

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

February 2014

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 23, Number 2



*Mark Miller, left, receives the NRECA Board Leadership Certificate from ERPPD board president, Rod Zohner.*

## Mark Miller Earns Board Leadership Certificate

Mark Miller, Madison, ERPPD director from Subdivision I, has earned the Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Mark earned the certificate by successfully completing the five courses of the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, and then completing the ten additional credit courses of the Board Leadership Certificate program.

Congratulations, Mark, on attaining these two milestones. Your hard work and dedication to rural electrification is greatly appreciated.

## ERPPD Employees Honored for Years of Service in 2013



*Bill Seifert  
40 years*



*Bill Hughes  
35 years*



*Joyceln Vogel  
35 years*



*Dave Hrabanek  
25 years*



*Paul Lichty  
20 years*



*Dave Meyer  
20 years*



*Marc Ahlers  
15 years*



*Chris Tillotson  
15 years*



*Kevin Zohner  
10 years*



*Konnie Beutler  
5 years*

The ten employees pictured above were honored for their years of service to ERPPD and its customers at an awards banquet on January 4. Bill Seifert was honored for 40 years; Bill Hughes, 35 years; Joyceln Vogel, 35 years; Dave Hrabanek, 25 years; Paul Lichty, 20 years; Dave Meyer, 20 years; Marc Ahlers, 15 years; Chris Tillotson, 15 years; Kevin Zohner, 10 years; Konnie Beutler, 5 years.

Congratulations to these honored individuals and thanks for your years of dedicated service to the customers of ERPPD.

### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Fighting winter chills? A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill. To cool energy costs, keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use. Caulk around the fireplace hearth. Double up on wood-earned warmth by lowering the thermostat setting to between 50 degrees and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at [www.energysaver.gov](http://www.energysaver.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## 2013 Unicameral in Session

The 103rd Nebraska Legislature, Second Session, convened at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014. This will be a short session (60 days), and will conclude on April 17. You can follow the legislative session at [www.nebraskalegislature.gov](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov).

Senators representing constituents in the ERPPD service area include: Jim Scheer-District 19, Madison and northwest Stanton counties; Kate Sullivan-District 41, Pierce, Antelope, Wheeler, and Boone counties; Tyson Larson-District 40, Holt county; and Paul Schumacher-District 22, Platte and Stanton counties. [The map at the right shows the outline of the Elkhorn RPPD service territory (light gray), with the bold outline of the Nebraska legislative districts.]

The format of the mailing addresses for the senators is:

Senator Name

District #

State Capitol

P.O. Box 94604

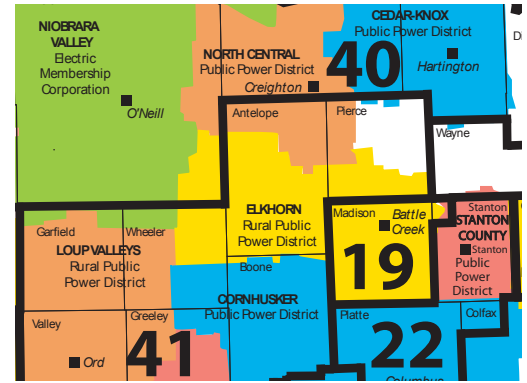
Lincoln, NE 68509

Web pages for the senators can be found at [www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators). The senators' web pages contain office numbers, email addresses, phone numbers, updates on bills, etc.

The general format for email addresses for the senators is: **first initial and last name@leg.ne.gov**

If you are not sure which legislative district you live in, you can find your senator by visiting [www.nebraskalegislature.gov](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov) and click on "Senators" and "Find your Senator". This will open a map that permits you to enter your address or click on the area in which you live.

If you have any questions about how to contact your senator, please call Elkhorn RPPD at 1-800-675-2185, and ask for Wayne McCormick..



**Jim Scheer**  
District 19



**Kate Sullivan**  
District 41



**Tyson Larson**  
District 40



**Paul Schumacher**  
District 22

## OPERATIONS NEWS

### New Substation near Orchard and Clearwater Conversion Top Stories for February

- New Substation-Workers from Watts Electric of Waverly, Nebraska, are in the process of constructing the new Trease Substation (Sub 71-28) south and east of Orchard. There will also be workers from Mid-Plains Electric of Grand Island in the area building three miles of new transmission line, and ERPPD crews will be converting four miles of existing transmission line to feed the new substation.
- Clearwater Conversion-ERPPD crews will be working in the Village of Clearwater to convert the town's electrical system from 2,400 volts to 7,200 volts. The project will involve building a mile of distribution line to connect the town to the rural distribution system, switching the individual transformers from 2,400 volts to 7,200 volts, a section at a time, and then connecting that section to the backfeed circuit. When all sections of town have been converted and connected to the backfeed circuit, the town substation will be upgraded and converted to 7,200 volts. When the substation conversion is complete and the substation is ready for service, all circuits will be switched from the backfeed line back to normal feed from the main substation. The backfeed line from the rural substations will stay in place to provide an alternate electrical feed for the town, in case the main transmission line or the town substation needs to be shut down for maintenance.

# ERPPD Board Votes to Offer Green Energy for Interested Customers



**with Elkhorn Rural Public Power District**

The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District (ERPPD) board has recognized that a number of its customers have expressed support for renewable energy resources for Nebraska--and to be greener when it comes to energy resources. But, the fact remains that generating electricity from renewable sources, such as wind, solar, and biomass, currently costs more than traditional energy sources, such as coal, nuclear, and natural gas.

ERPPD is now offering “Green Energy Blocks” as a voluntary option to our customers that wish to support green energy. It is available for residential, commercial, or industrial accounts. These blocks of green energy represent 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. The number of green energy blocks a customer decides to purchase does not change what they would normally be billed, but provides a surcharge to be added to the bill for green energy.

Currently, a Green Energy Block (100 kWh) is available at \$1.80 (plus sales tax and bill adjustments as applicable) per block. That unit charge will be subject to change on an annual

basis, and we will make sure to let you know about that. When you purchase a “Green Energy Block”, all of the revenue from the block is passed on to the Nebraska Public Power District to help subsidize the higher cost of renewable energy and to help sustain green energy in Nebraska.

The average Nebraska home uses approximately 1,000 kWh of electricity per month. Purchasing, for example, three blocks (300 kWh) of green energy would add \$5.40 (plus sales tax and bill adjustments as applicable) to the current bill. In this scenario, the customer would be getting the equivalent of nearly one-third of their energy from green sources.

We use the term equivalent, because once an electron is generated and placed into the wires, there is no way to distinguish whether it came from coal, wind, gas, solar, or nuclear, but even though you may not have used

that ‘green’ electron, you can know that you have helped to support green energy in Nebraska.

If you want to be 100% green, simply divide the total kWh on your electric bill by 100, and the result would be the number of blocks you can sign up for. Blocks are available only in 100 kWh units and cannot be broken down to anything less than 100 kWh.

You may enroll or cancel the “green energy blocks” at any time. Cancellation will be effective at the end of the billing period.

To enroll, simply complete the form below and return it to our office. You can drop it off at the office, mail it in, or include it with your next bill payment. This is your chance to directly support renewable energy in Nebraska.

For more information see the frequently asked questions on page 4, or call our office at (800) 675-2185.

## Sign Up for Going Green Energy Blocks Today

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Blocks \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Office Use Only: Assigned Blocks*



with Elkhorn Rural  
Public Power District

to provide an easy method for our customers to assist in supporting these types of projects.

## What is a Renewable Energy Certificate (REC)?

A Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) represents the credits issued by the Federal Government to Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) for generating with wind turbines. The RECs are then assigned to Elkhorn Rural Public Power District to be assigned to customers who “go green”. For more information go to: [www.epa.gov/greenpower/gpmarket/rec.htm](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/gpmarket/rec.htm)

## Who should I contact for more information?

For additional information regarding the Going Green program or the green energy blocks, please stop in or contact us at 800-675-2185 during regular office hours 8 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday.

## What is the “Going Green” Program?

It is a program offered by ERPPD where customers can purchase renewable energy or “green power”. When you sign up for this program you are purchasing energy generated from Nebraska-based renewable sources.

## Why is ERPPD offering this program now?

Customer research has indicated an increased interest in recent years for renewable energy generation resources, both nationally and here in Nebraska. The Going Green Program is designed

## How do customers benefit from joining the Green Energy Program

They will be assigned Renewable Certificates (RECs)

They will support renewable energy generation from Nebraska-based facilities and encourage investment for this type of energy generation.

They will know they are helping to maintain the environment through their support of renewable, non-carbon emitting generation and will help enhance the quality of life for Nebraskans.

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## Save Money by Running a Space Heater?? Probably Not, Unless...

There has been much advertising by portable space heater manufacturers claiming that the average homeowner can cut his heating bill by 50% by using a portable space heater. In the fine print, however, they do admit that the savings to your heating bill comes from setting the main thermostat in your house to around 50 degrees and using the space heater to only heat a single room!! In doing so, the savings does not come from operating the heater, but rather from turning down the thermostat for the rest of the house. No Miracle!! In fact, if you do not turn down the thermostat, your heating bill can actually be higher.

Space heaters range from 1500 watts to 1800 watts, so regardless of what brand it is, it will be using that much electricity whenever it is operating. For example, the following calculation will show how much it costs to operate the space heater.

Example 1: 1500 watt (1.5 kilowatt) heater running for 24 hours per day for 30 straight days at a rate of 10¢ per kWh would cost \$108.00 per month

Usage: (1.5 kilowatts x 24 hrs x 30 days = 1080 kWh per month)

Cost: 1080 kWh x 10¢ per kWh = \$108 per month

Example 2: Same 1500-watt heater running for 12 hours per day would cost \$54.00 per month

Usage: (1.5 kilowatts x 12 hrs x 30 days = 540 kWh per month)

Cost: 540 kWh x 10¢ per kWh = \$54 per month

If the above costs are incurred without adjusting your thermostat, it would actually increase your heating costs. The bottom line is this: If you are comfortable with heating only one room and keeping the rest of your house at 50°, it is possible to save on your heating bill with a space heater.

For energy-saving tips, log on to [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com), and click on the Energy tab, or call our office at (800) 675-2185 and ask for Mark Gronau, our energy efficiency specialist.

