

# 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”



March 2024

## Lease Payments & Gross Revenue Paid Out

By Wade Rahn

Historically we have received many questions annually about Lease Payments, which are a component on the monthly bill for electric accounts in the communities of Clarks, Osceola, Shelby, or Silver Creek. The Lease Payment collects 12% of electric, demand, and customer charges on the monthly billing and is returned quarterly to the town where the electric account is located.

The Lease Payment is a component of our Professional Retail Operations Agreement (PRO) with the City or Village who owns the electric distribution system for the community. The PRO Agreement allows PCRPPD to operate the community's electric system. Per the PRO Agreement, PCRPPD improves and maintains the

electric distribution system at no cost to the City or Village. PCRPPD returns 100% of the lease payments collected from PCRPPD customers to the City or Village to be used at their discretion. Lease payment rates are set by the City or Village.

Also, per State Statute, PCRPPD collects a 5% Gross Revenue Tax that is returned to the county in lieu of a property tax on the electric distribution system for the City or Village. The 5% Gross Revenue Tax is calculated from the total of the electric, demand, customer, and lease agreement charges. This tax is paid annually to the County Treasurer and redistributed proportionally based on the mill levy of the taxing authorities.

### Lease Payment 2023 Total

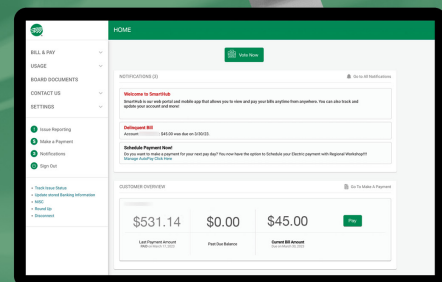
Clarks	\$79,609.83
Osceola	\$175,480.96
Shelby	\$116,624.58
Silver Creek	\$73,594.78

### Gross Revenue Tax 2023 Total

Polk County	\$121,736.71
Merrick County	\$53,826.74

## NEWLY REDESIGNED SMARTHUB

Save time and money by managing your account at anytime from anywhere.



# Watt Matters

By Barb Fowler - General Manager

In 2023, the average percentage of time any Polk County RPPD household had power was 99.99%. When your power goes out, it may seem like hours before it comes back on, but 99.99% availability amounts to approximately 52 minutes a year without power. But still, during an outage you may wonder what is taking so long?!

Whether you report an outage by text, phoning the office, or using our SmartHub app, our crew is ready to leap into action to get your power restored as quickly as possible. 24x7x365 we have linemen on-call to respond to your plea for power.

First things first, if after hours, the two on-call linemen must drive back to the office to pick up their service truck and equipment and begin the trek to the outage area. If numerous calls come in, our Outage Management System helps to pinpoint the issue by predicting the system protective device that may have tripped.

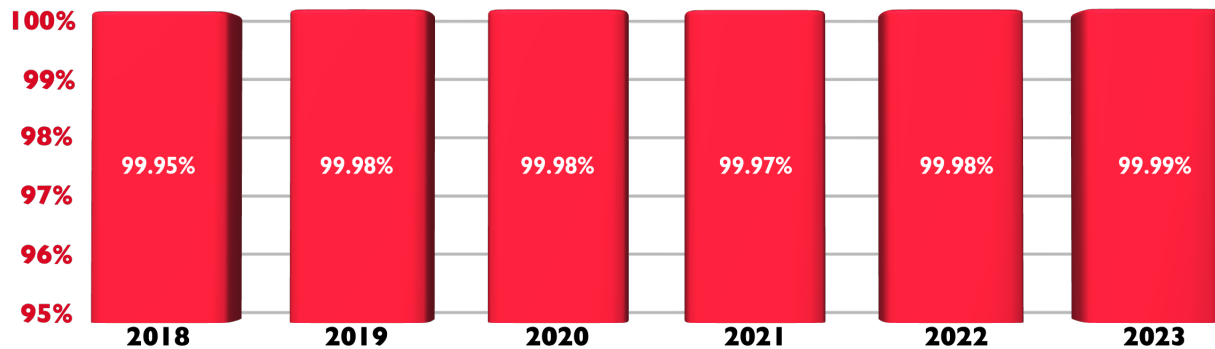
The linemen will then patrol the line to find what caused the protective device to trip. It may be a blown lightning arrestor, a broken pole, or a less than fortunate squirrel. Patrolling the line takes time, especially in the dark in the middle of a storm. But patrolling the line is crucial to ensure the safety of the linemen and the

system before resetting the protective device.






Once the problem is found, the linemen plan their repairs which may involve de-energizing additional line so repairs can be made safely. Sometimes the on-call crew may need to call for additional help or materials if the repairs are extensive.

Each situation is unique with varying factors affecting outage restoration time. But rest assured, the linemen are working as quickly as safely possible to get your power back on. If you are interested in learning more or have questions, please give us a call.

## PCRPPD Historical Reliability



## 2023 U.S. Power Grid Reliability

- #1  Nebraska
- #2  South Dakota
- #3  Illinois
- #4  Delaware
- #5  Florida

Source: U.S. News & World Report  
<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/infrastructure/energy/power-grid-reliability>

# IF THERE IS A DOWNED POWER LINE **THINK BEFORE YOU ACT**

An overhead power line can become damaged or fall due to a severe storm, car accident, public damage or other reasons. If you see a downed power line, take these actions:



**Consider all power lines energized and deadly.**



**Stay at least 50 feet away.**



**Call 9-1-1 or the utility to report the downed line.**



**Do not approach it or try to move it with another object.**



**Do not get out of a vehicle or cab.**



**Do not approach the scene.**



**Warn others to stay away.**



**Turn around and go another way.**

Even if you do not see a downed line, realize one could be hidden by storm debris, water, snow or ice.

## Other things to know



**Energized downed lines spread voltage through the ground or nearby objects.**



**If you go near a downed line, you can become electricity's path to ground.**



**You cannot tell if a power line is live just by looking at it.**



**Even if a power line appears coated, it is never safe to go near it.**

While transmitting and distributing power is typically safe, extreme scenarios like downed power lines are extremely dangerous. Never approach a downed power line.

**Safe** Learn more at:  
**Electricity.org®**

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening and use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.



### POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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