



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

June 2021

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 30, Number 6

CONSIDERING RENEWABLES?

We have had an uptick in customers contacting us about putting in solar projects. We want you to know that we are happy to assist you with any of your energy needs.

As we have been fielding calls about solar, we want customers to be aware of some criteria related to any renewable generation interconnection and net metering before committing to a project.

1) Interconnection - Give us a call at 402-675-2185 or visit our website www.erppd.com for information on interconnection.

Our website provides information on small generation interconnection and what is needed to be connected with Elkhorn's distribution system.

On the website, under the net metering tab, are the documents relating to net metering - the net metering policy, net metering rate schedule, small generation interconnection application; small generation interconnection and service agreement; as well as a frequently asked questions document.

The small generation interconnection application should be completed first and needs to be submitted 60 days prior to any interconnect with the distribution grid. After the application is approved, the small generation interconnection and service agreement will need to be completed.

We recommend that you contact us early in the project planning process to insure there is adequate capacity for your project to be interconnected to the electrical grid. Some renewable energy companies are asking for a down payment on materials, sometimes before the interconnection application is approved.

2) Capacity for Renewable Generation - There are a few things that must be considered when adding renewable generation to the grid.

The first is NE. REV. STAT. §70-2001 through 70-2005 that provides some direction and requirements for utilities, regarding net metering, renewables, and interconnection.

The second would be direction by your locally elected board of directors. Elkhorn's Board of Directors understands that renewable energy will be part of the energy mix going forward. In fact, we have recently added 6.5 MW of solar through three separate solar projects for the good of all customers.

The Directors also understand that net metering does create some cost shifts and subsidization and therefore must be managed correctly to be fair to all.

Lastly, engineering requirements as well as contractual agreement



can come into play.

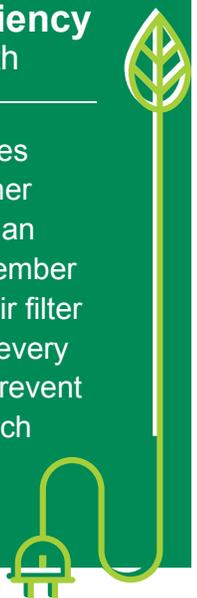
Elkhorn always wants to serve their customers and works very hard to complete our mission to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity to all customers.

Please contact us with questions you might have about installing renewable energy.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: www.energy.gov



STORM SAFETY

Sometimes a storm pops up or changes direction without any warning, while other times it is forecast days in advance and follows its predicted course. In either case, knowing what to do right before, during and after a storm can help to keep you safe.

When a storm hits

When stormy winds blow, follow these weather-related reminders from FEMA and the Red Cross:

- Never seek shelter under an isolated tree, tower or utility pole, since lightning tends to strike tall objects.
- Immediately vacate elevated areas such as hills and mountain ridges and peaks.
- Get away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, including wires and fences (and golf clubs!). (Approximately 5 percent of annual lightning deaths and injuries in the United States happen on golf courses, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Pick a safe place in your home, away from windows and doors, for family members to gather during a thunderstorm.
- Know the difference between a watch and a warning for extreme weather such as a tornado or severe thunderstorm. A watch means that the weather is possible in and near the area. A warning means that severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. A warning is more serious than a watch and

means that there is imminent danger to life and property.

After the storm

Once the storm is over, follow these safety tips from Safe Electricity:

- Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Never touch (or use) electrical appliances, cords, wires or switches while you are wet or standing in water.
- After a storm, a downed power line could be covered by standing water or debris. Never go near a downed line and warn others to stay away. If you see a downed line, call us at 800-675-2185, and a crew will be dispatched to de-energize the power and address the problem safely.
- The same safety know-how applies to a downed power line you might encounter while driving or after an auto accident. In either case, do not get out. Instead, call ERPPD to report the downed line (pull over first if you are driving).
- If you must exit your vehicle after an accident because of a fire or smoke, make a solid, clean jump out, landing with both feet together. Then hop or shuffle with your feet close

WHAT TO LOOK FOR AFTER A STORM

When the skies clear and the birds sing, know that the storm's fury could have created electrical hazards that you may or may not be able to see. Conditions in which stray electricity could energize the area, a person or objects include:

DOWNED POWER LINES

- On the ground.
- Under storm debris.
- Draped over or touching a metal fence.
- Covered by standing water.
- Across or by the road.
- Hidden in tree branches.

OTHER POSSIBLE DAMAGE

- Drooping or sagging lines (never try to move one).
- Split or broken utility poles.
- Damage to a padmount transformer (green box).
- Lightning strike to a substation transformer.
- Damaged or unstable guy wires.

NEVER GO NEAR downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment to assess damage or clean up the area. STAY AWAY and call 9-1-1 to report damage.

Power lines and other electrical equipment do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized.

Safe Electricity.org®

together as far away as you can.

- If your home has been damaged by a flood, turn off the power to your house if it is safe to do so. (Do not turn power off at the breaker box while standing in water or in damp conditions.)
- If the wiring, electrical system or appliances have been damaged by water, have your home inspected by an electrician; also, have appliances serviced by a qualified technician before using them.

Being prepared for emergency situations will help you to be safe.

OPERATION ROUND UP MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Pictured left to right recipients of 2nd Quarter Funding: Karri Roling-Wilson, executive director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate); Boy Scout Troop 122; and members of the Clearwater Historical Society - left to right Carla Jacob, Linda Hankla, Kathy Patras and LuAnn Schindler. (See the table below for the specific projects.)

Thank you!!

A big THANK YOU to Invenergy and the Thunderhead Wind Project for their generous contribution of \$3,5000 to the Community Development Fund.

Community Development Fund Requests and Awards (May 2021)

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
The Elgin Bargain Box	Raise the Roof Project	Elgin	\$1,500.00
Battle Creek Summer City Fest	Summer City Fest 2021	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Lied Battle Creek Public Library Foundation	Code Club	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Bright Horizons	Project Homeless Connect	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Big Bang Boom	Boom Fest 2021	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Boy Scout Troop #122	Upgrade Canoe/Kayak Trailers	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
CASA of Northeast Nebraska, Inc.	CASA Volunteer Recognition	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Clearwater Historical Society	Clearwater Historical Center Restoration	Clearwater	\$1,000.00
Elgin Community Foundation	Elgin Scholarship Drive	Elgin	\$1,000.00
Lois Johnson Memorial Library	Children's Summer Program	Oakdale	\$1,000.00
TOTAL			\$10,500.00

Third Quarter	Application Deadline July 19, 2021	Board Meeting Date: August 2, 2021
----------------------	---	---

NEW FUND TRUSTEE



The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Community Development

Fund (Fund) would like to welcome Larry Petersen.

Larry was selected to serve out the rest of Judy Hilkemann's at-large term. Judy resigned from the board in February.

Larry is excited to be a Fund Trustee. Larry stated, "When I saw the program, I wanted in! It is such a great and easy way to give back to our communities."

Larry is from Tilden and is a life-long resident of Madison County. He currently works at Agreliant Genetics (formerly Producer's Hybrids). He is a member of Sons of the American Legion Post 172 in Neligh.

He joins trustees Eldon Peters, Subdistrict I, Kory Lingenfel-

ter, Subdistrict II, Sarah Ahlers, Subdistrict III and Anne Parks, at large.



SUMMER IS COMING PREPARE YOUR HOME NOW

Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill



Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.



Change the air filter on your cooling unit.



Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.



Clear the air vents throughout your house.



Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.



Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.

Learn more at:



NEW HIRE



Tyler Lamoree started as an apprentice lineman with the Battle Creek crews in May.

Tyler graduated from the Northeast Community College Utility Line program

May 21.

Tyler did his summer internship with us last summer and continued working Fridays throughout the rest of the year as he finished the line program.

We are excited to have Tyler as a part of the Elkhorn RPPD family!

INTERNS

Dakota Adams, pictured below left and Carter Lammers, pictured right will be summer interns this year with the Battle Creek crews. Both Dakota and Carter started last fall with Elkhorn, getting experience on Fridays and holidays.

Lukas Litras, not pictured, will be doing an internship with the Neligh crew.

