



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

February 2019

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 27, Number 2

190 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE CELEBRATED



Joyceln Vogel
Customer Service Rep.
40 years



Bill Hughes
Field Service Tech
40 years



Dave Meyer
Warehouse Coord.
25 years



Paul Lichty
Journeyman Lineman
25 years



Chris Tillotson
Journeyman Lineman,
20 years



Marc Ahlers
SCADA Field Tech
20 years



Kevin Zohner
IT
10 years



Konnie Beutler
Customer Service Rep
10 years



Kenneth Capler
Staking Eng. Tech.
Safety Committee



Galen Beckman
Accountant
Safety Committee

ERPPD employees were recognized for their years of service for 2018 at the annual awards banquet in January. Kenneth Capler and Galen Beckman were recognized for two years of service on the employee safety committee. This service and dedication is what makes ERPPD a great organization.

DIRECTORS SWORN IN



Pictured left, directors Ray Payne, subdistrict III, Rod Zohner, subdistrict II, and Dennis Kuchar, subdistrict I, read the oath of office at the regular ERPPD board of directors meeting in January. Each director was re-elected at the November 2018 election for 6-year terms on the board.

Officers were also elected at the January meeting. Mark Miller, subdistrict I, as president, Joe Thiele, subdistrict III, as vice president, Tim Miller, subdistrict II, as secretary and Dennis Kuchar, subdistrict I as treasurer.

We appreciate the dedication, leadership and service given by our board of directors. Thank you!

Save Money and Energy Through the EnergyWiseSM Program

NEW! Up to \$100 Smart Thermostat

Incentive toward installing a WiFi connected smart thermostat.

\$300 - \$2,500 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

\$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.

\$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

\$300 - \$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.

\$200 EV Electric Charging Station

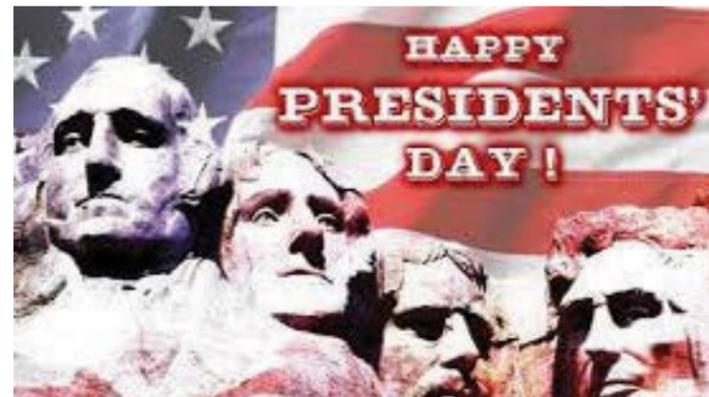
When you purchase an electric car and install a ChargePoint station.

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  to the left of the page. Or call the office at (800) 675-2185 and speak with Brian for more information.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov

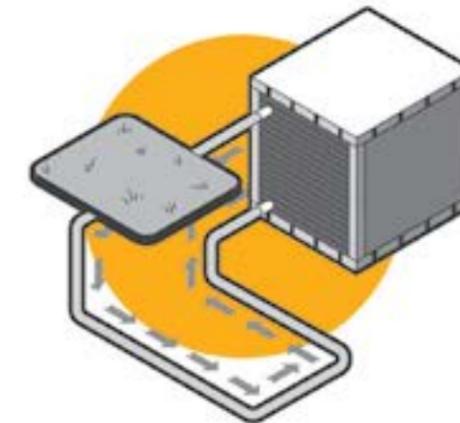
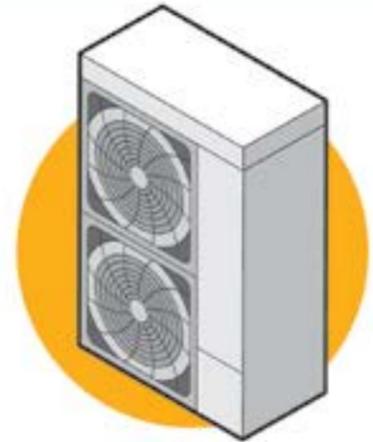


Types of Heat Pumps

There are three main types of heat pump systems. Use the information below to determine the system that's best suited for your climate and home.

Air-Source Heat Pumps

- Most commonly used heat pumps
- Moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems do
- Can reduce heating costs by about 50 percent when compared to baseboard heaters or electric furnaces
- Newer, more efficient systems now represent a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions like the Northeast and Midwest.
Note: If temperatures in your area drop below 10 to 25 F, you will need an auxiliary heating system (depending on the size of the system).

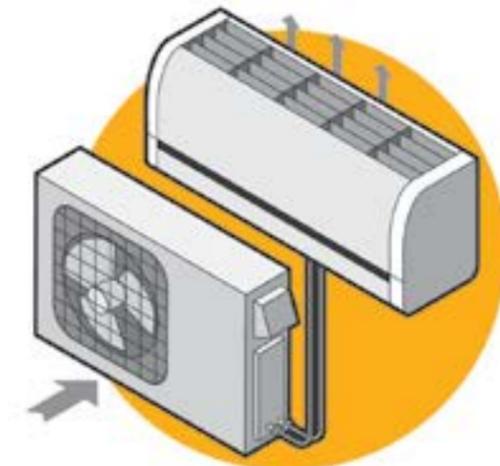


Geothermal Heat Pumps

- More expensive to install but provide more energy savings for heating and cooling
- Move heat through pipes buried underground
- When compared to a conventional heating system, can reduce energy use by 25 to 50 percent
- Effective in extreme climates
- Not ideal for smaller lots and certain soil conditions

Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps

- Easier to install, quiet, small in size
- Flexible for heating and cooling individual rooms and smaller spaces
- No energy loss through ductwork, which accounts for more than 30 percent of a home's energy use for space heating/cooling.
- Installation can be pricey, but federal incentives may be available



Heat pump systems should be installed by a licensed professional. Contact your local electric cooperative for more information about options and potential incentives.

Sources: Dept. of Energy and Consumer Reports

NEW - SMART THERMOSTAT PROGRAM

Most Nebraska homes use around half their energy for heating and cooling. What if you could reduce those costs for up to ten percent while automating your home? If you have a WiFi connection and a central air-condition or heat pump system you may qualify for an EnergyWiseSM incentive of up to \$100 for installing a qualifying smart thermostat. You can through the Smart Thermostat Program that is new this year for the EnergyWiseSM program.

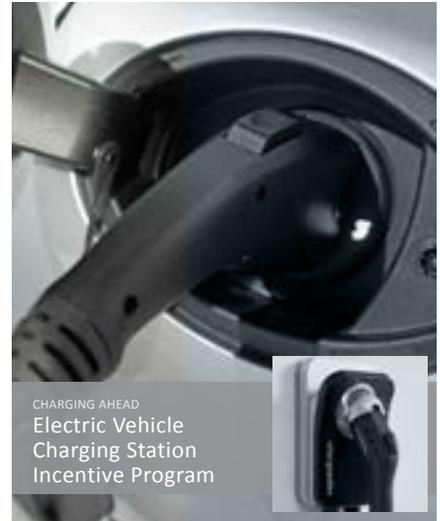
Also, new last year and continued this year is the Electrical Vehicle Charging Station Program. This program will help us prepare for the future load growth in electrical vehicles. A \$200 rebate is available for you if you purchase an electric vehicle and install a ChargePoint 32 amp WiFi enabled

charger.

You can see a listing of incentives on page 2 or you can go to www.erppd.com for all of the specifications and applications. 2018 projects can be submitted until February 15.

Call Brian at (800) 675-2185 or email him at bsuckstorf@erppd.com with any questions.

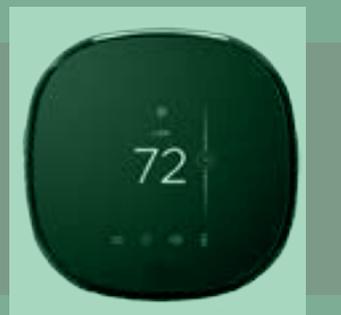
ENERGYWISESM
Use less. Spend less. Do more.



CHARGING AHEAD
Electric Vehicle
Charging Station
Incentive Program

LOWER YOUR HEATING AND COOLING COSTS

Smart Thermostat Program



SAFETY NEWS



Staying Safe Until Power is Restored



How long it takes to get your power restored depends on:

- the extent of the storm's destruction 
- the number of outages **#?**
- when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas 

There are many steps in the assessment and restoration process—clearing downed power lines; ensuring public health and safety facilities are operational; checking power stations and transformers; repairing transmission lines, substations, and distribution lines; and getting power restored to consumers within the various damaged areas.

Storm Safety Kit

-  Drinking water & food
-  Blankets, pillows, & clothing
-  Basic first-aid supplies
-  Prescriptions
-  Basic toiletries
-  Flashlights
-  Battery-operated radio
-  Battery-operated clock
-  Extra supply of batteries
-  Phone
-  Cash and credit cards
-  Emergency numbers
-  Important documents (in a waterproof container)
-  Toys, books, & games
-  Baby supplies
-  Pet supplies



Stay safe until we can restore power to you. We and our partner Safe Electricity recommend the following safety precautions:

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines. Just because they are damaged **does not mean they are dead!**
- Never enter a flooded room if electrical outlets are submerged. **The water could be energized.**
- **Do not** turn power off if you must stand in water to do so.
- Before entering storm-damaged buildings, **make sure electricity and gas are turned off.**
- If you clean-up outdoors after a storm, **do not use electric equipment** when it is wet out.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, **stay away and keep others away.** Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.
- If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line, **do not leave the car!** Wait for utility professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

For more information, visit:

Safe Electricity.org