

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

September 2008

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 17, Number 9

Energy efficiency rebates begin Sept. 1

Three energy efficiency rebate programs are set to kickoff on 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 2 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 \$2.5 million in the fund, ERPPD’s portion totals more than \$44,000.

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. Convert to an air source heat pump OR 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 is done to ensure that the new unit is operating within 10% of manufacturer specifications. The dealer must sign the form; give it to the customer to sign; and then it must be submitted to Mark Gronau at ERPPD. Whether the verification passes or not, the customer receives the rebate.

Air Source Heat Pump Rebates

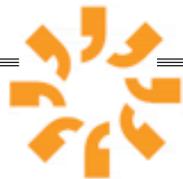
Energy Star, 14 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$200
Energy Star, 15 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$250
Energy Star, 16 SEER or higher, 8.2 HSPF	\$300

Water Source or Geothermal Heat Pump Rebate

Energy Star-qualified	\$400
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REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER RECYCLING

Customer receives a \$35 rebate to “buy back” a working (10 cu. ft. or larger) second refrigerator or freezer. (The unit must be able to freeze water.) This program begins Sept. 1, and will roll out in northeast Nebraska first. Watch for program details in area newspapers from JACO Environmental, Inc., about collection procedures and contact information.



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

Will we have the electricity
we need in the future? (See page 3)

Start a dialogue
with your elected officials at:

www.OurEnergy.coop

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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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 begins 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

What does the customer have now?	What is the customer changing to?	Per fixture Rebate
• High Bay Lighting		
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
• Exit Signs		
Replace or retrofit Incandescent Exit Sign	with LED Exit Sign	\$20
• 4-ft Fluorescent Tube Lighting		
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
• 8-ft Fluorescent Tube Lighting		
Replace or retrofit any T12 fixture	with T8 and electronic ballast fixture	\$15
• Area Security Lighting		
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

ERPPD's Load Control status during the season? Call 1-800-238-0185

GRASSROOTS

Grassroots begins with you, the customers of ERPPD!

By James Dukesherer

As the new grassroots coordinator for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA), I am pleased to introduce myself and provide some information about the



NREA grassroots initiative. Already efforts are underway to mobilize all 35 member systems of the NREA to give a voice to the issues most important to rural electrification. As with any new program, there are many questions about what the grassroots program is and how member-systems and individuals may become involved. I want to take this opportunity to answer some of these questions and present the grassroots program to you.

The term “grassroots” refers to the directors, employees, and customers an organization serves. These individuals are people on the front lines, and as constituents of elected officials they can be a powerful tool in advocating issues. Often the leaders of an organization and the lobbyists they employ are the only resource used to communicate to elected officials. Grassroots support provides direct communication between elected officials and those they are elected to represent.

This grassroots program is an effort to mobilize our member systems and their customers, increase their knowledge of rural electrification issues, and provide the resources necessary for these individuals to become involved in the political process. By asking members to contact representatives, attend forums, and vote, the issues most important to the NREA receive greater attention and ultimately we will see more favorable policy outcomes.

The strength of any organization is in its membership. In the legislative arena, the key difference between successful groups and those who are not, is the active involvement and participation of its membership. NREA’s members serve more than 400,000 consumers which collectively can have a powerful voice in government. To help mobilize our membership, grassroots efforts will be focused in three key areas, including:

1) Education and Awareness of Issues—

Educating all members of the NREA, from its Managers to its employees, is vital to providing a uniform message which members can carry to elected officials and customers. By understanding the issues and the legislative process members will gain the knowledge and confidence needed to increase the dialog on the issues facing the NREA.

2) Building Relationships with Elected Officials—

When elected officials attend local meetings and policy discussions, it develops a relationship where they gain an understanding and familiarity with the Association and its members. Increasing trust between elected officials and the NREA allows the Association to increase its status as an important player, and knowledgeable source of information, when energy issues come before the legislative bodies.

3) Advocacy Organization—

The third focus of the program provides the mobilization and tools necessary for members to become involved. Resource materials are being developed to help our members effectively write letters, keep informed on the issues and events, and contact their elected representatives. By developing these advocacy tools, the program will ensure every member has the opportunity to become involved.

Already, many members from all 35 member-systems have chosen to take part in the “Our Energy, Our Future” campaign. This campaign is designed to ask your elected representatives the tough questions about keeping America’s power affordable and available. With electric rates on the rise, now is the time to take action. If you have not joined the campaign, visit www.ourenergy.coop. Click on “Contact Elected Officials” and ask your members of Congress what they are doing to increase capacity, develop new technology, and keep electricity rates affordable.

The biggest obstacle any grassroots movement has to overcome is apathy. Too often, I have talked to individuals who believe their voice gets lost in the democratic process. This is not true, and with proper organization and education our members can have a strong influence on policy outcomes.

As the grassroots program continues to develop, I invite you—as a customer of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District—to consider what you can do to become more involved, and to take advantage of the opportunities presented to you. Rather than a single voice, the grassroots program will mobilize a movement of Nebraskans concerned about energy issues and affordable electric rates. With the active involvement of all of our members, the NREA and its customers can be a powerful voice in Lincoln and Washington. Please do not miss your opportunity to become involved.

Remember: www.ourenergy.coop

James Dukesherer is the Grassroots Coordinator for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, located in Lincoln, Neb., and of which Elkhorn Rural Public Power District is a member.

YOUTH ENERGY CAMP

Four area youth represent ERPPD at annual camp; Katelyn Thiele returns as YEC junior counselor

Four students were first-time representatives of Elkhorn Rural Public Power at the annual Youth Energy Camp in July. A fifth returned as a counselor. The five are pictured at right.

The camp is facilitated by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association and is sponsored by ERPPD and 34 other member electric systems in Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado. This year's camp was July 14-18 at the State 4-H Camp in Halsey National Forest, near Halsey, Neb.

Campers experienced a variety of interactive opportunities with adult counselors and other campers: hands-on classes about energy efficiency, electric safety, and public power in Nebraska; tours of two Nebraska electric generating plants; and a competition for scholarships to the National Youth Tour, which is held the following June in Washington, D.C.

Katelyn Thiele, daughter of ERPPD Director Joe Thiele and a 2007 Youth Energy Camper, by virtue of winning one of those scholarships, made a return to this camp as a junior counselor. The scholarship allowed her to attend the annual Youth Energy Tour in Wash., D.C., during June, where she was named as Nebraska's 2008 national youth delegate to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which means more trips to Washington and other meetings across the nation.



ERPPD representatives at the 2008 Youth Energy Camp pose at the entrance to the Halsey National Forest on the way home from camp. The ERPPD youth were (clockwise from left) Jeremy Hemmer of Lindsay, Greg Roberg of Newman Grove, Michaella Duff of Clearwater, Katelyn Thiele of Clearwater who returned for a second year as a junior counselor, and Sydney Pokorny of Clearwater.

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
SecretaryIII
- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
- Robert Kee
Director II
- Larry Lindahl
DirectorIII
- Mark Miller
Director I
- Joe Thiele
DirectorIII
- 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

E-mail: erppd@erppd.com



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

Or 1-800-331-5666

"Diggers Hotline of Nebraska"