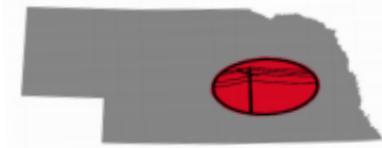


POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

'The Livewire'

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



November 2022

Watt Matters

By Barb Fowler - General Manager

We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate. ~ Unknown

Public Power is owned by the community, serving the needs of the community; the very nature of Public Power promotes civic engagement. Our board of directors and teammates work hard every day to make a difference and meet the needs of our

communities, many serving in multiple capacities and roles to do so. But you don't have to be a PCRPPD teammate or director to make a difference. One of the simplest ways to be civic-minded is to vote.

Now more than ever, our rural communities are facing constant pressure to be heard in every election. As rural Nebraskans, we must do all we can to ensure an understanding of

our unique challenges, our core beliefs, and our valued priorities.

So, please, take the time to learn about the candidates, become informed on the issues, and reach out to your legislators. Most importantly, VOTE on Election Day. How you vote is not nearly as important as that you do, because voting matters

IT'S
YOUR
CIVIC
DUTY
VOTE!

November 8, 2022

BEFORE YOU VOTE

1. Research the candidates.
2. Read up on all sides of the issues that are important to you and your community.
3. Tune into candidate speeches and debates.
4. Weigh your options and choose.
5. **Vote!**

BE INFORMED.
DO YOUR PART!

OUTAGE REPORTING

Starting on August 1st, we rolled out additional ways for you to report your power outage.

1 CALL
(402)
764-4381

or _____

2 REPORT
THROUGH
SMARTHUB

or _____

3 TEXT
(844)
961-2542

If you need any assistance or have questions about our new services, give Wade at PCRPPD a call at (402) 764-4381.

STAY SAFE OUT ON THE

HUNT



Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.



Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.



Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.

Always implement firearm safety techniques.



Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.

Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.



Carry a first aid kit.



Check the weather in advance and be prepared.

Check tree stands regularly for stability.

Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.



Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

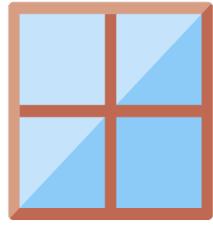
Learn more at:  SafeElectricity.org®

Energy Lost

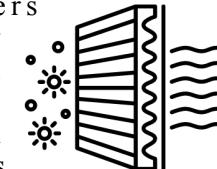
By Cory Fuehrer - NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager

As winter approaches, it's easy to overlook many different areas in our homes and businesses where energy will be lost or consumed without bringing benefit. As the old Greek proverb implies, "Out of sight, out of mind." Only when a high utility bill arrives, do most people become "aware" of the energy waste.

To heighten energy awareness, consider these often ignored home energy efficiency errors:

- Lights left on. Especially as the days grow shorter, lighting is needed for longer periods. But when occupants leave a room or area, the simple act of switching the light "off" is frequently forgotten. If this becomes a chronic problem, installing an occupancy sensor switch to automate the process is a simple solution. If exterior lighting regularly operates into the next day, a photosensor switch can deactivate the electrical circuit as dawn arrives.
- Windows not tightly closed. Respite from the summer heat is often found after the sun goes down and a cool breeze can be drawn through the house by opening all the windows. While most are shut before the heat of the following day, some may not be closed all the way and locked. Others may be missed in spare rooms, basements or other areas not frequently occupied. With differences between indoor and outdoor temperatures often doubling in the winter when compared to summer periods, the undesired air infiltration can significantly impact home heating costs.

- Furnace filters unchanged. Dirty furnace filters add resistance to air flow through HVAC systems causing them to operate

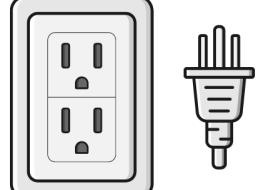


longer to keep the indoor climate comfortable. While the life of a furnace filter will vary due to a number of factors, it's a good idea to examine filters at least every 60 days until a replacement schedule is established. Placing a bi-monthly reminder on a calendar helps assure it does not get overlooked.

- Attic access unsealed. The most common type of attic access style is the attic ladder and hatch system. Others include a simple hatch in the ceiling or a door into the unconditioned attic space. Regardless of type, all should be insulated and sealed with weatherstripping to reduce energy loss.

- Fireplace flues left open. Who doesn't like a cozy fire on a chilly evening? Obviously, proper exhausting of smoke and fumes is necessary until the embers have completely burnt out. This usually means leaving the flue open until the next day. But the next day's affairs regularly take priority and the open flue may be forgotten. This allows interior heated air to literally go right up the chimney! Placing reminder notes where they will be seen first thing in the next morning can be great for correcting this oversight.

- Water heater set too high. Even though many water heaters are set at 140 degrees Fahrenheit by default, the DOE recommends 120°F for energy efficiency. For every 10 degrees the thermostat is lowered, energy costs for water heating can be reduced by 3 to 5%.

- Plug loads drawing energy. Many home electronics, battery chargers and appliances use standby power even when they appear to be off. Any device that uses a remote control, has an external power supply or a continuous display are still consuming power. Connecting multiple electronics to a power strip makes it easier to switch off unused devices all at once to assure unnecessary energy use does not occur.

With space and water heating accounting for about half of annual energy use in the average Nebraska home, these often-overlooked energy losses can add up. Recognizing these losses is the first step to improving energy efficiency. Polk County Rural Public Power District, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, can help identify other ways to gain the most value from your energy costs. For more energy-saving ideas for your home, business, or farming operation, contact them at (402) 764-4381 visit www.pcrppd.com or www.nppd.com.

Cross County Ag Safety Day

By Wade Rahn

Cross County Schools FFA program held its annual K-12 Ag Safety Day in September. Businesses from the area participated by having demonstrations related to their products or services.

Justin Sunday, PCRPPD Safety Manager, has taken the lead each year in developing the message and demonstration. In past years the demonstration has included a hot-line safety demo and an interactive tabletop safety demo. While the message has been consistent about electrical safety, the demonstrations vary to show different aspects and scenarios.

This year Sunday set up a scene of a tractor that backed an auger into the power lines. He spoke with the students about the dangers of step potential. He then covered what to do

should your piece of farm equipment come into contact with a power line. It was then explained to stay in the cab, stay calm, and call for help from us or 911. He also covered how to exit the vehicle should there be an emergency such as a fire but reinforced that this is a last resort.

After the speaking portion was completed, a visual aid was used to explain step potential and demonstrated how to exit the vehicle. The students were also able to practice this technique.

We are thankful for the opportunity to present to these students. If you have any safety-related questions or would like to schedule a safety demonstration like this or on a different topic, please give Justin a call at (402) 764-4381.



POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	
115 W 3rd Street PO Box 465	
Stromsburg NE 68666	
(888) 242-5265 or (402) 764-4381	
www.pcrppd.com	
Board President	Term Expires
Vernon Kuhnel - District 2	2024
Vice President	
Judy Rieken - District 3	2026
Treasurer	
Robert Lindburg - District 1	2022
Directors	
Gary Allison - District 2	2022
Jeff Scow - District 2	2024
Mark Wyman- District 3	2026
General Manager	
Barb Fowler	
Staff	
Randy Reese- Operations Manager	
Megan Klein - Finance Manager	
Wade Rahn - Customer Service/IT Manager	
Justin Sunday - Engineering & Safety/Compliance Manager	
Andy Roberts - Foreman	
DJ Crowell - Purchasing & Warehouse Coordinator	

