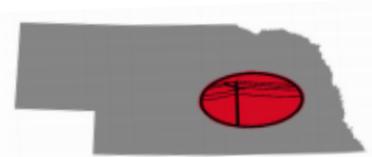

POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

‘The Livewire’

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



September 2019

Make Time for Safety This Harvest Season



Harvest season often means putting in long hours, which can make it difficult to stay alert and on the lookout for potential hazards. Safe Electricity provides safety tips to help farmers make this harvest season a safe one.

Be prepared for potential emergencies before the rush of harvest season begins. Be sure that you can see well in work areas. Consider adding extra lighting around grain bins and augers.

Take the time to look up and look out for electrical lines. Always be aware of where they are in relation to your equipment. Keep a minimum of 10 feet away from all electrical equipment, and lower extensions before moving equipment. If you see a power line that is sagging or low, contact your utility. Also keep an eye out for guy wires. While these wires are not energized, they can bring down live lines.

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. Yet, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings. Recognize when you need to take breaks so that you can be active and engaged in the farm work.

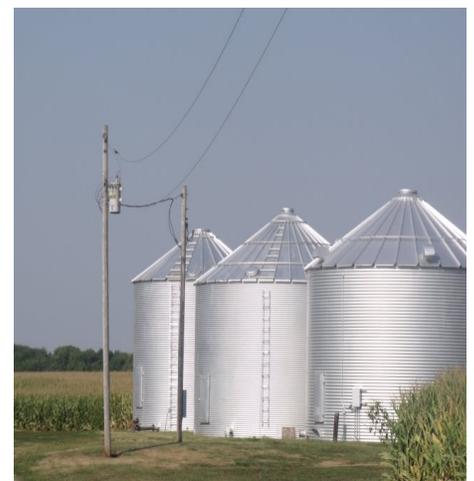
Additional electrical safety tips include:

- **Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.**
- **Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.**
- **Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.**
- **Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.**
- **Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.**

If the machinery you are operating does make contact with a power line, stay on the equipment. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Only on the rare occasion that the machinery catches fire should you leave the vehicle after contact is made. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. Never touch anything that is in contact with a power line.

For more information on electrical safety, contact PCRPPD’s Safety Director, Justin Sunday, or visit SafeElectricity.org.



Meet Wade Rahn

by Barb Fowler

Recently I sat down with PCRPPD's new Customer Service / Public Relations Representative, Wade Rahn. Born in west central Minnesota, Wade grew up in Grant, NE. After earning his HVAC-R degree in Hastings, he spent the next ten years running his HVAC business alongside his dad's complimentary plumbing business. An unexpected career change opportunity allowed Wade to move to David City and begin building his career in the electric utility industry, serving as Butler PPD's Customer & Technical Service Coordinator. Wade and his wife, Shelly, have two sons Kobe and Jake.

BF: After your first full week here at PCRPPD, how's it going?

WR: Great! This place is awesome! There's just so much neat stuff. The people have been very welcoming, I hardly know anyone, yet I feel like I fit in already.

BF: Like family.

WR: Yeah, it's been fantastic.

BF: We are pretty cool.

BF: You come to us from Butler PPD in David City, tell me about your past experience in the electric utility industry.

WR: Basically, my experience at Butler involved customer service, energy efficiency, key accounts, and high bill concerns. I got involved with tech-stuff after I was asked if they could put the newly released Windows 8 on my computer, and I said "sure, what the heck".

BF: Oof, bet you regretted that; Windows 8 was horrible.

WR: Yeah, right! That's how I ended up with a Mac. (laughs) But I love that, trying new technology and that interest slowly morphed into being involved with load control, staking/mapping systems, document imaging, AVL and net-metering to some extent. The attention PCRPPD has given to customer Distributed Generation installation is fantastic. The diligence PCRPPD takes to ensure their employees, the DG customer, installer, and electrician, are fully educated about safety and code requirements is exactly what I was looking for, even though I didn't know I was looking for it.

BF: What brought you to PCRPPD?

WR: Really, a lot of it was the reputation that the District has. I've always heard great things about PCRPPD. The location is a great opportunity to move to the area we'd like to live. I've been a small town guy my entire life and this just feels like home.

BF: After serving the District for 44 years, Judy left some pretty big shoes to fill. What vision do you have for PCRPPD customers?

WR: It comes down to supporting our customers. Even though it's an old industry, a kW is still a kW, there are so many new opportunities and technologies available to help make power more affordable to customers and thinking out of the box on how to best leverage everything for the customer. Public Power is here to help the customer.

BF: Our mission statement reads "provide safe, reliable and economical energy through excellence in customer service and innovation". That sounds like you.

WR: Yeah.

BF: What is something electric customers find challenging that you want to fix?

WR: With electricity not being something you can feel, see, or touch, people struggle with quantifying measurement of electricity. When you go to the gas station, you fill up your truck at the gas station and you put ten gallons in, you may think that's about right. But when your refrigerator runs for ten hours during



the week, how do you know how much electricity usage has occurred?

BF: So, applying a measurable formula to an intangible product?

WR: Right, and just coming up how to relate usage to stuff. A small, electric space heater running 24 hours a day for a month is going to use over \$100 worth of electricity. That always surprises people. It's just simple math, but it's not something people normally think of when they get their higher usage bill. People always want to compare their electric bill to their neighbors, and there's nothing wrong with that as a starting benchmark. But, does the neighbor have a geothermal heat pump and you have a 30 year old heat pump? The two houses are likely very different.

BF: Or does one house have a 15 year old fridge in the garage and three freezers running in the basement?

WR: Right, do they have a gas water heater and you have an electric one. There's so many variables that go into a house that everyone's bill is tailored to them and how they use electricity. I want to be that guy that when you get that higher bill, you can call me and we're going to figure out what's going on.

BF: Figure out how to allow the customer to gain control of their bill.

WR: Exactly.

Continued on Page 3

Rahn *Continued from Page 2*

BF: What do you find most exciting about today's electric industry?

WR: Just the change that's coming. There's a lot of technology out there to leverage. From smart thermostats, EV charging stations, the data is all there; it's just a matter of interpreting it. If we can start getting that data to customers in an easy to read and understandable format, then that's how we can truly help our customers.

BF: What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

WR: I enjoy golf and working on projects around the house. My wife and I golf usually every weekend.

BF: What's the most recent app you've downloaded?

WR: YouTube TV. We're cutting the cord.

BF: What size are your shoes?

WR: 13

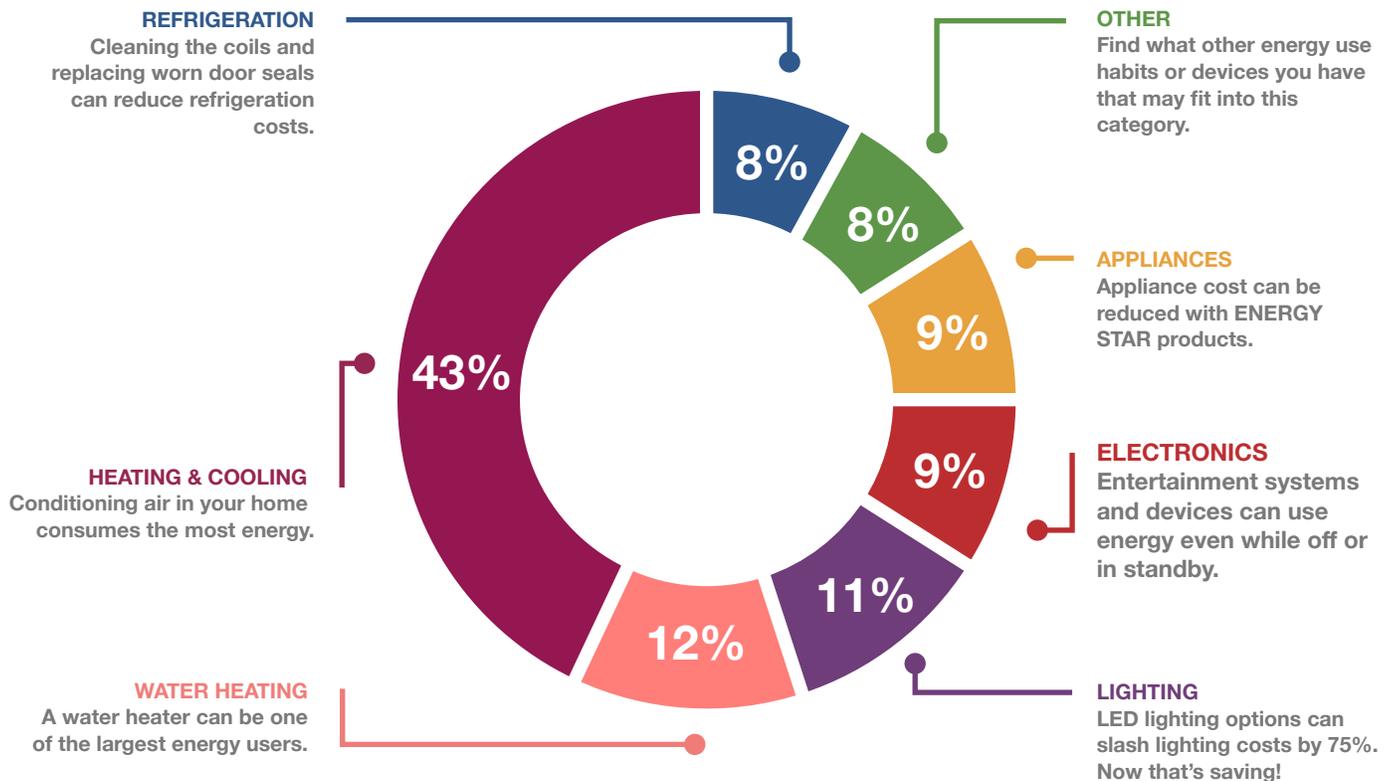
BF: I think you are going to set your own foot print here at PCRPPD quite nicely. Welcome to the family.



Did you know "arachibutyrophobia" is the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth?

TYPICAL HOME ENERGY USE

Understanding energy use in a home can be a daunting task. The old saying of "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." holds true to tackling your usage. A great place to start is identifying where the largest users are in your household. The chart below illustrates some areas where you can start investigating and looking for savings.



Data provided from www.touchstoneenergy.com

Youth Energy Leadership Camp Representatives Attend Board Meeting

At the August board meeting, two of the Youth Energy Leadership Camp representatives for PCRPPD, gave a short presentation to the board. Mollie Urkoski and Aubree Quast shared their experiences at the 2019 camp held July 8 - 12 in Halsey, Nebraska.

Both Mollie and Aubree spoke about the exciting activities they were able to participate in, such as touring Gerald Gentleman Power Station in

Sutherland, Nebraska and getting to see Kingsley Hydro-Electric Plant in operation at Lake McConaughy near Ogallala, Nebraska. Additionally, they both spoke of the wide range of topics and activities they participated in which included issues affecting the rural electric system, various sporting opportunities and making new friends.

While at camp, Mollie was also one of three in attendance selected to serve as an Ambassador for Nebraska on the 2020 NRECA Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, DC. Mollie commented she was honored to be chosen by her peers and she is looking forward to representing PCRPPD and Nebraska.

Annually PCRPPD sponsors area youth in grades 9 through 11, to attend this camp. If interested in attending or know of someone, call PCRPPD for details at (402) 764-4371.



Mollie Urkoski (top) and Aubree Quast (bottom) speak to the board



Stop by the
Public Power
booth at



September 10th - 12th

Booth #1832
DI West Building

WHAT YOU GET FOR 10 CENTS OF ELECTRICITY

- 13 MICROWAVED MEALS
- 3 LOADS OF LAUNDRY
- 18 HOURS OF REFRIGERATOR USE
- 20 HOURS ON YOUR LAPTOP
- 276 CHARGES FOR YOUR MOBILE PHONE

