



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2025

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 34, Number 12

RATE CHANGES FOR 2026



From the GM,
Mark Johnson

For the first time in 13 years, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District will be implementing a rate increase

beginning in 2026. In total, our overall rates will increase by 1%, with individual rate schedules varying from 0.4% to 1.8% based on results from our recent cost-of-service-study (COSS).

Keeping Rates Fair and Service Reliable

Every three years, we partner with an independent consultant to conduct a Cost of Service Study (COSS). Why? Because it's the best way to make sure our rates are fair and transparent. This study looks at what it truly costs to deliver reliable electricity and ensures each customer class, whether, residential, commercial, industrial, irrigation, or more pays only their fair share.

Different types of customers use electricity in different ways, and those unique demands affect the cost to serve them. By aligning rates with actual usage and impact, we keep things equitable for everyone.

While we are mindful of how any change in rates affects our custom-

ers, this adjustment comes after more than a decade of stable, and even declining, rates. In fact, Elkhorn implemented two overall rate decreases in 2022 and 2023, returning cost savings to our customers during a period of favorable wholesale power prices.

However, industry conditions have changed, and it is now necessary to make a modest correction to ensure we continue meeting our mission of providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective electricity to all customers.

Why the Changes?

The primary factor driving this adjustment is a projected 1.5% increase in wholesale power costs from our power supplier, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD).

Wholesale power costs equate to roughly 70% of our total annual expenses and are the largest driver in our rate design. Even with this increase, NPPD still offers extremely cost-competitive rates.

In addition to wholesale power costs, we've been experiencing inflationary increases in equipment, materials, contractor costs, etc. Everything from poles and wire to transformers and vehicles has risen substantially over the past few years.

Even with these challenges, Elkhorn remains one of the most

efficient and cost-competitive utilities in the country. Careful planning, disciplined financial management, and the strong relationships we have with our customers have helped build the financial strength of our organization.

We understand that any rate change raises questions, and we are committed to transparency throughout this process. Detailed information about the new rates and how they may affect a rate class based on average usage is available on the 2nd page of the newsletter or through our website.



WWW.ERPPD.COM

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District exists to serve our customers, not to make a profit. This carefully considered adjustment ensures we can continue delivering the reliable, affordable energy our communities depend on.

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Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

will be closed

Wednesday, December 24, and Thursday, December 25
in observance of Christmas

and

Thursday, January 1, 2025
in observance of New Year's Day

RATE CHANGES CONTINUED

Below to the left is the chart with the percent changes to the rates for the most common classes. To the right are examples of what impact the change will have on the average monthly bill for farm and residential rate classes. For more information please use the QR code on the front page to go to our website and click the story under "Stay Current".

Rate Changes for 2026	
Customer Class	% Change from Current
Farm, Res & Com, 1-Phase (1,3)	0.8%
Farm, Res & Com, 3-Phase (4,5)	0.7%
Residential 1-Phase (21,23)	1.2%
Urban, Com G/S, 1-PH (56,57) & 3-Ph (19,20)	0.9%
Irrigation - No Control (33)	1.2%
Irrigation - 4-Hour Control (34)	1.1%
Irrigation - 6-Hour Control (35)	1.2%
Irrigation - 8-Hour Control (36)	1.2%
Irrigation - 10-Hour Control (37)	1.2%
Irrigation - 12-Hour Control (38)	1.2%
Irrigation - 15-Hour Control (39)	1.2%
Irrigation, Pivot System 1-Phase (31)	1.2%
Irrigation, Pivot System 3-Phase (32)	1.6%

Customer Class	Current Rate	New Rate
<i>Farm, Residential, Commercial, Cabins, and Seasonal 1-Phase (1,3)</i>		
Monthly Facilities Charge - All Customers	\$26.00	\$27.00
Energy Charge:		
Winter - All kWh	\$0.05962	\$0.05970
Summer - All kWh	\$0.06023	\$0.06031
Demand Charge: All Demand	\$2.50	\$2.50

Average Monthly kWh Units	Average Increase/Mo.
1,676	\$1.13

Customer Class	Current Rate	New Rate
<i>Residential 1-Phase (21,23)</i>		
Monthly Facilities Charge - All Customers	\$17.50	\$18.50
Energy Charge:		
Winter - All kWh	\$0.06050	\$0.05970
Summer - All kWh	\$0.06173	\$0.06031
Demand Charge: All Demand	\$1.55	\$1.70

Average Monthly kWh Units	Average Increase/Mo.
1,038	\$1.21

"Heads Up During Harvest" Giveaway

Pictured right are three of our winners of the Carhart lunch bag and ERPPD swag. Pictured top left clockwise: Carol Hahlbeck, Ewing; Denise Grosserode, Oakdale; and Roxanne Dusel, Meadow Grove. Not pictured is Terri Funk, Neligh.

Thank you to everyone who entered. "Heads Up During Harvest" was a campaign to draw awareness to the dangers of high voltage lines and contact with farm equipment during harvest.



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
December 2025

FUND - OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

Eldon Peters, Subdivision I trustee, and Larry Petersen, at-large trustee, for the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Community Development Fund (Fund) Board have announced their resignations.

We want to thank them for their service to the Fund board.



Eldon Peters, pictured left with Jeff Heimes, Battle Creek High School principal, is one of the inaugural trustees appointed by the ERPPD board in 2018.

Eldon remembered that when he saw that ERPPD was starting the Round Up Program, he just had to be a part of it. He has thoroughly enjoyed his time on the board and

will miss working with the other trustees and having a part in funding all the great projects in the communities. The next subdivision I trustee will be completing 2 years of Eldon's unfinished term.

Larry Petersen joined the Fund board in 2021 completing an unfinished term of the at-large position. He has enjoyed his time on the board and appreciates all the customers that round up to help our communities.

Qualifications for the Subdivision I position include being at least 21 years of age, a customer of ERPPD and a permanent resident within subdivision I of the ERPPD charter territory.

For the at-large position the

candidate must be at least 21 years old and be a permanent resident in the ERPPD chartered territory, but does not have to be a customer of ERPPD.

The time commitment for the volunteer board of trustees includes a quarterly board meeting, reviewing applications and contacting organizations about the funding.

We are looking for dedicated, involved community members to fill the vacant positions.

Please contact Jennifer at 402-675-2185, for more information about the positions and this chance to serve your community. You can also submit a cover letter and resume to jadams@erppd.com.

Deadline for submitting a letter of interest and resume is **January 9, 2026**.

Community Development Fund Requests and Awards 4th Quarter

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
American Legion Post #136	Veteran Memorial	Orchard	\$1,000.00
Battle Creek Elementary	New Seating for 2nd Grade Learners	Battle Creek	\$500.00
Battle Creek Public Schools	The Heart of the School: Library Modernization Project	Battle Creek	\$500.00
ESU #8	Job Expo for Students with Disabilities	Neligh	\$1,000.00
Elkhorn Valley Teammates	Teammate Background Checks and Activities	Tilden	\$750.00
Little Lambs Preschool and Daycare	Water Softener	Tilden	\$1,000.00
Meadow Grove VFD	Replacing Gloves and Boots	Meadow Grove	\$1,000.00
Norfolk Public Schools Foundation	Classroom Grants	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Pleasant Valley Cemetery	Cemetery Maintenance	Royal	\$1,000.00
S.M.I.L.E.	Scholarships, Ponies and Horses	Madison	\$1,000.00
Teammates of Summerland	Activities and Association Fees	Ewing	\$750.00
Zion Lutheran School	School Technology Upgrade	Pierce	\$1,000.00

BY THE NUMBERS: (IMPACT OF THE FUND SINCE JAN. 2018)

\$253,490 - Total funds collected since the beginning of the program to September 2025.

\$250,964 - Total funds distributed from August 2018 to November 3, 2025.

136 - total number of organizations helped since 2018.

329 - total number of project applications submitted for funding since 2018.





From all of us at ERPPD to all of our wonderful customers.

May you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pictured seated left to right: Xuan Zoubek, Stacie Young, Carmen Christensen, Tim Means, Joe Thiele, Dennis Kuchar, Jerry Dolesh, James Geyer, Dave Hoefler, Ray Payne, Hunter Frisch, Rod Zohner, Mark Johnson, Kim Bettenhausen, and Jennifer Adams.

Standing row left to right: Brian Hain, Galen Beckman, Jason Lyon, Chris Tillotson, Travis Wiebelhaus, Coltin Bauer, Eric Scranton, Brad Doffin, Ryan Kittelson, Bryan Hohnholt, Chris Sovereign, Jared Suckstorf, Andy Starman, Carter Lammers, Brian Suckstorf, Dominic Smedra, Jim Wennekamp, Todd Knutson, Kevin Baker, Taylor Cappel, Marc Ahlers, Jeremy Holecsek, Patrick Hintz, Kevin Zohner, Dan Belt, and Kyle Kester.

On the truck left to right: Chris Bentley, Quinton Ries, Dawson Kaup, Grady Bellingtier, Spencer Albers, Zane Stoike, and Nate Wright.



**206 N 4TH ST
PO Box 310
Battle Creek, NE
68715**

**Office Hours: M - F
8:00AM - 4:30 PM**



General Manager:
Mark Johnson
CFO/Office Manager:
Carmen Christensen
Operations Manager:
Todd Knutson

Connect with us Online:



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

Board of Directors

Subdivision I

- Dennis Kuchar, Treasurer
- Hunter Frisch, Director
- James Geyer, Director

Subdivision II

- Tim Means, Secretary
- Jerrell Dolesh, Director
- Rod Zohner, Director

Subdivision III

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