



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

January 2023

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 32, Number 1

2022 IRRIGATION HIGHLIGHTS

Happy New Year! At the start of a new year it is customary to reflect back on the old year, take stock and see where you are headed. Let's take a look back at the 2022 irrigation season.

The irrigation season last year was a dry one - many compared the weather to 2012, which was the driest year in more than 50 years. 2022 followed suit with a dry winter and spring. This made for a record breaking year for KW usage and sales.

Irrigators started watering early in the season. This means that

Elkhorn's demand for power was increased even before the irrigation season.

ERPPD is a summer peaking system which means that more energy is generally used in the summer than in other seasons. To help curb power costs from our wholesale power provider, our customers can participate in load control from June through September.

Customers in the irrigation load management program agree to curtail running their irrigation during certain times to help ERPPD shave peak demand.

Those that participate in the program are then given a lower rate that reflects the savings gained by having load control.

Our wholesale provider charges

for power by the demand rate set by the highest four averaged days of peak demand in the summer.

As you can see in the chart below, we are able to curtail a significant amount of our load. The 2012 season has held the record for KW usage until this year, despite there being less services.

This program is one of the factors that helps us to keep our rates competitive and allowed for a 6% decrease in over all rates over the last two years.

CHECK DISCONNECT BOX

With irrigation season over, maintenance on your system is a good idea. Please be sure to check your disconnect box below the meter to make sure it is closed and that mice don't have easy access.

Keeping the box free from debris will help prevent outages, or worse, fires that could destroy the loop. With supply chain issues and inflation replacing the loop could be delayed and be expensive.

Also, remember to disable your auto start so that you don't accidentally run during the cold winter months.

A few minutes of maintenance can save time and money!

FUN FACT

Wells were controlled:

2012	2022*
38 days	19 days
332 hours	143 hours

**Our wholesale provider has adopted a new billing methodology with less billing hours and more running hours.*

ERPPD Load Control Impacts Billing 2012 vs 2022

2012	KW	Price/KW Production Demand	Power Bill	Total # of accounts
Highest KW/July	127,123	\$ 12.79	\$ 1,625,933.17	1,985
Highest KW with control/July	72,624	\$ 12.79	\$ 928,860.96	

Difference: \$697,042.21

2022	KW	Price/KW Production Demand	Power Bill	Total # of accounts
Highest KW/July	137,528	\$ 14.80	\$ 2,035,414.40	2,429
Highest KW with control/July	78,219	\$ 14.80	\$ 1,157,641.20	

Difference: \$877,773.20

WHAT A DIFFERENCE “CHANGE” MAKES

JANUARY IS THANK YOU MONTH



A great big thank you to all our customers that “Round Up” through the Operation Round

Up program. Pictured are some of the organizations and projects that were funded in November 2022.

Many of these projects would not otherwise be funded as they are generally out of the scope of the organization’s regular budget.

Applications for the first round of funding in 2023 are being accepted through Monday, January 23.

Thank you for making such a difference in our communities!!



Pictured clockwise from the top: 1. Lied Battle Creek Public Library Mae Toelle, foundation treasurer and Jessica Fouts, library director (digitizing newspaper for web access); 2. Faith Regional Health Services Northeast Nebraska Child Advocacy Center - Sarah Scheinost, forensic interviewer, Chelsey Mero, MDT & Training Coordinator, and Leslie Zastrow, family advocate (advocating for hope, healing and resilience); 3. ESU 8 Clearwater Learning Center - Tracy Booth, K-6 behavior education teacher, Louise Schindler, 7 - ages 21 special education teacher, Jackie Sanne, K-6 special education teacher (sensory items for children with disabilities); 4. Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska - Amber Anderson, fund raising manger and “Freezer” (barn cat program); 5. Antelope County 4-H - Tessa Hain, extension educator and Jared Anderson, Antelope County Ag Society (fair poultry cages) and 6. Heritage Park Revitalization Committee - Marcie Sextro, chair (revitalizing Heritage Park for Battle Creek’s 150th celebration).

ENERGYWISE INCENTIVES



We offer a wide range of EnergyWise™ Incentives and rebates designed to help you **SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY**, and contribute to a more sustainable future for all Nebraskans.

New Year, maybe some new year’s resolutions for home projects?

If so you will want to check out the EnergyWise™ incentives on the ERPPD website under the “Energy” tab.

There are some changes for 2023 in addition to the great incentives for cooling system tuning, heat pumps, water heaters and irrigation systems - see the table below.

New for 2023, is an increase in the incentive for attic insulation from \$0.15/square foot to \$0.30/

square foot. The maximum attic space is capped at 2,000 square feet. The total incentive maximum is increased from \$300 to \$600.

As heating and cooling are the largest energy expense in most homes, take advantage of the free home energy calculators and information on the ERPPD website. More insulation might help you lower your electric bill significantly.

A Smart Thermostat might also be a good investment and there is up to a \$100 incentive for installing one. Being able to

program your thermostat can help you to save on you energy bills as well.

If you are considering an electric vehicle charging station in a new or existing home, check out the increased incentive, \$400 for new construction, on our web page.

You can view these changes and all the incentives at www.erppd.com/energy or you can call Brian at 402-675-2185 with any questions you might have.

ENERGYWISE™
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

EnergyWise™ Incentives

Residential Heat Pump Water Heater

\$400 for air source with EF>1.9
\$650 for ground source with EF> 28

High Efficiency Heat Pump

\$400-\$3,000
Minimum SEER 15, EER 12.5 & HSPF 8.5. Includes Air-to-Air and Water/Ground source

Residential Attic Insulation

\$0.30/sq. ft. maximum \$600 (NEW)

Beneficial Electrification

-Induction cooktop or range
20% incentive for a purchased new cooktop or range with a 30” minimum width.

- Lawn and garden

20% incentive for new battery-powered or corded electric lawn mower, Battery powered chainsaws, tillers, and snowblowers are also eligible in 2023 (NEW)

Cooling System Tune Up

\$30

Irrigation System Updates

\$500 for the replacement of all existing outlet components such as sprinkler heads, sprayers, rotators, plates, pads and nozzles and regulators on qualified systems

See the details for these and more incentives online at www.erppd.com or call Brian at 800.675.2185

UTILITY SCAMS - KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Help protect yourself by being aware of common utility scams. Below are tips on how to spot a scam and what to do if you are targeted.

Spot a Scam:

- *Be wary of immediate payment demands with threats of disconnection.
- *Watch for payment methods: We will not ask for payment with a pre-paid card or gift card.
- *Is the caller asking for sensitive financial information? We will not call you to ask for credit card information. We may call with an automated reminder and offer payment options.
- *Do some research: ask for a call back number and where the person is calling from.
- *Call the office at 800-675-2185, if you have questions or concerns about a call or your bill.
- *Report any scam activity to the Nebraska Attorney General's office on-line: <https://protectthegoodlife.nebraska.gov/report-scam> or by calling (402) 471-2682.



PROTECT THE GOOD LIFE

Preventing Home Electrical Fires

Fire departments respond to an average of **46,700** home fires each year caused by electrical failure or malfunction.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):
Over a recent 4-year period...



Safe Electricity.org

Source: NFPA's Electrical Fires Report, 2022

30%

happened in cold weather months (Nov. – Feb.)

Fires caused

an estimated average of:

390 Deaths
1,070 Injuries



1

Wiring and related equipment were involved in the **greatest number of home electrical fires.**



2

Lighting, a lamp or a bulb was involved in the **second largest number of fires.**



WARNING SIGNS of electrical issues:

- Damaged cords and flickering lights
- Discolored outlets and switch plates
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses

Hire a licensed contractor to ensure that your home's wiring is **installed to code** and functioning properly.