



**15**  
YEARS

Josh Seaberg celebrated working 15 years at Perennial in January. After high school Seaberg attended the Electrical and Electromechanical Technology program at Southeast Community College in Milford. Josh started his career at Perennial in 2008 as an apprentice line technician. Today he has advanced to a Journeyman Line Technician. When asked why he enjoys

being a lineman at Perennial he said, "he enjoys troubleshooting problems and finding solutions" Josh lives north of York with his wife, Ashley, and sons, Kade, age 11 and Reid, age 9. In his spare time Seaberg enjoys spending time with his family along with jeeping, hunting, trapping and coyote calling.

**Congratulations on your 15 year anniversary Josh!**



## Respect the Equipment

Electric meters, poles, and lines keep our electric system running smoothly, but they are often overlooked and even abused. Perennial urges everyone to stay away from and be respectful of utility equipment in order to keep electrical systems running safely and reliably.

Don't tamper with your electric meter for any reason. Tampering with your meter is illegal, but more importantly, it can cause electrocution and fire. Resulting in injury and damage, even death. If you think there may be a problem with your meter, call Perennial, don't try to fix it yourself.



## SPRING FORWARD

**Daylight Savings Time Starts**

**Sunday, March 12, 2023**

**Don't Forget to Turn Your Clocks  
Forward One Hour!**

**CHANGE YOUR  
CLOCKS AND CHANGE  
YOUR BATTERIES!**

3 out of 5 home fire deaths  
resulted from fires in homes  
with no smoke alarms (38%) or  
no working smoke alarms (21%).



## Do you have a home office?

Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

