

FAVORITE FARMER FEATURES SAFETY

ERPPD customer Bob Napier, Ewing, was selected at random for our wholesale power provider's media campaign "Favorite Farmer".

Entries for favorite farmer were taken across the state in May to help spotlight planting safety. Six winners were selected and prize baskets were delivered in June. At the end of July ads about what the farmer does to work safely and the benefits of public power were aired on local radio stations across the state.

Bob has high voltage transmission lines that cross his farm land, so he is used to working around electrical lines. He said that he has witnessed some incidents with electrical wires and that

keeps him on his toes when it comes to being safe with his equipment.

He encourages everyone to look up and out for high voltage lines, when using equipment around the farm.

At ERPPD, we also encourage our customers to look up and live and to know what to do if you are involved in an accident with power lines.

The infographic below, which is a window cling that you can put in your equipment to remind you, shows you what to do if you do have an accident.

These window clings and "look



Pictured left to right Mookie, 94 Rock, Grant Otten, NPPD, Bob Napier, and Jennifer Adams, ERPPD, with the Favorite Farmer prize basket.

up and live" stickers are available at the ERPPD office and local implementation dealers. You can also call the office at 402.675.2185 and we will mail them to you or stop by to get them today.

If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

PUBLIC POWER - LOCAL CONTROL

One of the benefits of public power is the local control aspect of governance. This is one of the benefits of public power that is being highlighted by the Uniquely Nebraskan, Unusually Proud, (graphic to the right) social media campaign through our wholesale power provider - visit www.publicpowered.com for more information and to register to win prizes.

Local control means that decisions about the utility and rates are made at the local level by publicly elected board members that are customers of the utility and members of the community.

Because they live and work in your communities, they understand the effect rates, policies and infrastructure have on you, your families and business. They weigh the options they have to make good decisions for the district.

For investor-owned-utilities (IOUs), the motivation is return on investment - how can they make money from providing the service of electricity. The investors/shareholders are not usually a part of the communities they are serving either. So not only do the customers of IOUs not have a say in how the company is run, many of the profits leave the community.

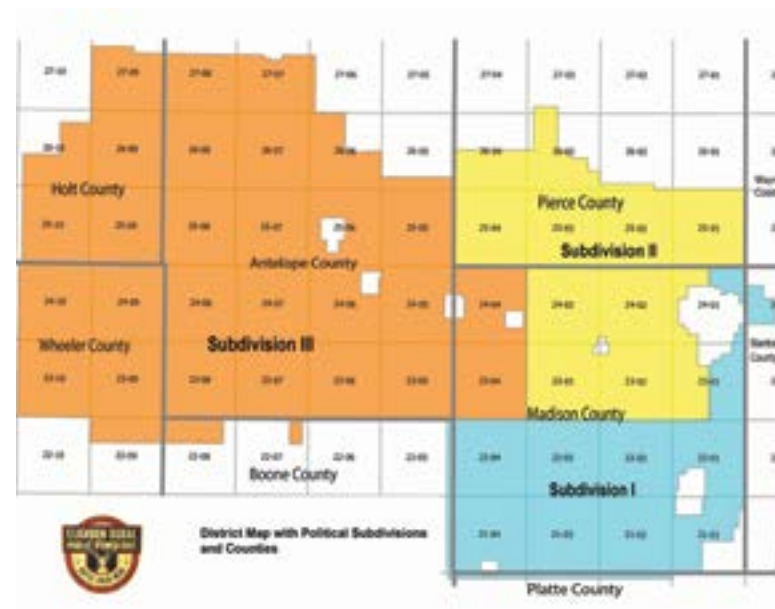
The structure of governance for ERPPD includes three subdivisions - see the map to the right. The subdivision boundaries changed due to the 2020 census information (See the February 2022 *Wire* for more information on the changes). Each subdivision represents roughly a third of our customers.

There are three directors for each subdivision for a total of nine directors on the ERPPD board. Board terms are for six years.

Current board members include:

- * *Subdivision I* - George Hunter Frisch, Mark Miller, Dennis Kuchar;
- * *Subdivision II* - Jerrell Dolesh, Tim Means, Rod Zohner;
- * *Subdivision III* - Dave Hoefler, Ray Payne and Joe Thiele.

Your involvement in the public power model



is also crucial as you elect the board, provide input for how the organization is run and determine the future of public power.

With it being an election year, exercising your right to vote during the general election is a key way to be involved.

If you are unsure if you are registered to vote, you can visit <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/voterview/>. If you need to register to vote, visit: <https://www.nebraska.gov/apps-sos-voter-registration/>.

Local control is a benefit of public power because it allows you a voice in our mission to provide you with safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity.

ERPPD - AN EVEN BETTER VALUE

As you can see from the graphic to the right, electricity is a good value, but Elkhorn Rural Public Power District customers get an even better value!

ERPPD customers have not seen a general increase in rates since 2013, AND, this year, there was a 4% overall decrease in your rates! (Note: individual bills will vary based on rate class and usage patterns)

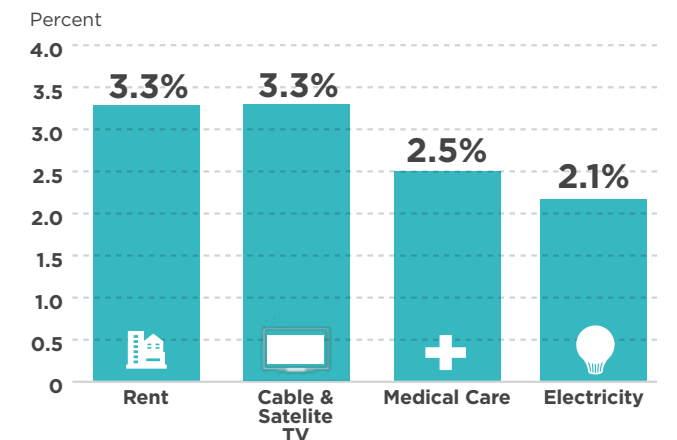
In fact, ERPPD residential rates at 9.7 cents/kwh remain lower than the state average of 10.8 cents and national average of 13.02 cents. (2020 data -See the February 2022 *Wire*).

Having steady electric rates is a good thing, especially since according to the EIA, the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. (See the graphic below "How Americans Use Electricity")

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value.

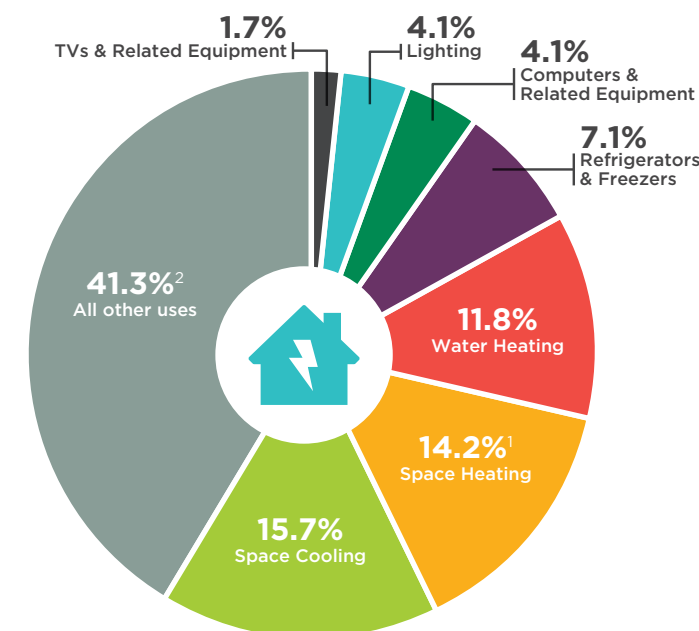
Average Annual Price Increase 2016-2021



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2021

¹Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.
²Includes miscellaneous appliances, clothes washers and dryers, stoves, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

Which means that electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smart phones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router.

Today, there is also more demand for electricity than ever before. In 1940, when ERPPD energized its first services, the average customer used 64 kWh. Today that number is 2,200 kWh. And that usage looks to keep growing with more innovations that use electricity - like electric lawn equipment and electric vehicles.

Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with ERPPD electrical rates.

We at ERPPD will continue to work to find ways to keep the value of electricity better than ever.

EMPLOYEE UPDATES

New Hire

Brad Doffin started on June 24, as the Field Service Tech.

Brad comes to us from the City of Norfolk Water Department.

He graduated with an associates in Utility Line and Electromechanical studies from Northeast Community College. He did his summer coop with Elkhorn in 2011. He worked as an apprentice lineman at Loup Public Power before deciding to fly planes in Bloomfield.

Brad and his wife, Megan, have two daughters, Addison, 2 1/2 years old, and Emma, 2 months old.



New Position

Andy Starman started as General Foreman in Neligh on June 20.

Andy has been with ERPPD for 12 years.

He held the position of journeyman lineman and then for the last 3 1/2 years he has been the staking/meter assistant.

In his time here he has continued to enhance his leadership and communication skills. He has also shown the ability to manage and organize many projects on a day to day basis, which are necessary skills for a general foreman.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.

Play it safe. That text can wait.



While driving, turn phone to silent mode or pull over if the text can't wait.