

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

October 2008

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 17, Number 10

## The 'public' in public power is up to you!

October is Public Power Month!

In this day of skyrocketing energy costs and upheavals within the utility industry, there is one primary way to help ensure that the public power electric systems in Nebraska remain able to provide quality, reliable, dedicated service to the electric customers of the state. The responsibility is not left only at the discretion of boards of directors any more. The responsibility is not solely within the realm of the general managers or management, either. Nor does the responsibility reside only at the employee level. Customers must take their responsibility seriously. They must take steps that count!

Customers must play an ever-increasing role in the future by participating in grassroots activities that make our legislators aware of the important issues facing the industry. These issues can threaten to raise rates disproportionately and/or reduce services dramatically. *ERPPD provides this information.* The "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America" campaign starts a dialogue with elected officials about how America will meet her energy needs in the coming years (capacity), how America aims to develop newer and better procedures and processes to get more energy from a variety of resources with less waste (technology), and how America can keep the energy that results as inexpensive as possible so everyone can continue to benefit (affordability). Go to [www.OurEnergy.coop](http://www.OurEnergy.coop). (See bottom of this page.)

**PUBLIC POWER**  
IN  
**NEBRASKA**

**IT'S YOUR POWER.**

Customers must play an ever-increasing role in the future by taking part in energy efficiency programs that look at the energy they use as a trust and a responsibility not just a right or a privilege. *ERPPD offers these.* Lighting programs for both residential and commercial customers, a rebate program for installing electric heat pumps for residential

customers, and a refrigerator recycling program for residential customers. (See pages 2 and 3 in this issue.)

Customers must play an ever-increasing role in the future by being informed about both newer, less-tested methods of generation as well as older, more reliable energy resources. It is important that customers get the most accurate, most complete, most up-to-date information about all the various resources before jumping on the band wagon of one resource or another. It is also important that these customers do not support the next, hottest, most-promising resource without first thinking about the ramifications of its actions and/or weighing all their options. *ERPPD has regularly published this information in THE WIRE!* As ERPPD's commitment to its customers, we will continue to provide stories about up-and-coming energy technologies that include both the positives and negatives of those resources.

In short, remember to participate in grassroots activities, take part in energy efficiency programs, and be informed about energy resources. This responsibility must belong to all of us, if we hope to keep the "public" in public power.



**Our Energy, Our Future**  
A Dialogue With America

**Will we have the electricity  
we need in the future?**

**Start a dialogue  
with your elected officials at:**

**[www.OurEnergy.coop](http://www.OurEnergy.coop)**

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District*  
October 2008

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

*WIRE*  
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# ENERGY EFFICIENCY \$\$\$

## Energy efficiency rebates, savings are hot

Multiple energy efficiency programs are alive and well in northeast Nebraska.

Two compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb programs kicked off in recent weeks.

- Free CFLs are available at the ERPPD office while supplies last. Customers can stop in and get three (3) per household.
- An in-store coupon program started Oct. 1 at many retailers where CFLs are sold. A coupon allows \$1 off any single-bulb purchase; another coupon allows \$3 off the purchase of any multi-pack. This promotion ends Dec. 31.
- Three rebate programs began Sept. 1.
- Installation of residential energy efficient heat pumps (see details at right).
- “Buy back” of second refrigerator or freezer for recycling (info at right).
- Renovation of commercial and industrial lighting (see page 3 for details).

Elkhorn Rural Public Power and the other wholesale customers of Nebraska Public Power District have been issued monies in an energy efficiency fund to support these programs. Of the \$2.5 million total in the fund, ERPPD’s portion totals more than \$44,000. ERPPD will issue rebates while funds last.

NPPD’s goal is to “buy” energy efficiency kilowatt-hours from customers for less than the 3.5 cents to 4 cents that it costs NPPD to generate them.

In each of these programs, the cost of a kilowatt-hour is around 2 cents.

This makes **EnergyWise** energy efficiency, the lowest-cost resource in meeting energy needs. As customers continue to increase energy usage, more resources will be needed. It makes good business sense to invest in cost-effective efficiency measures.

**EnergyWise** programs emphasize this: “Use less. Spend less. Do more.”

### ENERGY EFFICIENT HEAT PUMPS

#### How does a customer become eligible for a heat pump rebate?

Three possibilities exist. A residential customer can:

- 1.A. Convert to an air source heat pump;
- 1.B. Convert to a water source/geothermal heat pump;
2. Build new and install a qualified heat pump; or
3. Upgrade from a lower-SEER heat pump to a higher-SEER heat pump.

#### How does the residential customer get the rebate?

The heat pump installer must complete a verification form for a heat pump that meets the minimum equipment standards (see below). The verification ensures that the new unit is operating within 10% of manufacturer specifications. The dealer must sign the form; the customer must sign it; then it must be submitted to Mark Gronau at ERPPD.

#### Air Source Heat Pump Rebates

Energy Star, 14 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$200
Energy Star, 15 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$250
Energy Star, 16 SEER or higher, 8.2 HSPF	\$300

#### Water Source or Geothermal Heat Pump Rebate

Energy Star-qualified	\$400
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### CFL GIVEAWAY AT ERPPD OFFICE

To increase energy efficiency at the residential level, ERPPD is giving away up to three compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs to any residential customer who visits the office and asks for them. For every 20-watt CFL (equivalent to a 75-watt incandescent bulb) that ERPPD gives away the utility is reimbursed for the bulb, costing the power district nothing and increasing efficiency within the district. Come in and get three for your household while supplies last.

### REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER RECYCLING

ERPPD electric customers are eligible for a new refrigerator recycling program. That old fridge or freezer will be picked up for free. Even better, residents receive a \$35 rebate and help protect the environment. They can also save up to \$100 on their annual electric bill — the average cost of electricity wasted by a secondary refrigerator each year.

Refrigerator recycler JACO Environmental will perform the service. Call 1-866-444-9160, or visit [www.appliancerecycling.com](http://www.appliancerecycling.com) to schedule a pickup. Refrigerators or freezers must be running and be 10 to 30 cu.ft. in size.

JACO will haul the units to its plant near Chicago, where toxins are extracted and rendered harmless. Metal, plastic, glass, and other materials are recycled. In fact, JACO converts 95 percent of each unit into recyclable material.

The program is funded by the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Program of the Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality and NPPD, in partnership with its wholesale utility customers. The program is for a limited time on a first-come, first-served basis.

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY \$\$\$

## C&I lighting to get efficiency makeover

On average, interior lighting accounts for 28% of a business's energy consumption. It also contributes to a facility's productivity, employee morale, and safety. Each Elkhorn Rural Public Power commercial and industrial customer should ask this simple question, "Is my business lighting the best it can be?" If not, recent lighting technologies can help cut a business's lighting costs by as much as 30% to 60%, while enhancing lighting quality and reducing environmental impacts.

### 4-Step To-Do List

1. Discuss potential C&I Lighting projects and guidelines (at right) with ERPPD's Mark Gronau or Rick Hemphill and get an application form. Call ERPPD at 800-675-2185.
2. Select a contractor; install any of the systems identified in the listing below.
3. After installation, complete the application form.
4. Within 90 days of installation, submit the signed application (along with copies of the proof-of-purchase identified in the application's terms & conditions) to Elkhorn Rural Public Power.

### Guidelines

- Program began Sept. 1, 2008.
- All replaced or retrofitted lighting equipment must be permanently installed.
- Only commercial and industrial customers qualify for the energy-efficient fluorescent fixture incentives.
- All incentives sought that are \$5,000 or greater require a pre- and post-installation inspection to be conducted by Elkhorn Rural PPD.
- An equal number of lighting fixtures will be impacted when compared to the number of fixtures considered for retrofit or replacement. Only existing lighting systems qualify for upgrade. New construction or addition of more light fixtures in a facility or facility addition do not qualify.
- Area lighting may be metered or unmetered.
- Area lighting may be customer-owned or utility-owned via a rental/lease agreement.

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL LIGHTING REBATES		Per fixture
What does the customer have now?	What is the customer changing to?	Rebate
<b>• High Bay Lighting</b>		
Replace 400w 4-lamp Metal Halide	with 54w T5 High Output Fluorescent High Bay	\$75
Replace 400w 6-lamp Metal Halide	with 54w T5 HO Fluorescent High Bay	\$75
Replace 320w 4-lamp Metal Halide	with 54w T5 HO Fluorescent High Bay	\$75
Replace 250w 3-lamp Metal Halide	with 32w T8 Fluorescent High Bay	\$50
Replace 250w 6-lamp Metal Halide	with 32w T8 Fluorescent High Bay	\$50
<b>• Exit Signs</b>		
Replace or retrofit Incandescent Exit Sign	with LED Exit Sign	\$20
<b>• 4-ft Fluorescent Tube Lighting</b>		
Replace or retrofit T12 4-lamp fixture	with T8 and electronic ballast fixture	\$20
Replace or retrofit T12 3-lamp fixture	with T8 and electronic ballast fixture	\$15
Replace or retrofit T12 2-lamp fixture	with T8 and electronic ballast fixture	\$10
<b>• 8-ft Fluorescent Tube Lighting</b>		
Replace or retrofit any T12 fixture	with T8 and electronic ballast fixture	\$15
<b>• Area Security Lighting</b>		
Replace 400w or greater Mercury Vapor lamp	with 250w High Pressure Sodium	\$40
Replace 176w to 399w Mercury Vapor lamp	with 150w High Pressure Sodium	\$30
Replace 175w or less Mercury Vapor lamp	with 100w High Pressure Sodium	\$20

# ELECTION 2008

## ERPPD has 4 seats on general election ballot Nov. 4

United States citizens will have the opportunity to go to the voting booth on Nov. 4 to cast their ballots in the 2008 general election, and there is much at stake in presidential, senatorial, congressional, and statehouse races throughout the country.

However, that same general election will also feature four of the nine director's seats for ERPPD. Each of the three subdivisions within the utility's service area will be represented in the election.

Only one of the races is contested, but that does not mean you should not vote. The election ballot is every citizen's right to express his or her feelings about every candidate and every issue. It also represents another way of keeping the "public" in public power. (See the article on page 1.)

In Subdivision 1, incumbent Mark Miller (Madison) is running unopposed for a six-year term; and incumbent Gregory A. Weidner (Madison) is running unopposed to complete the final two years of the term left open after the untimely passing of Director Duane King in 2007.

In Subdivision 2, incumbent Tim D. Means (Meadow Grove) is running

unopposed for a six-year term.

In Subdivision 3, Fred J. Thiele (Clearwater), David Hoefler (Elgin), and Chris Moser (Clearwater) are vying for the six-year term that will be opened when John Thiele retires from the board after 30 years of service.

The subdivisions are shown below.

It is important that you cast your vote on Nov. 4.



**Service Area Subdivisions**

### When you have an emergency, our people are standing by!

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 your neighbors to see if they have electricity. 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 give the name that 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 Battle Creek office, 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**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner  
President.....II
- Tim Means  
Vice President..II
- John Thiele  
Secretary.....III
- Dennis Kuchar  
Treasurer.....I
- Robert Kee  
Director.....II
- Larry Lindahl  
Director.....III
- Mark Miller  
Director.....I
- Joe Thiele  
Director.....III
- Greg Weidner  
Director.....I

**MANAGER**  
Terry Carson

### 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](http://www.erppd.com)

E-mail: [erppd@erppd.com](mailto:erppd@erppd.com)



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

Or 1-800-331-5666

"Diggers Hotline of Nebraska"