



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

February 2018

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 27, Number 2

ENERGYWISESM INCENTIVES

Want savings on your electric bill? Check out the EnergyWiseSM incentives on page 2 or go to www.erppd.com and click on the EnergyWiseSM logo on the left side of the page or energy tab at the top of the page. Brian Suckstorf, Energy Services Rep, stated, "The EnergyWiseSM program is a great way to see savings on your electric bill. You can receive a rebate for the new energy efficient appliance you purchased and see cost savings due to using less electricity."

Brian is available during business hours to answer any questions you may have about any of the incentive programs. Building a new house? What type of heat pump will be eligible for rebates? What about an air conditioning tune up? Recieve a \$30 credit on your bill. There is much more. 2017 projects can be submitted until February 15. Just call Brian at (800) 675-2185 or email him at bsuckstorf@erppd.com.



WHAT IS KW DEMAND?

Tom Rudloff, General Manager
As we discussed in the January issue of the *Wire*, currently some of our rates have two components: a customer charge and an energy charge. As stated in last month's article, by assigning a third component, "KW Demand", to the rate structure, and reducing the price you pay for the energy, we more accurately allocate cost based off how individual customers actually use the system.

We currently collect the KW demand component through the energy cost on an average basis; therefore, a customer who may require a much larger electrical system, and puts more "demand" or strain on the distribution system, is averaged in with a customer that requires a smaller electrical system and utilizes the distribution system in a more steady fashion.

To further clarify, let me use a water analogy to make this a little clearer. We have a five gallon bucket we need to fill with water.

Customer A needs to fill the bucket in one minute, so his water line must have the capacity, or said another way, must be able to supply the demand of five gallons per minute to accomplish filling the five gallon bucket in one minute. See the diagram below.

Now customer B is ok with filling the bucket in five minutes, so he only needs a water line that has the capacity of one gallon to accomplish the task of filling the five gallon bucket.

Now, obviously customer A requires a bigger water line and puts

much more demand on the system supplying the water, but both customers only require five gallons of water.

With our current billing system, the five gallons of water would be collected the same for both customers.

Let's relate this example back to your residential service. Customer A's electrical service has a bigger transformer, meter loop, and lines to supply the electricity. In fact, every component in the electrical **Continued on page 3**



Save Money and Energy Through the EnergyWiseSM Program

\$200 - \$1,700

High Efficiency Heat Pump Direct Incentive or Low-Interest Loan

Air Source Heat Pumps Minimum of 15 SEER, 12.5 EER & 8.5 HSPF

Ground Source Heat Pump:
Variable Capacity or Ground Source Heat Pumps with a minimum 35 EER and 5.0 COP

Or

You can apply for the low-interest loan through the Nebraska Energy Office

\$0.15/sq. ft.

Residential Attic Insulation

\$0.15/sq. foot (Maximum amount \$300)
Attic insulation may qualify when six or more inches are added to an existing amount of less than six inches.

The home must have a Heat Pump, Electric Furnace or Electric Heat
Rebate applies to existing homes only; excludes new construction

\$30

Cooling System Tune-Up

\$30 incentive towards having your cooling system tuned up by a qualified HVAC contractor.

This incentive is available every three years.

\$200 - \$500

Heat Pump Water Heater

Air Source Heat Pump Water Heater with an efficiency factor greater than 1.9 is eligible for a \$200 incentive.

A Water or Ground Source Heat Pump Water Heater with an efficiency factor greater than 2.8 is eligible for a \$500 incentive.

There are also incentives available for Commercial Prescriptive Lighting, Commercial Heat Pumps and other energy saving improvements. Check our website at www.erppd.com and click on the EnergyWiseSM logo to the left of the page. Also call the office at (800)675-2185 and speak with Brian for more information.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

Source: energy.gov



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
February 2018

Continued from page 1 distribution system has to be just a little bigger to serve customer A, or as in our water analogy, they need a bigger pump, water line, etc. When customer A uses their electrical service, they turn everything on at once as there is a lot of work that needs done and limited time to get it done. So again, referencing our water analogy, they need five gallons a minute.

Customer B on the other hand, can manage their electrical needs or simply does not have as much electrical need. Therefore, customer B does not need as big a service: smaller transformer, smaller wire etc.

Now as your electric company, we are more than happy to provide electrical service to both of our customers as we understand that they both have electrical needs that help them to get work done and live better. We want to do our best to help each customer by only collecting the revenue needed to cover their fair share of costs. Since we will be reducing the energy charge as we add the demand component, many folks will see very little change on their bills. In fact, weather has a much greater impact: a couple hot days where more electricity is needed for cooling your house can be more significant to your monthly electrical bill.

Overall, our goal is to keep the rates revenue neutral per rate class. For example, our overall revenue for our residential rate class will remain the same or even slightly decrease based off adding the demand component and reducing the energy cost proportionally.

Many of our customers are already familiar with demand components, as they have been included in rates for irrigation and large power services for many years.

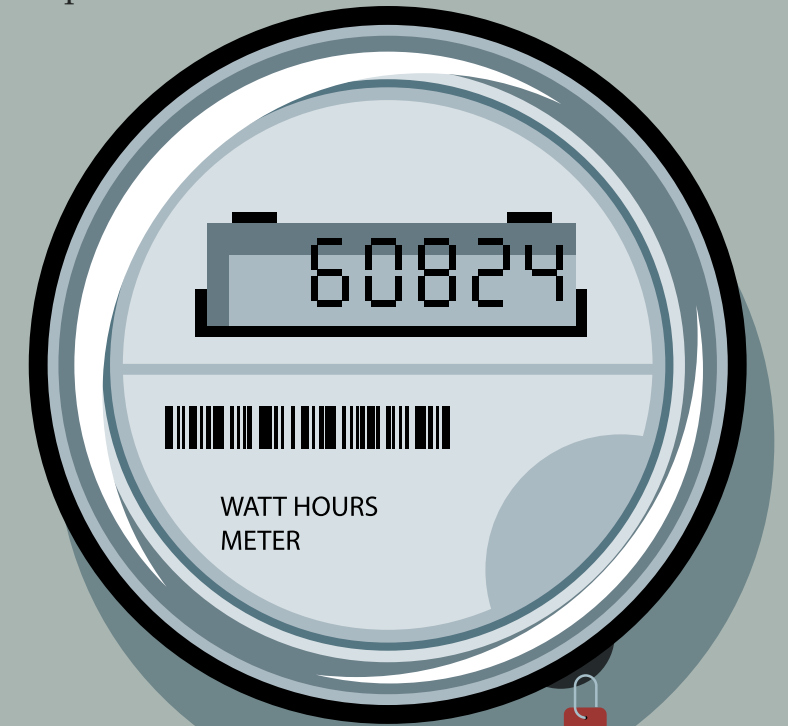
As we continue to look for best practices in rate design, we will focus on fair and equitable rates while keeping the best interests of all customers in mind.



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
February 2018

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.



- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with a meter, for your safety and the safety of others, please call us at (800) 675-2185.

165 Years of Experience Working for the Customers of ERPPD



*Teresa Schwarting
Customer Service Rep.
25 years*



*Ryan Kittelson
Journeyman Lineman,
Neligh
20 years*



*Dominic Smedra
Journeyman Lineman,
Battle Creek
15 years*



*Brian Suckstorf
Energy Services Rep.
15 years*



*Jared Suckstorf
Journeyman Lineman,
Battle Creek
15 years*



*Jeremy Holecek
Journeyman Lineman,
Battle Creek
15 years*



*Jason Lyon
Journeyman Lineman,
Battle Creek
10 years*



*Greg Weidner
Director
10 years*



*Dennis Kuchar
Director
20 years*



*Rod Zohner
Director
20 years*

Employees and directors were recognized for their years of service for 2017 at the annual awards banquet in January. In addition to the employees pictured above, Todd Knutson and Andy Starman were recognized for two years of service on the employee safety committee. This service and dedication are what make ERPPD a great organization. Thank you for all you do! Board members and staff were also acknowledged for training, volunteering, and other personal development opportunities.

OPERATION ROUND UP



This month you will see a line item on your bill showing how many cents you have contributed

to the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Community Development Fund.

This change from rounding up your bill will be used to help com-

munity organizations and causes.

The ERPPD board will be appointing trustees to the Community Development Fund board and those trustees will be setting up guidelines for how to distribute the money in the fund. We are excited to be able to partner with you on bettering the communities in our service territory.

All accounts, including irrigation, will be put into the program unless you let us know that you prefer they are not included.

If you have already contacted us

about your accounts, you do not have to do so again.

You can opt out at anytime by calling (800) 675-2185 during business hours, emailing erppd@erppd.com or filling out the form included in your February bill.

Since the program started with your January billing, you have contributed to the Community Development Fund. Now, if you choose to opt out at any point, we will credit any contributed amount back to your account.