

Perennial NEWS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet Brandon

*Meet our new General Manager,
Brandon Lehman.*

Generator Safety

Tips for safe operation of generators.





Brandon Lehman
General Manager

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I am honored to serve Perennial Public Power District as General Manager. I began my career with Perennial nearly twenty years ago, much of this time being the Manager of Engineering. I am excited about the future for our district, and the privilege of daily working alongside intelligent and highly competent colleagues, to continue delivering safe, reliable, and efficient electrical power to our customers in York and Fillmore counties.

I grew up working alongside my dad on our family ranch in the canyons north of Farnam, Nebraska. I learned the value of hard work and the importance of keeping our rural communities strong. My parents continue to ranch, and my sister and her husband continue a 105-year family tradition of raising registered Hereford cattle near Farnam. My family, like yours, relies on public power not only to keep the lights on at home but to also run and grow small businesses, communities, and the many areas of agriculture this state is known for. Providing electrical power to the families that help feed the world has always been a rewarding challenge.

My interest in power began as an undergraduate in engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, when I had the opportunity to work for a summer and

a semester as a co-op engineer for NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Station, Nebraska's largest electric generating facility. While completing my degree, I continued working in power as an intern for UNL's steam-generation utility plant. Upon graduation, I began my career in power distribution with Perennial as a Systems Engineer. We have grown not only in the amount of power we serve but also in how we serve our customers, adopting technology to help our customers learn more about how their energy is used, building more reliability into our distribution network, and giving our employees the right tools for the job of serving you.



Brandon, Amy, John, Caleb, and Anna stop for a picture during one of their trips to a national park.

My family has made our home in York. My wife, Amy, teaches Mechanical Engineering at UNL part-time while being a full-time mom to our three children, John, Caleb, and Anna. Our kids keep us busy most evenings and weekends with many activities

including basketball, soccer, archery, swimming, dance, and 4-H. We also enjoy traveling with our camper to many of our state and national parks to enjoy fishing and hiking, while often stopping at museums along our way.

I am looking forward to a bright future at Perennial Public Power District and invite you to stop by our office and say hello when you have a chance.

On Our Cover:

Brandon Lehman, Perennial's new General Manager.

2024 Incentive Programs

Saving energy and money go hand in hand, which is why Perennial Public Power District, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, provides agricultural, commercial, lawn and garden and residential incentive programs to save both energy and money.



AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

- » **Agriculture**
Projects that improve the welfare of animals and save energy
- » **Automated Grain Aeration – NEW 2024 PROGRAM**
- » **Corner Pivot Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)**
- » **Custom Ag**
Projects that are unique and do not fit a particular program
(Pre-approval is required)
- » **Irrigation Moisture Sensors – NEW 2024 PROGRAM**
- » **Prescriptive Irrigation**
Replacing all outlet components on an all-electric center pivot or linear tower system

ENERGYWISESM
Use less. Spend less. Do more.



COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS

- » **Commercial Conduit**
New commercial construction conduit for a future public electric vehicle charging station
- » **Electric Vehicle Charger**
For the installation of a public electric vehicle charging station
- » **Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)**
- » **Heat Pump Water Heater**
- » **HVAC System Optimization**
- » **Industrial Process Improvements**
Projects that are unique and do not fit a particular program
(Pre-approval is required)
- » **Prescriptive Lighting**
- » **Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)**



LAWN & GARDEN PROGRAMS

- » **Electric Chainsaw, Tiller, Snow Blower or Lawn Mower**
(\$1,500 maximum)



RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

- » **Attic Insulation**
- » **Electric Vehicle ChargePoint Charging Station**
- » **Cooling System Tune-Up**
- » **Heat Pump Water Heater**
- » **High Efficiency Heat Pump NEW IN 2024 – 16 SEER Minimum Rating**
- » **Induction Cooking**
- » **Pre-Wiring To Install An Electric Vehicle Charging Station**
- » **Smart Thermostat**

For program details:

 perennialpower.energywisenebraska.com |  800-289-0288 |  perennial@perennialpower.com

Federal Income Tax Credits and Incentives for Energy Efficiency

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 provides federal tax credits and deductions that empower Americans to make homes and buildings more energy-efficient to help reduce energy costs while reducing demand. Credits are available through 2032 providing up to \$3,200 annually to lower the cost of energy efficient upgrades. Improvements such as installing heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, insulation, electrical panel upgrades and more, are covered by the tax credits and can help families save money on their monthly energy bills for years to come.

Source: energystar.gov

In 2022, Perennial credited customers' accounts a total of \$60,589 for those customers who chose to participate in EnergyWiseSM Incentive Programs and contribute to a more sustainable future for all Nebraskans.

What to do before using a PORTABLE GENERATOR



Prepare

Install battery operated carbon monoxide (CO) alarms throughout your home; ensure they are working properly.

Position

Place a portable generator at least 20 feet from windows and doors; do not use one in a garage or carport.



Read

Carefully review and then follow all manufacturer's instructions.

Protect

If it is wet outside, keep it dry by placing it on a tarp. Position it under a portable canopy (not a carport).



Refuel Safely

Turn off your portable generator and let it cool down before refueling.

Inspect and Maintain

Inspect a portable generator before each use and make sure it is properly maintained.



Using a portable generator can be useful during an outage; however, use one correctly to prevent CO poisoning and to stay safe.

 Safe
Electricity.org

Use Caution When Using Back-Up Generators

During power outages, many rely on portable generators for emergency power. The growing popularity of portable electric generators has resulted in millions being used to power homes and small businesses across the nation. But it's estimated only a small percentage are hooked up correctly. Perennial and Safe Electricity urges consumers to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken.

If installed and operated correctly, the use of standby or portable electric generators poses little danger. Improper installation or use could be dangerous to you and threaten the lives of your family, friends, neighbors, and electric utility crews trying to restore service.

"Consult and discuss your purchase options with a reliable vendor, your electric supplier, and contractors," advises Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Engineering Educator. "A qualified vendor or electric professional will know existing safety codes and the utility's safety requirements and can help you select the best equipment for your needs and situation."

Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use. A licensed professional should install a permanent, standby electric generator and can help with proper equipment for safely using a portable generator.

Have a qualified electrician install a transfer switch. The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and repair crews from 'backfeed.' Backfeed occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity "back" through the power lines. This can seriously injure anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

"Safety for the operators and users of a generating system in the home and utility crews cannot be over-emphasized," says Solomon. "A qualified electrician should be consulted to ensure proper installation and electrical grounding requirements, circuit overload protections, and local codes are met."

Some homeowners choose smaller, portable generators to power essential electrical equipment during outages. Perennial and Safe Electricity offers these tips for the safe operation and use of portable generators:

- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
- Maintain adequate ventilation. Generators emit carbon monoxide. Never operate a generator in your home, garage, or other enclosed building. Place it in a dry, outside location.
- Never plug a portable electric generator into a wall outlet or connect directly to a home's wiring. This can energize utility power lines and injure you or others working nearby. Electrical backfeed also can damage the generator and home electrical equipment.
- Turn off generator and allow cooling before refueling. Gasoline and its vapors may ignite if they come in contact with hot components or an electrical spark. Store fuel in a properly designed container in a secure location.
- Protect your appliances. Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn

your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.

- Use proper extension cords. Use only safety-tested, shop-type electrical cords designed and rated for heavier outdoor use to connect appliances. Many generators are equipped with twist-lock connects to reduce the chance of accidental disconnections due to vibrations.
- Shut down the generator properly. Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- Remember maintenance between uses. It's important to drain the gasoline from the generator while it is being stored. It's also a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level, and fuel quality and start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation happens.

Perennial and Safe Electricity suggests that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator.



According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), one fuel-powered portable generator produces as much carbon monoxide (CO) as hundreds of combustion-engine cars.

Using a portable generator in your home, garage or too close to your home is like starting a parking lot full of cars and letting the CO poison seep into your home. And the devastating result is almost immediate: The CO from one generator can kill in minutes.

USING A PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFELY

1. Always use a generator at least 20 feet away from your home.
2. Never operate one inside a home, on a porch or near windows and doors.
3. The 20-foot rule also applies to other locations, such as a shed, cabin, camper or trailer.
4. When shopping for a generator, look for one that produces reduced emissions.
5. Also look for one that shuts off automatically when high levels of CO are present.
6. Keep your generator well-maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions.
7. Ensure CO detectors are installed on every level of your home and near or in bedrooms.
8. Test CO alarms monthly; also track their age. They need to be replaced every seven years.

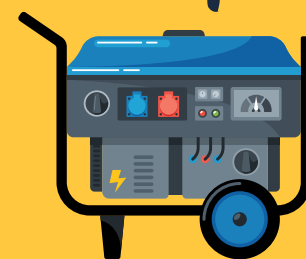
TOP 3 REASONS for using a generator

1. Weather-related power outages.
2. Power shutoffs.
3. Temporary locations.

CO deaths associated with PORTABLE GENERATORS

Approximately **85** individuals die in the U.S. each year.

81% of deaths occur in residential locations.



Price joins Perennial

Calvin Price was hired on November 20, 2023, as an Apprentice Line Technician. Price is responsible for the construction and maintenance of both overhead and underground lines.

Calvin grew up in York, where he attended York High School; after graduating, he attended Northeast Community College, where he received his degree in Utility Line. While attending Northeast Community College, he was the recipient of Perennial's Utility Line Scholarship. Price interned at Perennial in the summer of 2022.

In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and family. Calvin said, "Being outside is his favorite part of working for Perennial as an Apprentice Line Technician."

Please help us welcome Calvin to Perennial.

Rates Steady in 2024

Perennial Public Power District will again offer the same base rates as 2023 making an 11-year run on the same low cost for energy and power. Can you imagine paying 2013 prices for anything today? Whether you're managing a household budget, irrigating crops, operating a hospital, or producing ethanol, a low input cost helps your margin every month. In addition, the board of directors has elected to keep the Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) at \$.002450 per kilowatt-hour credit again this year. The purpose of the PCA is to provide our District the ability to pass on the credits or charges assessed by Nebraska Public Power District for wholesale power purchases, if it becomes necessary to more closely track the cost associated with (1) the purchase of fuel for energy production, (2) the direct purchase of energy from other suppliers, and (3) other energy-related costs.

Rates will inevitably increase. Some power districts in the state are increasing rates this year ranging from 1.8 to



3.5 percent. Once we have completed a review of revenue requirements, a cost-of-service study, and a retail rate study, we will be able to assess the appropriate changes for each customer class. An increase in rates will likely be needed to cover the costs of providing safe, reliable, and still affordable, power for you.

Smarthub Interface to be Updated February 12

SmartHub Web, our innovative tool for managing your Perennial account, will be getting a facelift. The new SmartHub will launch Monday, February 12th, with an updated interface that is even easier to navigate on screens of any size.

SmartHub Web has several features that make managing your account easy. Whether through your computer, your smartphone, or your tablet, you can view your account payment and billing history and check your usage with just a few clicks. And making payments in SmartHub is fast; you even have the option to securely store your payment information if you choose.

You are also able to see important notices with SmartHub. You can select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and push notifications to your mobile device.

If you're already registered for SmartHub, you won't need to do anything to get the new SmartHub Web interface; just log in on February 12th using the smart hub link at <https://perennialpower.com/pay-your-bill/>. If you've never registered, all you need is an email address and your electric account number from your latest Perennial billing statement.

Life can be hectic, but paying your bill doesn't have to be. Save time by using SmartHub Web and the SmartHub Mobile App.



Preparing for Storm Season?

DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:



- Snowbrush
- Shovel
- Windshield washer fluid
- Cat litter for traction



- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Drinking water
- Nonperishable foods



- Properly inflated spare tire
- Wheel wrench & tripod jack
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher

- Reflective triangles
- Reflective vest
- Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)



- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Compass
- Car charger for cell phone



Source: NSC

Visit Perennial at the Henderson Home Show

Each year, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce hosts a Home Show on the last weekend in February as an opportunity for businesses from Henderson and the surrounding communities to showcase their products and services. Those in attendance can anticipate hourly door prizes, product and services discounts, introductions to new products and businesses. Perennial will be in attendance this year to talk about our EnergyWise programs and how we can help you save money on your electric bill. Come visit us at our booth Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m



Keep it Cozy this Winter

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days. Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.

