



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

August 2025

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 34, Number 8

ERPPD RECOGNIZED

Board members and employees were on hand at the 10th Annual Northeast Nebraska Ag Banquet held at the Madison County Fair Grounds on June 17th. At the banquet, ERPPD was recognized as the Agri-Business of the Year by the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Council and the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce.

ERPPD was selected from nominations sent to the committee. The nomination was read at the banquet: "Since 1938, this business has been dedicated to supplying safe, reliable, and cost-effective electricity to its customers. They provide energy-wise incentives, energy audits, and youth energy leadership camps, as well as multiple safety programs for farms, residents, and students. They also allow their customers the opportunity to "round up" their monthly payments to the nearest dollar, using the proceeds from this program for donations and support to non-profit organizations and charities within their service area. They provide window decals for farmers to display in each piece of their equipment to remind them to "Look Up and Look Out" for power lines as well as providing information on what to do in the event of a power line accident/emergency. Through Nebraska's weather extremes, this

business actively works to provide the services farmers need to continue to water, feed, shelter, and care for their livestock, as well."

Dennis Kuchar, board treasurer, said it best when he accepted the award, "It[electricity] is a life blood. We couldn't survive without it today.

It's an awesome source. A lot of us expect the lights to go on when we turn them on. It's the dedication from the people that work on it. It's there all the time. I just want to congratulate all of our employees for the work they do that makes it this way. They are a great group of



Directors and employees on hand to accept the Agri-Business of the Year Award from the Norfolk and Madison Area Chambers.

people who are dedicated in serving customers. They will go out in the worst weather, and they do a great job."

We are honored beyond measure to have been nominated and to receive this recognition from the ag community. We are celebrating 85 years of keeping the lights on for our customers, and this award is a significant highlight. We are looking forward to many more years of providing safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity for our customers.

A tribute video was made for the banquet and can be viewed on the ERPPD Facebook page.

You can scan this QR code to be taken straight to our Facebook page.



Dennis Kuchar, director, receives the award from Hanna Hake, agri-business council co-chair.

2024 FINANCIAL RECAP



Carmen Christensen, CFO

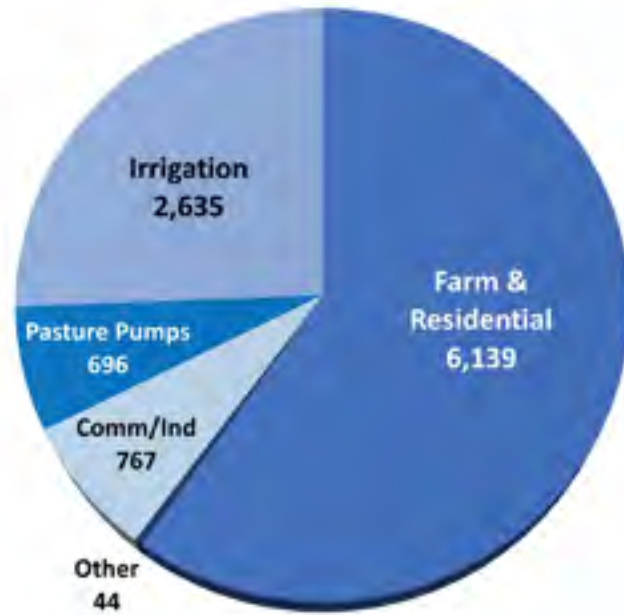
Every year, Elkhorn RPPD is required to perform an annual audit. As in past years' the audit came back with a clean report. Let's take a closer look at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District's (ERPPD) 2024 financials.

ERPPD provides electricity to more than 10,280 services, and maintains 2916 miles of line and 33 substations covering portions or all of eight counties. The graph, right, shows a breakdown of customers by class. As shown in the graph, our two largest customer classes account for 86% of our customer base, farm/residential-60% and irrigation-26%.

The sale of electricity to our customers is ERPPD's main source of revenue. During 2024, we sold over 344 million kilowatt hours. This was an increase of 5.2% over the previous year's sales and the 2nd highest sales, slightly less than the record sales year of 351 million kilowatt hour sales in 2022. Sales were up in all rate classes, but the largest increase was from the addition of a new industrial load in our area. This increased commercial and industrial load about 24% from 2023. The orange colored graph, right, shows the breakdown by customer class for sales. Although irrigation services are only 26% of our customer base, irrigation energy sales were 34% of all kilowatt hour sales in 2024. While all rate classes will adjust annually due to the weather, irrigation services are where we see the biggest variation of sales due to the weather.

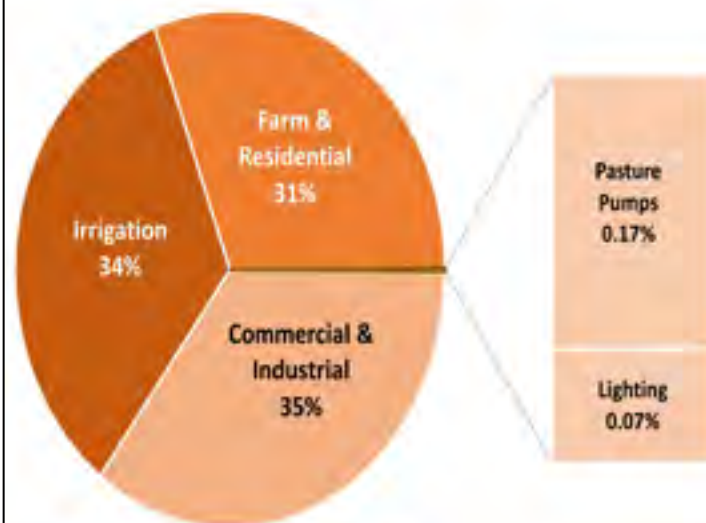
Revenue, how ERPPD generates money to operate, was \$32.4M in 2024. This is the payment sent in by you, the customer. The green colored graph on page 3, shows a breakdown of revenue by customer class. As you can see, our revenue is generated by three main customer classes. Although there are very few services in the commercial and industrial class, their energy demand is much greater than the average residential or farm service therefore generating more revenue from that class. Due to the increased sales in 2024, we were able to establish a rate stabilization fund of \$1.5M from our operating revenue

Customers by Class



Farm & residential and irrigation classes make up 86% of our customer base.

Electrical Sales (kWh)



Kilowatt hour sales were up in all classes. The largest increase was for commercial and industrial which had a 24% increase from 2023 due to a new industrial load.

FINANCIAL RECAP CONTINUED

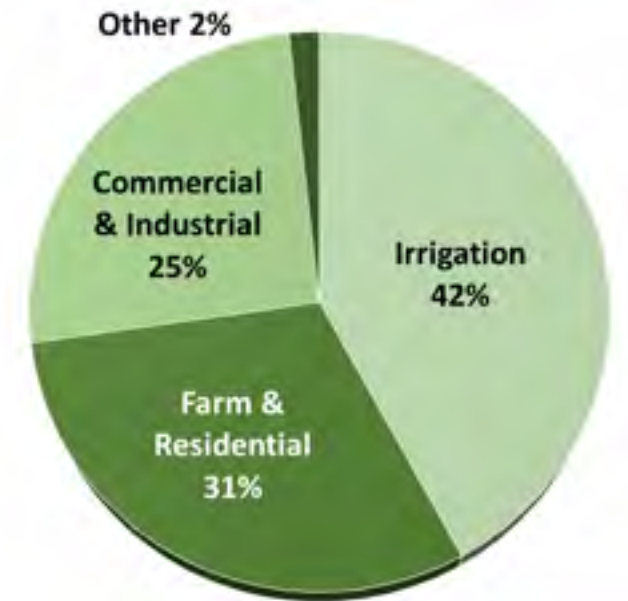
to help offset future rate increases while still keeping the district in a strong financial position. There was a 0% rate adjustment in 2024. This was preceded by revenue neutral rate adjustments from 2013-2021 and rate decreases in 2022 and 2023 totaling 6%. The goal is to collect revenue to cover the cost of service. Cost of service includes expenses and improvements to the system incurred to supply electricity to you, our customers. Net income is put back into the distribution system for improvements to reliability for the benefit of all customers. Our distribution system is about 32% depreciated, meaning we have newer infrastructure in the field. In 2024 we were able to build new transmission line with 75% of the cost paid by a grant through FEMA's hazard mitigation program. This was about a \$3.6M project.

As depicted below, there are six expense categories that contribute to the overall cost of service. The biggest expense is power costs. This is the power we buy from NPPD and the solar farms. For every dollar paid in revenue, 67 cents is used to purchase the power used to supply electricity to your homes, farms, or businesses. The other 33 cents is used for all other expenses. These expenses include maintenance of the system, depreciation, billing, and tax expense. In the past, interest expense was also included in expenses. In 2024 the district made its final long-term bond payment and no longer accrue interest expense.

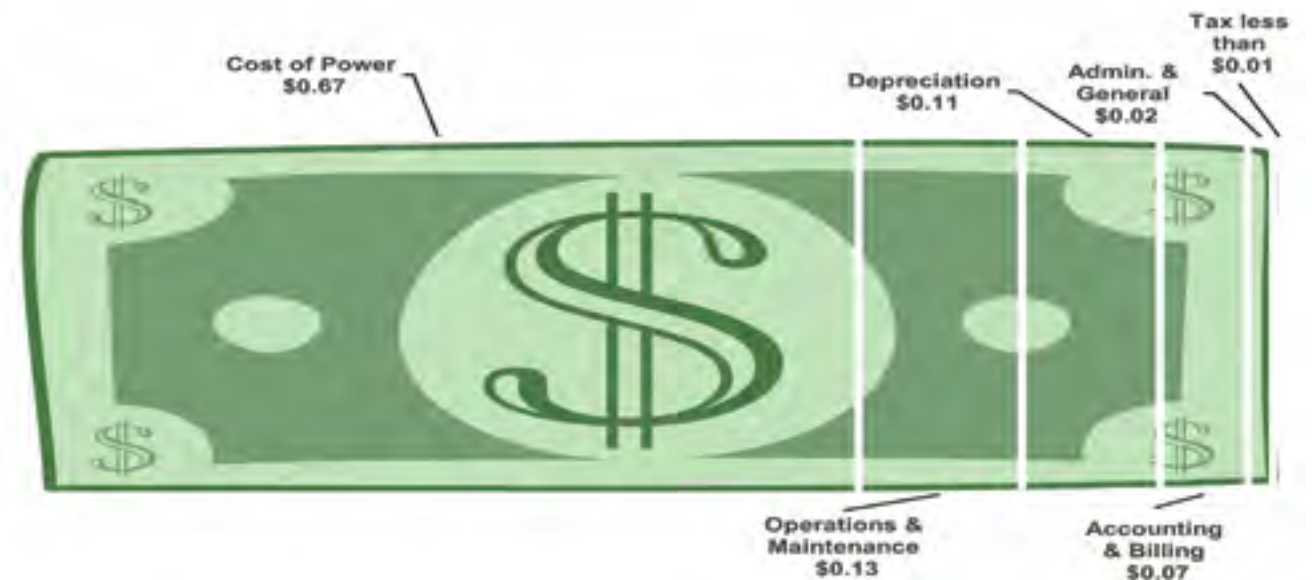
We know how important it is you to have electricity when you flip on that switch. While the weather can sometimes wreak havoc, our reliability factor for 2024 was 99.95%!

These numbers show how committed the board of directors and employees at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District are to fulfilling our mission of providing safe, reliable, cost-effective, electricity to all our customers now and into the future.

Revenue by Customer Class



Revenues are generated by the three main rate classes. ERPPD has not had a general rate increase since 2013, and has had two general rate decreases in 2022 & 2023.



YOUTH TOUR

Youth Tour is a program through the National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association that brings rural high school students from all over the country to the nation's capitol in Washington D.C. so that they can see and experience for themselves what it means to be part of our great nation and public power.

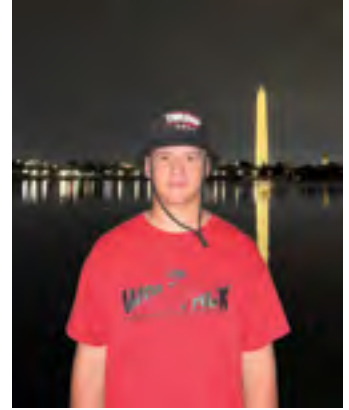
Brayden Burenheide, son of Julie and Gary Schilmeier of Elgin, attended Youth Tour this year as ERPPD's delegate. Brayden goes to Pope John XXIII Central High School in Elgin. He attended the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's Youth Energy Leadership Camp last year as a prerequisite to attending Youth Tour.

Brayden was amazed at all the things they were able to see and learn about on the trip, from Gettysburg to all the monuments in Washington, D.C. They also met with the Nebraska Senators Deb Fisher and Pete Ricketts and went to the Capitol building.



Brayden said that the best part of the trip was getting a chance to meet all the other delegates from all over the United States - over 2,000 students!

Brayden would "100% recommend" this "super fun" experience to any high school student that would be able to go. If you have or know of a child or grandchild that is in high school that would be interested, please call the office at 402-675-2185 and speak with Stacie about the youth programs.



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8:00AM - 4:30 PM



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Connect with us Online:



www.ERPPD.com



SCAN ME

Customer Service: 402-675-2185
For Outages: 1-800-675-2185

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- James Geyer, Director

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- Jerrell Dolesh, Director
- Rod Zohner, Director

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- Joe Thiele, President
- David Hoefer, Director
- Raymond Payne, Vice President