

# POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

‘The Livewire’

“Committed to enhancing the lives of our customers by providing safe, reliable and economical energy through excellence in customer service and innovation”



August 2023

## Local Students Represent PCRPPD in D.C.

By Wade Rahn

Clare Willis of Shelby and Hudson Urkoski of Clarks were among more than 1800 students from across the country that visited Washington D.C. June 16-22. They represented Polk County Rural Public Power District on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The Nebraska Rural Electric Association hosts students from across Nebraska to attend the annual event.

Urkoski, an incoming junior at High Plains Community School, said “the Youth Tour experience was great as I’ve read about it but got to see it in real life!”

Willis and Urkoski visited many monuments and memorials including the Washington Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, Gettysburg battlefield, the White House, and more. “Marine Corps Memorial my favorite, as my brother serves in the Marines” said Willis, a incoming senior at Shelby Rising City Public Schools.

While in Washington, the students learn first-hand what it is like to be involved in politics, how our government operates, and learns about how and why rural electric systems were formed. One of the highlights of the trip included meeting Nebraska elected senators. “We were able to met with Senator Fischer, Senator Ricketts, Congressman Flood and Congressman



Left: Clare Willis / Right: Hudson Urkoski

Smith which was really cool,” said Willis.

These students represent the next generation of educated, engaged citizen leaders in our communities and country. The teen delegates are challenged to consider the part they play in government, to become

involved in their communities, and to consider careers in public office.

Those who attend the Nebraska Rural Electric Youth Energy Leadership Camp are eligible to apply for the Youth Tour while at camp. Anyone interested and eligible should contact PCRPPD for more information.

# Watt Matters

By Barb Fowler - General Manager

You no doubt have seen news reports of concerns about the risk of energy shortfalls during periods of extreme weather events. The North American Electric Reliability Corp (NERC) Summer Reliability Assessment reports that two-thirds of the US is at an elevated risk of insufficient operating reserves during summer heat waves, echoing their reliability assessment of last winter. The report cites substantial increases in electricity demand and retirements of conventional generation as factors in their assessment. Recent EPA proposed rules could greatly compound this problem.

Fossil fuel power baseload generation operates a steady and reliable supply of electricity to meet demand levels. When these plants are retired without adequate replacements, there may be a gap in capacity, potentially leading to energy supply shortages during periods of high demand or intermittent renewable energy sources. Recent EPA rules may also force additional

fossil fuel plant closings unless carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) systems are installed.

Comprehensive strategies and investments are necessary, including a combination of renewable energy deployment, energy storage technologies, demand response programs, and grid modernization and advancement. Education and collaboration among policymakers, regulators, and utilities are crucial to ensuring a smooth and reliable transition to the energy of the future.

PCRPPD and other Nebraska public power partners are committed to the energy of the future through continued research in developing technologies and working with policymakers at the state and national levels. We must ensure policymakers are aware that will take a multitude of approaches as we move to continue to address climate concerns while still ensuring we have the energy we need, not only for the necessities but for the

increasing electrification of many aspects of daily activities.

How can you help? By making your voice heard. PCRPPD is a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA), which both advocate for you and your local public power district at the national and state levels. You can become an advocate as well. Voices for Cooperative Power is a network of electric coop members/public power district customer-owners working together to influence elected officials who are making energy policy decisions that impact our communities. Now more than ever, your voice needs to be heard because reliable and affordable energy is simply non-negotiable. For more information, please visit [www.voicesforcooperativepower.com/neregister](http://www.voicesforcooperativepower.com/neregister).



## Our Issues

**VCP members are staying informed and taking action on policy decisions that will shape our access to affordable, reliable local energy for decades to come.**

**VCP is a network of electric co-op members working together to influence elected officials who are making energy policy decisions that impact our co-ops and, by extension, our way of life.**

America's energy system is going through a fundamental transformation – and much of the focus in Washington is on large utilities in urban areas. Our electric co-ops are fundamentally different.

**Now more than ever, as members of VCP and owners of our co-ops, we need to make our voices heard in conversations about energy policies that impact not only our co-op services, but the communities we call home.**

Speaking up on issues that impact electric co-ops sends a message to elected officials about the needs of our communities – and their constituencies. VCP gives you a platform to talk about the many ways your electric co-op supports your community. Beyond delivering electricity, co-ops provide jobs, stability, and economic growth – all while ensuring that energy affordability and reliability remain foundational advantages of electric co-op membership.



# Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

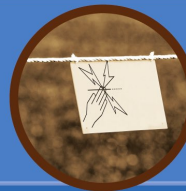
Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## Got Electric Fencing?

**INSPECT IT  
REGULARLY**



**1.**

**Make sure that fencing is visible.**

Use electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.



**Inspect electrical fencing regularly.**

Ensure everything is tight, secure and free from frays.

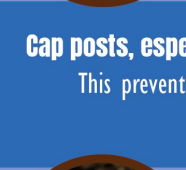
**2.**



**3.**

**Make sure your electrical fence is tight and well-supported.**

A lack of support can cause it to sag.



**Cap posts, especially metal T-posts.**

This prevents an animal (or human) from being impaled.

**4.**



**5.**

**Check for a loose or sagging fence.**

Not only can animals escape, but wires can fall out of insulators.

Learn more about electrical safety at:

**Safe  
Electricity.org®**



# STORM SAFETY KIT

Severe weather can strike at any time, causing destruction and power outages. To keep your family safe, have an emergency kit on hand and an evacuation plan in place.

Learn more at:

 **Safe Electricity.org®**

- |                                                                                     |                        |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | Bottles of water       |  |
|    | Nonperishable food     |  |
|    | Portable phone charger |  |
|    | Flashlights            |  |
|    | Batteries              |  |
|    | Can opener             |  |
|    | First-aid supplies     |                                                                                     |
|   | Hand sanitizer         |                                                                                     |
|  | Prescriptions          |                                                                                     |
|  | Pain reliever          |                                                                                     |
|  | Warm clothing          |                                                                                     |
|  | Blankets               |                                                                                     |
|  | Battery-operated radio |                                                                                     |
|  | Toys, books and games  |                                                                                     |
|  | Important documents    |                                                                                     |
|  | Money                  |                                                                                     |
|  | Baby supplies          |                                                                                     |
|                                                                                     | Pet supplies           |                                                                                     |

## POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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Term Expires  
2024

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2024

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2028

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2026

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2024

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