

Polk County Power 'The Livewire'



PO Box 465 Stromsburg NE 68666

October 2018



Electrification Takes to the Roads in Polk County

There are around 1,000 electric vehicles (EVs) on Nebraska's roads today, with the market ready to expand. Electric vehicles are fun to drive and provide significant benefits to consumers and Nebraska's economy.

Electric Vehicles Keep Money in the Pockets of Nebraskans.

Fuel efficiency is rated in kilowatt-hours (kWh) per 100 miles rather than miles per gallon. If you pay \$0.11 per kWh for electricity and have an average vehicle rated at 34 kWh per 100 miles, the cost is about \$0.04 per mile. If gas is \$3 per gallon and a gas-powered vehicle gets 25 mpg, the cost is about \$0.12 per mile. This scenario amounts to a savings of \$800 for every 10,000 miles you drive. These savings would offset the additional cost to purchase an electric vehicle over the vehicle's lifetime. The U.S. Energy Department has created a website to determine an eGallon, or the cost of fueling a vehicle with electricity compared to a similar vehicle that runs on gasoline.

Electric Vehicle Maintenance Costs are Significantly Lower.

Plug-in electric vehicles typically have lower total cost of ownership and, in particular, lower maintenance costs. This is because they have fewer moving parts, reduced oil changes (or none for a total electric) and fewer brake jobs due to battery regeneration absorbing most of the energy. Hybrids and plug-in electric vehicles can go 100,000 miles before receiving a brake job. Visit the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) for an electric vehicle cost of ownership report.

All Nebraskans Have the Ability to Charge.

Electric vehicles can be charged at home, avoiding trips to the gas station. They can be charged on a standard 120V wall outlet, referred to as Level 1 charging. Faster charging can be achieved at home or the workplace with Level 2 charging.

Charging Stations are Currently Available Across the State.

Public charging stations continue to pop up across Nebraska. Businesses, electric utilities, and



Billing Clerk, Dawn Dudgeon test drives the Chevy Bolt.

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October is Public Power Month



CUSTOMER-CONTROLLED

The **BUY LOCAL** ELECTRICITY EQUATION



PUBLIC POWER



CUSTOMER-CONTROLLED

AFFORDABLE RATES + TOP-QUALITY SERVICE



HOMETOWN JOBS (*Fuel for the economy*)



MONEY *in the*
BANK



Each dollar of a public power employee's paycheck circulates through the local economy up to an estimated five times.*

*Source: American Public Power Association



HOMETOWN JOBS



FUEL *for the* **ECONOMY**



MONEY *in the* **BANK**

Nebraska is the only state that generates electricity entirely by publicly-owned power systems. As of 2017, the statewide average

electricity price is the sixteenth-lowest rate in the country, based on the latest federal figures. Nationally, electricity costs 15 percent more than it does in Nebraska. Across all sectors, Hawaii has the highest electricity rate (26.07 cents), and Louisiana has the lowest electricity rate (7.75 cents).



AFFORDABLE RATES



TOP-QUALITY SERVICE

Electric Vehicles *Continued from page 1*

government agencies are establishing a rapidly expanding network of charging infrastructure, proving it possible to get nearly everywhere with an electric vehicle.

Electric Vehicles are Significantly Better for the Local Economy.

EVs are fueled from energy from the local electric grid, which is cheaper for all consumers. Money spent on local electricity gets reinvested back into the local economy.

Electric Vehicles are Energy Efficient.

Electric vehicles convert about 59 percent to 62 percent of the electrical energy from the grid to power at the wheels. Conventional gasoline vehicles only convert about 17 percent to 21 percent of the energy stored in gasoline to power at the wheels.*

*fuelconomy.gov/feg/evtech.shtml#end-notes

Federal Purchase Incentive	Current Incentives State Purchase Incentive	Charging Station Incentive
Electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles purchased may be eligible for a federal income tax credit of up to \$7,500. The credit varies based on the capacity of the battery used to power the vehicle.	The Nebraska Dollar and Energy Savings Loans program offers lower interest rate loans for the purchase of electric vehicles. Loan terms are dependent on the type of vehicle purchased.	A \$200 EnergyWise incentive for the installation of a residential charging station is available for a limited time from Nebraska Public Power District and wholesale partners such as Polk County RPPD.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does an electric vehicle work?

A plug-in EV is a vehicle that can be plugged into an electric outlet or charging device to recharge its battery. There are two types: battery electric vehicles, which run only on electricity, and plug-in hybrids, which run mainly or solely on electricity until the battery is depleted and then are powered by an internal combustion engine. GM and Nissan offer battery warranties of 10 years or 100,000 miles of driving on the lithium-ion batteries in the Bolt or the Leaf.

What should I consider before purchasing an electric vehicle?

Choosing the electric vehicle that's best for you depends on a number of different factors including your driving habits and personal preference. Here are some factors to consider:

Total range-How far will you travel? The total range of current electric vehicles vary greatly-anywhere from 40-350 miles.

Charging-Where will you charge? Where you drive and how you'll charge your vehicle can help you decide which electric vehicle will meet your needs.

What are the environmental benefits of an electric vehicle?

Electric vehicles reduce the amount of gasoline we burn and are less costly to maintain, among other benefits:

Reducing operation emissions and noise-The emissions associated with the electric drive-train of plug-in EVs come from power plants generating electricity to charge the batteries and not from tailpipe emissions. Additionally, from well to wheel, electric vehicles emit approximately 66 percent less carbon dioxide (CO₂) compared with internal combustion vehicles. CO₂ is the principal gas associated with global warming. In addition to being cleaner, electric vehicles are quieter than gasoline-powered vehicles, resulting in less noise pollution.

Aren't Electric Vehicles Expensive? When you consider the total cost of ownership, including purchase, rebates, fuel costs, and maintenance, plug-in cars are cheaper than similar gas cars.

Why Does Nebraska's public power industry believe electric vehicles will be successful in the state?

Technology, driving range, and cost have caught up with consumer expectations. In fact, consumers will now be able to purchase an electric vehicle that meets or exceeds their expectations.

Today's electric vehicles also offer the ability to charge the vehicle on a standard 120-volt outlet, which every home has. Owners have the option of purchasing higher-powered charges for quicker charges.



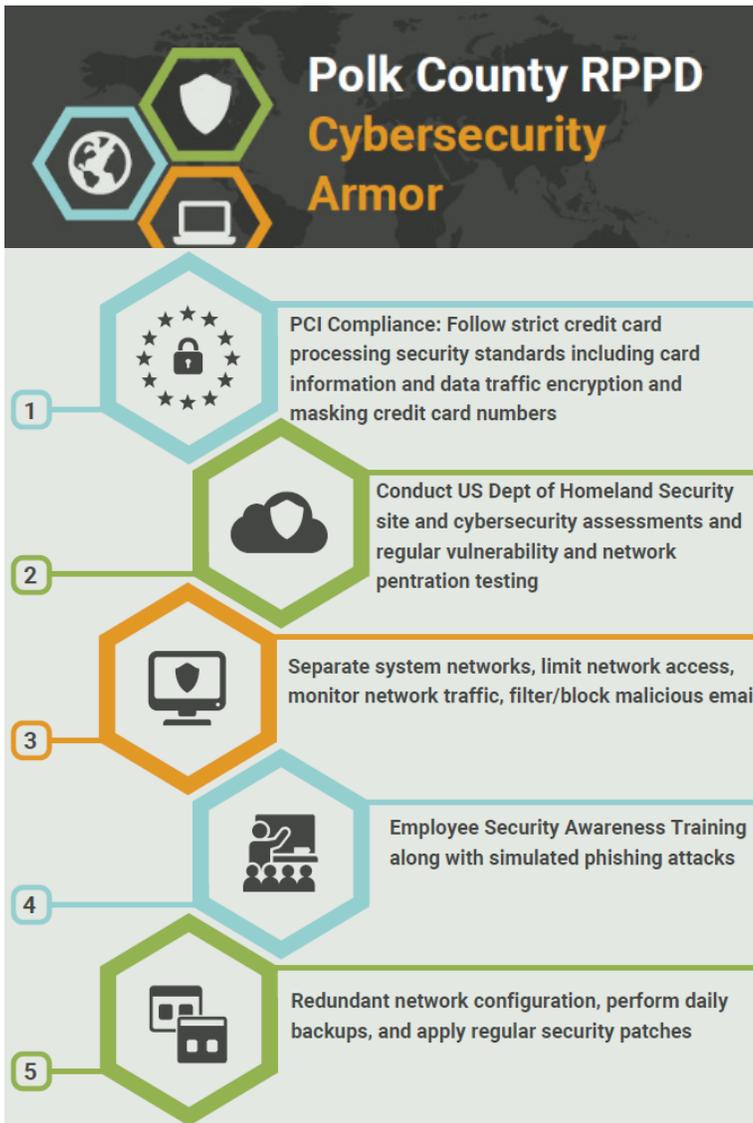
AFFORDABILITY

At a time when prices on everything seem to be climbing, public power remains a great value. In fact, since 1936 electric rates in Nebraska have only gone up five cents per kilowatt hour. Just one nickel's change since the Great Depression and the beginning of the Rural Electrification Program which brought electricity to some of Nebraska's most rural farms. Nebraska's rural electric systems truly are working for you.



Working for
Nebraska

www.workingfornebraska.org



October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and at Polk County RPPD, safeguarding our electric system and our customers' data is important. Any computer with access to the Internet is vulnerable to a cyberattack.

The most common threat involves phishing, where fraudulent emails with links or attached files are sent, hoping the recipient will open the file. But, that one click of the mouse can launch malicious code and jeopardize system and data security. PCRPPD is committed to protecting the District's networks from cyber criminals and has many procedures and controls in place.

Cybersecurity is not just about IT in the workplace, you need to be vigilant at home, too.

- Strong passwords are a must! Visit <https://www.grc.com/haystack.htm> to test the strength of your password and to find information on creating strong and easy to remember passwords.
- Secure your home wireless network with strong authentication and encryption (WPA2 and AES).
- Turn off Bluetooth on your mobile device unless absolutely necessary.
- Only connect to known public WiFi and never enter passwords or sensitive information over public WiFi. Most hotspots do not encrypt the information you send over the Internet.
- Always reset admin passwords and update to latest versions of software, especially Adobe PDF and Java.

Visit StaySafeOnline.org for additional tips and tricks.

Scams Targeting Elderly on the Rise

SCAM Could robocalls be affecting your pocketbook? Are TV or on-line ads ripping you off?

According to the American Association of Retired Person's (AARP) website and recent findings the elderly are falling victim to more and more scams.

Most recently we received information of scams involving LED bulbs and so called "energy saving devices". Scammers have been contacting people in Nebraska, claiming that an LED bulb can cure many illnesses, including the common cold and flu bug, not to mention killing germs and deodorizing your home. Senior citizens are being targeting.

While LED bulbs are efficient, the U.S. Department of Energy does provide information about some health benefits. The scam contends to heal all, take your money and receive nothing in return.

There are numerous items and gadgets advertised that claim to save you money on utility bills.

Some devices allow you to monitor and control electronics, appliances, heating and cooling systems, etc. thus saving you energy in terms of kilowatt-hours, which ultimately lowers your bill. A programmable or smart thermostat would be an example of using technology to lower usage by setting thermostats back when no one is

home. However, there are many that do nothing for you. Please do your homework prior to purchasing such items.

It is reported that many scammers find you by obtaining your phone number, address or email from purchases, network lists that are bought, sold, stolen or simply from surveys you complete.

Never give information out to unknown sources. Scammers will target you many ways: donations, sob stories, impostor, promises, those grieving the loss of a loved one and their biggest-using a sense of urgency.

DON'T FALL VICTIM!!!