



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

August 2023

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 32, Number 8

## NEW FACE AT ERPPD

Alexandria (Alex) Wiemers started as a Customer Service Representative (CSR) on Monday, July 3, to fill the vacancy left when Konnie Beutler retired in April.

With a passion for delivering outstanding customer experiences, Alex brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our organization.

She has 10 years of experience in customer service.

Most recently Alex was a Senior Account Specialist with First

National Bank of Omaha. Prior to that she was in various roles at the Nebraska Department of Labor in unemployment insurance.

She really enjoys problem-solving and helping customers get the best outcomes possible.

Her excellent communication skills, problem-solving abilities, and dedication to customer satisfaction will make her a valuable asset to our CSR team.

Alex is a Battle Creek native. She and her partner, Dalton, live



Alexandria (Alex) Wiemers, new CSR.

on an acreage by Stanton. Welcome to ERPPD!

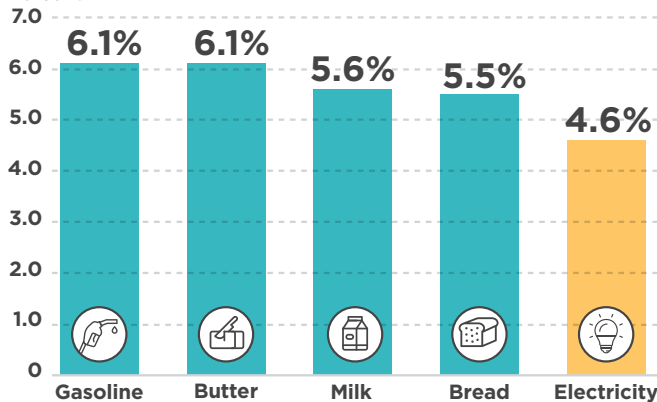
## ELECTRICAL VALUE

### ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2017-2022

Percent



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

As you can see from the graphic to the left, electricity continues to be 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 2% overall decrease in your rates in addition to the 4% general rate decrease taken in 2022! (Note: individual bills will vary based on rate class and usage patterns)

In Nebraska, the average cost of residential electricity has remained steady over the last five years. For Elkhorn, the average residential rate for 2021 was \$0.098, which is a penny lower than the state average (\$0.108) and almost \$0.04 lower than the national average (\$0.137). In an economic climate of prices increasing, ERPPD is decreasing its rates. (2021 data -See the March 2023 *Wire*).

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

# ELECTRICAL VEHICLES

Pictured upper right is the 2022 F-150 Ford Lightning in the Elgin Vetch Days Parade in June 2023. Pictured lower right is the 2022 KIA EV6 AWD that was driven in the Neligh 150th 4th of July Parade.

Both EVs were on loan from our wholesale electric provider, Nebraska Public Power District, Energy-Wise<sup>SM</sup> program.

As battery technology advances, Electric Vehicles (EVs) will have longer ranges and faster charging times, making them more effective and desirable for emission-free transportation.

By being able to utilize EVs, we can help customers with questions they might have - like "How do you make the most of the range of an EV?" - see graphic below.

If you are interested in more information about EVs, please visit our website at [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com) and click on the link for Energy/EnergyWise Incentives or call our office at 800-675-2185 and ask to speak with Brian Suckstorf.

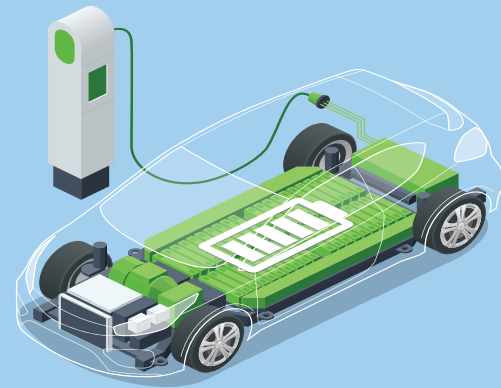


(Photo courtesy of the Elgin Review Facebook page.)



## The Name of the (BATTERY) Game

Making the Most of Electric Vehicle Range



### Driving Patterns

Higher speeds require more battery power than lower speeds.

### In-Town vs. Highway

In-town driving has its benefits. Braking charges the battery and coasting conserves energy.

### Acceleration Rate

Taking the lead out of your foot helps improve your car's battery range.

### Weather

While many conditions affect range, frigid temperatures drain the battery the quickest.

### Heat/AC

Controlling the comfort inside your EV is the biggest power drain second only to driving it.

### Weight

The size of your EV, number of passengers and any added cargo impact efficiency.



Source: Kelley Blue Book

# ROAD SAFETY

Orange cones, flashing lights, and warning signs all indicate a work zone on the road ahead. Within these zones are men and women doing work like road construction, working on power lines, or trimming trees. Unfortunately, hundreds of these workers are injured every year from work and road hazards. Slow down and pay attention in work zones while driving. To help prevent fatalities and injuries, use the following guidelines while driving:

- \* Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment, and workers.
- \* Be patient. Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so try to allow time for unexpected occurrences in your schedule.
- \* Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- \* Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.
- \* Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- \* Minimize distractions. Avoid activities such as using your cell phone, operating a radio or eating while driving.

When you are making travel plans, keep in mind that many states also provide road construction information on their respective department of transportation websites that can be consulted before starting a trip. If you know that you are going to be traveling through a work zone, give yourself a little extra time to get to your destination, or you can find an alternate route.



*Neligh crews are fixing a pole and line that was damaged during a storm in the Summerland area on July 16, 2022. The use of signs and cones warn drivers to slow down and proceed with caution through the work zone.* (Photo courtesy of the Antelope County News Facebook page.)



August is also "Back to School" Month. As with our employees, we want everyone to return home safely each day. Please be alert to school buses, new drivers, parents, and children, walking or biking to school as you are driving this month.

The National Safety Council has practical tips to use when sharing the road with buses and pedestrians as well as these tips for when you are dropping your children off at a school:

- \* Don't double park; it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles.
- \* Don't load or unload children across the street from the school.
- \* Carpool to reduce the number of vehicles at the school.

For more information visit [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org).



# YOUTH TOUR/YELC

Youth Tour and Youth Energy Leadership Camp are programs through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Nebraska Rural Electric Association that engage our youth in public power.

This year, Lenora Kester, daughter of Duane and Jennifer Kester of Clearwater, was ERPPD's Youth Tour delegate in Washington D.C. (pictured right). Youth Tour provides rural high school students the opportunity to see the sites of our nation's capital firsthand. They also get to meet with members of Congress and other students from across the nation. Lenora, attended Youth Energy Leadership Camp last year and won the Good Egg Award - exemplifying strong character attributes.



Youth Energy Leadership Camp (YELC) was held at Comeca Camp and Recreation Center outside of Cozad, Nebraska, July 9-12.

Previously the camp was held at the Halsey National Forest 4-H Camp, but due to a fire last fall, the camp was moved.

Pictured above representing ERPPD for the camp were left to right: Blake Papik, journeyman lineman, camp counselor; Lenora Kester, Jr. camp counselor and campers, Cole and Seth Preister, sons of Bryce and Shelly Preister of Humphrey. Cole and Seth attend Lindsay Holy Family High School.

YELC is a great opportunity for youth in high school to experience what it is like to be involved with their electric power utility, while having a lot of fun, meeting new

people and learning leadership skills.

At the week-long camp, campers learn about the workings of public power districts, for example: electing a board of directors and hiring a general manager as well as being a part of committees that function like a power district.

Campers also tour Gerald Gentleman power station, participate in fun activities like bucket rides and pole climbing. There is a talent show and on the last night there is a banquet and dance.

Campers can also compete to represent Nebraska during the Youth Tour in Washington D.C. the following June.

If you have high school aged

children please encourage them to attend this awesome and unusual camp by calling the office and asking to speak with Stacie.



*Blake Papik, camp counselor, is pictured with his sister Kierra, who was a camper from another district. He is helping her learn to climb a pole.*