



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2022

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 31, Number 12

WHAT IS IT? ANOTHER RATE DECREASE!

Is it a plane? A bird? No. It is not Superman either, but something almost as rare - it is another rate decrease!

For nine years 2013 - 2021, rates remained steady with no overall rate increases for our customers. For this year there was a 4% rate decrease.

For 2023, there will be a 2% rate decrease in overall electrical rates. As noted in the past, individual bills will vary based on rate class and usage patterns.

What can you think of that you

use on a daily basis, that is integral to your way of life that is actually cheaper today than 10 years ago?

Financial projection analysis showed that a rate decrease would be sustainable over time, even with the present conditions of inflation and supply chain issues.

As noted in the December 2021 *Wire*, there are many different components that have set us up to be able to successfully fulfill our mission to supply safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity.

With board leadership, skilled staff and dedicated customers, we will continue to leverage those components and implement new ways to continue to provide value while keeping reliability and cost a priority - the new AMI system is one example. With the new AMI system, we will be able to monitor the system better to help prevent outages as well as respond better to outages with better information.

We look forward to another year of serving you!

FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU!



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
will be closed
Monday, December 26,
in observance of Christmas
and
Monday, January 2, 2023
in observance of New Year's Day

DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED

Thank you to those that took the time to vote in the November general election.

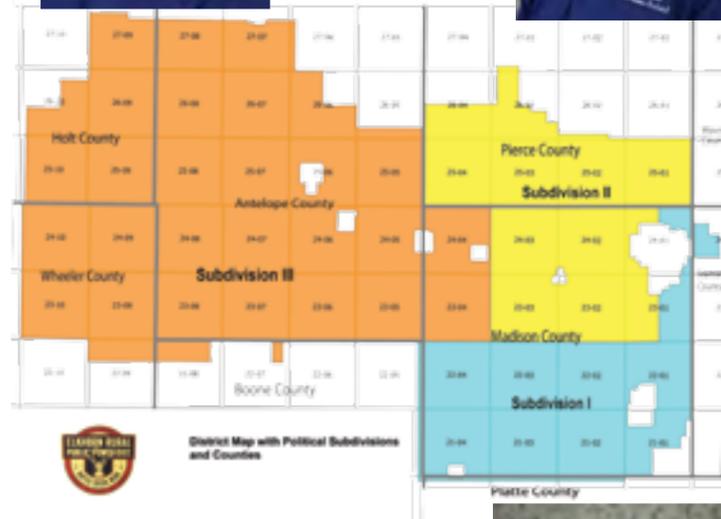
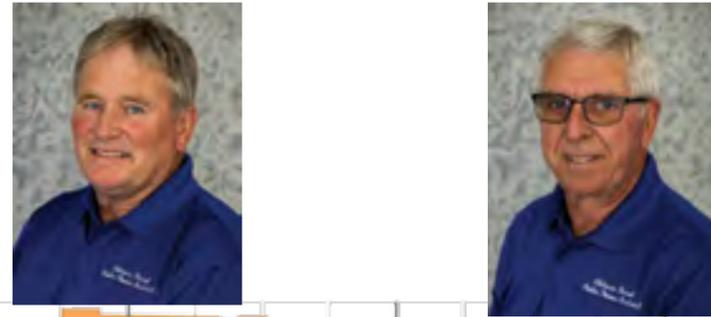
We congratulate George “Hunter” Frisch, Subdivision I, Jerrell Dolesh, Subdivision II, and Joe Thiele, Subdivision III, who were all re-elected to the board for six-year terms.

Voting is an integral part of the public power model. The public power process starts with you, our customer, taking the time to vote for your representatives on the board of directors.

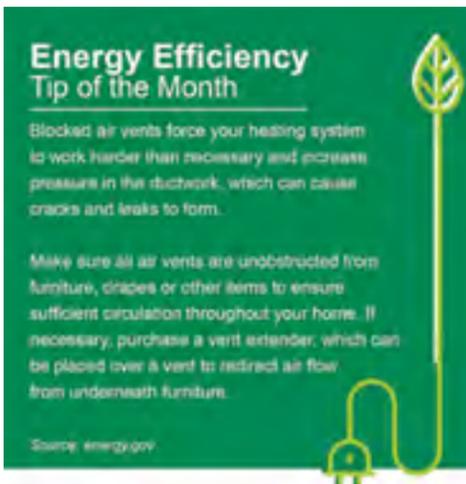
Your vote and voice matters to ERPPD. Local control means that the board of directors are customers like you, your neighbors, living and working in your communities, willing to take leadership roles and run for the board positions.

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.

The newly re-elected board members along with the other six board members, Dave Hofer, Dennis Kuchar, Tim Means, Mark Miller, Ray Payne, and Rod Zohner, and ERPPD staff, work hard to fulfill the mission to bring you safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity.



Pictured clockwise from top: Joe Thiele, Subdivision III Director; Jerrell Dolesh, Subdivision II Director; and Hunter Frisch, Subdivision I Director. All were elected in November to serve six-year terms on the ERPPD board of directors. Congratulations!



2022 RECAP FOR THE FUND



Christmas is the giving time of year. Customers that round up their bill each month

to help area non-profit organizations help better the communities that they serve, keep that Christmas giving spirit alive all through the year.

That deserves a big thank you! “By the Numbers” shows what an impact you have had on different organizations and communities since 2018 when Operation Round Up was first initiated.



Pictured above left - Linda Libengood with the Norfolk Concert Association. Pictured to the right: Dianne Gunderson and Barb Bode, Elgin Public Library and the L-shaped desk that was purchased with their money; and to the left Troy Uhler, Big Bang Boom volunteer with the fund check. These pictures represent three of the 45 projects funded in 2022.

Community Development Fund Requests and Awards Nov. 2022

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
Animal Shelter of Northeast NE	Barn Cat Program	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Antelope County Ag Society/Antelope County 4-H	Antelope County 4-H and FFA Poultry Project	Neligh	\$1,000.00
Heritage Park Revitalization Committee	Heritage Park Revitalization	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Battle Creek High School	Digital Media - Drone Recording	Battle Creek	\$500.00
Lied Battle Creek Library Foundation	Online Newspaper Digitizing	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Elgin Housing Authority Service Coordinator	Medicare Open Enrollment Supplies	Elgin	\$120.00
ESU 8 Clearwater Learning Center	Sensory Items for Students with Disabilities	Clearwater	\$1,000.00
FRHS - Northeast Nebraska Child Advocacy Center	Advocating for Hope, Healing and Resilience Workbook and Supplies	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Senior Citizens Program, Inc.	Carpet Replacement	Neligh	\$1,000.00
S.M.I.L.E.	Scholarships and Horses and Ponies	Madison	\$1,000.00
Teammates of Summerland	Background Checks	Ewing	\$750.00
The Mad Scientist	4-H Robotics Club	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Toys for Tots	2023 Campaign	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
	Total		\$11,370.00

BY THE NUMBERS:

\$156,618.06 - Total funds collected since the beginning of the program to September 2022.

\$143,504.46 - Total funds distributed from August 2018 to November 7, 2022.

84 - total number of organizations helped since 2018

175 - total number of project applications submitted for funding since 2018

69 - percentage of customers that round up

50 - average number of cents per service that is rounded up each month

Priceless - the gratitude of the organizations and people helped through the Operation Round Up program. Thank you!

WINTER TRAVEL

Winter travel takes a bit more planning and preparation.

In addition to the precautions in the graphic to the right, here are some tips for when you are on the road this winter.

Stock Your Vehicle

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related tasks, and supplies you might need in an emergency.

Gas Up

Keep your gas tank close to full whenever possible; this will help traction. It will also allow for having enough gas for heat if you become stranded on the road for a long period of time.

Plan Your Route

Check your local weather and traffic reports before heading out. In Nebraska, you can visit <https://511.nebraska.gov> or download the 511 app to have up-to-date road conditions at your fingertips.

Know What to Do

Icy and slippery road conditions can make driving hazardous. Slow down, increase your following distance and stay back from snow plows.

If you are in an accident with high voltage power lines, stay in your vehicle and call for help or wait for help to arrive. As with any downed power lines, you cannot know if it is energized.

If you have to exit the vehicle due to a life threatening situation, like a fire, remember to jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time; and then to hop or shuffle with feet close together a safe distance from the downed lines-about 50 feet.

Preparing for Storm Season?

DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:



- Snowbrush
- Shovel
- Windshield washer fluid
- Cat litter for traction



- Warm clothing
- Blankets
- Drinking water
- Nonperishable foods



- Properly inflated spare tire
- Wheel wrench & tripod jack
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher



- Reflective triangles
- Reflective vest
- Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)



- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Compass
- Car charger for cell phone

Safe Electricity.org

Source: NSC