

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2010

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 19, Number 3

Website hosts a variety of useful features

Have you ever thought something like this: “I wonder how much it costs to run my television set?”

As a society, we are becoming an increasingly “electric” people. Just about everything we have uses some sort of energy to power it. A computer. A hair dryer. A stove. A ceiling fan. If it uses electricity, you will pay for that electricity. But how much does it cost you? Here’s an easy way to find out:

1. Visit the Elkhorn Rural Public Power website at www.erppd.com.
2. Move your mouse over the “Energy” tab; this reveals a dropdown menu.
3. Move your mouse over the word “Calculator” to reveal another dropdown.
4. Click on “Appliance.” This opens ERPPD’s Home Energy Suite. Your options here include a virtual walk-through of an Interactive House, a Calculators tab, a visit to a Library of fascinating and informative publications about energy efficiency, or access to a Fun site where children can learn all about energy.
5. If you click on the “Calculator” tab, you will have several Calculator options: Home Energy, Appliances, Lighting, Heat Pump, TV, Irrigation, and Heat Comparison.
6. Click on “Appliances” to get the screen pictured above.
7. Once here, you can click on any of the “Show” buttons to get more specific information about the type of appliance under consideration. For example, there are 17 different “Refrigerators” that will “Show.” You just input the number of each type of refrigerator you have, then hit

		Calculate	Print Results	Reset		
Electric Rate: \$0.08 per kWh						
Television	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Kitchen	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Refrigerator	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Utility Room	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Living Room	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Bathroom	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Bedroom	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Office	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Heating/Cooling	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Garage	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Outdoors	Show	Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		
Total		Annual kWh: 0	Annual Cost: \$0.00	Monthly Avg: \$0.00		

“Calculate.” Your energy use and how much it costs you will be displayed. Some items will require you to input how often you use the item (the number of hours per day). The more accurate you can be, the more accurate your results will be.

Here is one disclaimer about this calculator: all appliance energy-use calculators can only compute *approximate energy-use* values. This is due to varying conditions of climate location, actual watts versus nameplate watts, and use patterns that change from day-to-day within any given home. Also, not all appliances actually go “off” when turned off. These “hidden” loads are appliances that, when turned “off,” still use power (a timer, a clock, a memory, etc.), even though they appear to be off or not in use. These “hidden” loads are included where typically applicable.

Feel free to explore this site. It is for your information.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

EnergyWiseSM incentives reward energy savings

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and its other wholesale customers, is offering energy efficiency programs to assist customers in becoming more energy efficient. The purpose of programs under the EnergyWiseSM logo is to make electric customers more aware of ways they can use electrical energy more efficiently and the savings that come with these practices.

Residential High-Efficiency Heat Pump Incentive

Homeowners who install a qualified heat pump (14 SEER or higher cooling ratio and 8.2 HSPF or greater heating ratio) will be eligible for a variable rebate, depending on the SEER of the unit. ERPPD customers who replace a window or central air conditioner with a qualified heat pump will earn a double rebate.

Heat Pump Qualifying Installation	Basic Rebate	Replace A/C Unit
14 SEER	\$200	add \$200
15 SEER	\$250	add \$250
16 SEER (& up)	\$300	add \$300
Geothermal Unit	\$400	add \$400

The installing HVAC dealer will also receive an incentive payment if the new unit operates within 10% of manufacturer's specifications.

Residential High-Efficiency Heat Pump Low-Interest Loan

A low-interest loan (2.5%) gives the homeowner a choice of incentive OR loan (but not both). Contact ERPPD, then work with a local lender of your choice. This program works in conjunction with the local lender, the Nebraska Energy Office, and NPPD. *This program may be changing in 2010.*

ENERGYWISESM

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

Cooling System Tune-Up

An incentive of \$30 is available to homeowners who have their cooling systems tuned up (Does not include heating systems). Eligible systems include air conditioners, air source heat pumps (regardless of back-up source), and water source heat pumps. Contact your HVAC dealer.

Residential Attic Insulation

The attic insulation program allows a homeowner to install at least six inches of attic insulation in up to 2,000 sq. ft. of attic space in an existing home. The rebate is \$0.15 per square foot with a maximum rebate for any one dwelling to be \$300. See ERPPD or a building or remodeling contractor for details.

Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling

This program will resume in March.

Commercial and Industrial Lighting Efficiency Program

Customers have an opportunity to earn incentives for upgrading to qualified, more efficient lighting. Incentives are available for both indoor and outdoor technologies.

Prescriptive and custom programs are available. Contact Mark Gronau at ERPPD to discuss the one that is right for your business, then contact the lighting contractor of your choice.

Commercial HVAC system

The commercial HVAC program allows rebates to businesses for installing water-cooled or air-cooled air conditioners or air source, water source, or ground source heat pumps. The rebate

is dependent on total tonnage of the unit(s) and/or one of two performance ratings, either the SEER or the Actual EER. Please contact your HVAC dealer for specific details about the program. Some cooling systems do not qualify, so be sure to contact an HVAC dealer. Brochures are available at ERPPD that define both the type of equipment and the associated equation to figure the rebate.

Premium Efficiency Motors

One way for businesses to reduce the cost of starting and running motors is by upgrading to premium efficiency motors. Incentives are prescriptive and range from \$20 to \$400 based on motor size. Those who qualify for irrigation incentives cannot qualify for this incentive.

Variable Frequency Drives

Variable frequency drives (VFDs) can be effective at reducing power and energy consumption to centrifugal equipment such as pumps and fans. Incentive is \$30 per horsepower. Those who qualify for irrigation incentives cannot qualify for this incentive. Contact ERPPD to see if a VFD is right for you and if it can be used on your lines.

Irrigation Efficiency

This program seeks to help irrigators utilize water and electric energy in the most energy efficient and cost-effective manner. It is designed to provide customers with financial incentives to help assess irrigation system performance and improve areas of inefficiency. The incentive is \$0.20 per kWh saved per year for the first year.

Call Mark Gronau at ERPPD for details about any of these programs.

Ask a tax preparer if your efficiency improvements can qualify for tax deductions or credits.

YOUTH ENERGY CAMP

ERPPD is seeking campers for 2010 camp

The Rural Electric Youth Energy Camp has involved up to 100 high school students (in the ninth, 10th, or 11th grade) each year who have been selected by the rural electric system serving in their areas. The camp, set in the beauty of Nebraska's National Forest at Halsey, offers educational and recreational experiences, leadership training, environmental awareness, character building and social interaction.

Through workshops and guest speakers, campers learn about energy, electric safety, energy management, and careers. One day of the camp is reserved for a tour of the Gerald Gentleman Power Station near North Platte and the Kingsley Hydroelectric plant near Ogallala. The week is interspersed with fun activities, including a get-acquainted party, canoeing, volleyball, a talent contest, dancing, a cook-out, and time to socialize and make new friends.

Leadership is also stressed when interested students compete to win a free trip to Wash., D.C., where three winners will go as ambassadors to Nebraska. They also are able to return to the next year's camp as a junior counselor.

Those selected by their sponsoring rural electric system will receive the all-expense paid trip to the Nebraska Youth Energy Camp at the State 4-H camp near Halsey. Camp begins around 3 p.m. on Monday, July 19, and ends around noon on Friday, July 23. ERPPD provides its camper representatives with transportation to and from the camp.

To enter, complete the form below and mail *by April 30, 2010* to:

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, c/o Rick Hemphill, Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715



2010 ERPPD ENERGY CAMP APPLICATION FORM

(Entry Deadline April 30, 2010)

Name _____

Address _____

Parents' or Guardian's Name _____ Phone Number _____

School _____ Age _____ Grade _____

COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2010 Youth Energy Camp at the 4-H camp at Halsey National Forest on July 19-23 as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

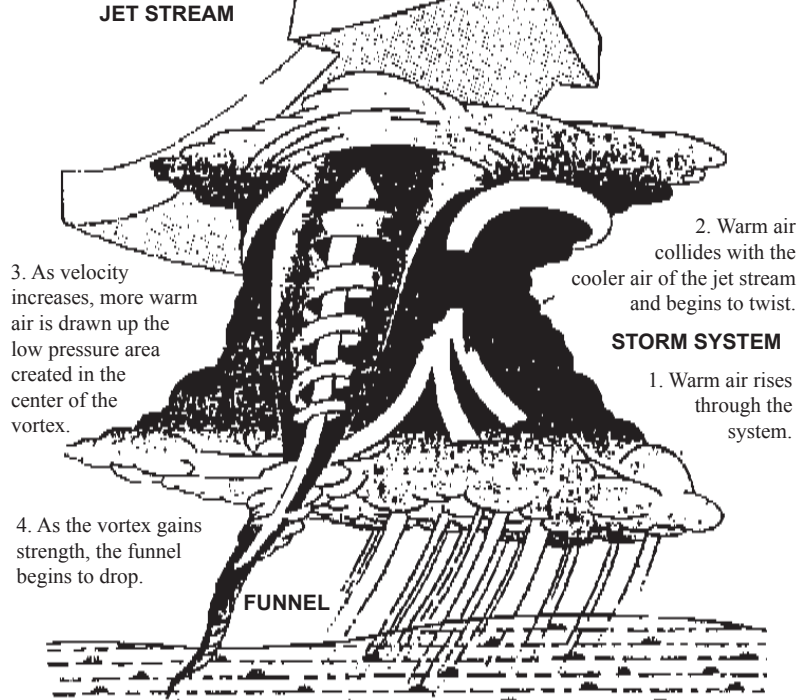
TORNADO SEASON IS APPROACHING

April through September is known as Tornado Season in Nebraska. Because of the suddenness with which tornadoes develop, law enforcement and weather bureau officials stress knowing what to do to protect against injury. Review the steps that should be taken in the event of a tornado.

1. Plan ahead. Know—and be sure your family knows—what to do upon hearing a warning siren.
2. When possible, stay close to home. Beware of weather conditions and changes as they occur.
3. Seek shelter at the lowest level available; a basement, cellar, or small interior room is best. Avoid windows. Mobile homes should be evacuated.
4. When in the country, seek a low-lying area, such as a ditch or ravine. If in a vehicle, leave it. If in public, look for signs marking a tornado shelter. Avoid windows and buildings with span roofs.
5. If possible, carry a portable radio; listen for updates on weather conditions or safety instructions.

Knowing ahead of time what to do in case of a tornado might save your life.

Anatomy of a Tornado



Clip and Save

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner
President.....II
- Tim Means
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII
- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
- Robert Kee
DirectorII
- Mark Miller
Director I
- Joe Thiele
DirectorIII
- Greg Weidner
Director I
- David Hoefler
DirectorIII

MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

For Emergency Service or Outage Reporting 1-800-675-2185

After Hours Note:

The entire 800-number *must* be dialed, even for a local call.

Communicate Electronically With ERPPD

Internet: www.erppd.com

E-mail: erppd@erppd.com



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

It's the law! Call 811 Before You Dig!

Or 1-800-331-5666
Diggers Hotline
of Nebraska

Outage Checklist

In the case of an outage:

- First check to see if the fuses below the meter are good.
- If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out.
- If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position.
- Check with neighbors to see if they have power. By doing this before calling us, we can determine if it is a line or an individual outage. This can help cut down on outage duration.
- Please, be prepared to give the name on the account, plus the consumer number and/or the legal location. This will assist us in sending our crews to the correct place.

Questions about your bill?

Please call the ERPPD office at 402-675-2185 or toll-free, 1-800-675-2185, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you would have your meter serial number or customer account number and current meter reading. Remember to call the Battle Creek office if you have billing questions. All account payments should be mailed to:

**Elkhorn Rural
Public Power
District
P.O. Box 310
Battle Creek, NE
68715**