

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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## ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES

In last month's publication, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District (ERPPD), in conjunction with Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) EnergyWise Program,



published the 2016 energy efficiency incentives. This month we will explore the incentives a little closer to help you determine if any of the incentives would be right for you.

EnergyWise programs offer incentives to homeowners, businesses, and agriculture to help cover the cost of a variety of energy-efficient upgrades.

This is important to you because it will help lower your monthly electric bill and keep electrical rates lower due to less demand on the system.

According to an energy calculator on the web, converting from a 10 SEER to 15 SEER cooling system will save the average US citizen 33% annually on their electric bill. That is an average of \$540 over a 5 year period. ([www.lennox.com](http://www.lennox.com))

You can understand the savings, but what is a SEER? Here is a short list of acronyms that apply to energy efficiency:

**SEER** - Seasonal Energy Effi-

ciency Ratio.

**HSPF** - Heating Season Performance Factor

**ASHP** - Air Source Heat Pump

**GSHP** - Ground Source Heat Pump

**EER** - Energy Efficiency Ratio

**NEO** - Nebraska Energy Office

**LED** - Light Emitting Diode

**HVAC** - Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning

**AHRI** - Air Heating Refrigeration Institute. An AHRI certificate is required for all heat pumps that meet the incentive requirements.

Homeowners who install a qualified heat pump (15 SEER or higher cooling ratio, 12.5 EER, and 8.5



HSPF or greater heating ratio) will be eligible for a variable rebate, depending on the SEER of the unit. ERPPD customers who replace a window or central air conditioner with a qualified air source heat pump will earn a double rebate.

To apply for incentives, work with ERPPD, your contractor, and dealers to determine the best fit for your situation.

Once you have purchased,

installed and applied for the incentive for your new unit or upgrade, your application will be processed through NPPD's EnergyWise program. Your incentive will show up as a credit on your electric bill generally the month following the submission of your application.

Other incentives include LED conversion for residential customers. An incentive of \$3.00 per LED lamp purchased (Limit 15 per year) will be paid upon submitting proof-of-purchase and LED incentive application to ERPPD. The LED must be at least 9 input watts.

There is also a commercial lighting program. Customers have an opportunity to earn incentives for upgrading to qualified, more efficient lighting. Incentives are available for both indoor and outdoor technologies.

For more information and a complete list of all of the EnergyWise programs, you can visit **erppd.com** and click on the Energy tab along the top and then the EnergyWise Incentives on the drop down list.



Mark Gronau, Energy Services Representative, is also available to help with any questions at 402-675-2185.

# NORTHEAST NEBRASKA FARM SHOW WINNERS



***Helen Tanderup: Grand prize winner - George Foreman Grill. Pictured with Mark Gronau, ERPPD energy services rep.***

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, in partnership with Stanton County Public Power District, participated in the 2016 Northeast Nebraska Farm and Equipment Show held at the Ag Complex on the Northeast Community College campus. Safety and energy efficiency information was disseminated to those in attendance at the show. The High Voltage Demo Trailer was used to demonstrate safety around power lines. Attendees visiting the booth registered for a drawing for several electrical related items. Helen Tanderup of Neligh won the grand prize drawing for the George Foreman electric grill. Don Dederman of Norfolk, won a LED shop light. Winners of the LED light bulbs were Mike Kallhoff, Meadow Grove, Conner Bentley, Neligh, Donna Mintken, Humphrey, Beverly Lauver, Battle Creek, Rose Schaecher, Meadow Grove and Sandra Fuoss Norfolk. Congratulations to these prize winners, and thank you to all who stopped by our booth during the farm show.



***Don Dederman - LED shop light winner***

## SAFETY

### Knowing what to do saved their lives

When teenagers Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school, they never dreamed what they had learned that day would be put to test. Only days later, Whittaker and Taylor, along with two classmates, were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.

“When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on their minds,” explains Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council’s Safe Electricity program. “We’re usually more concerned about whether anyone was injured or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We can forget that by exiting the vehicle, we’re risking exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines.”

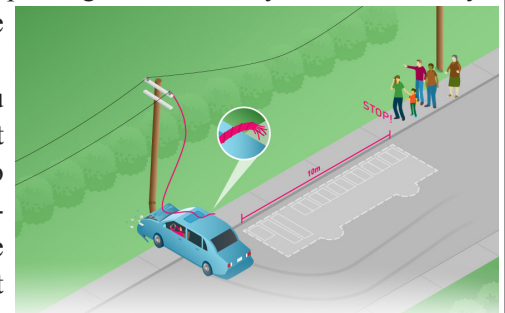
If you are in an accident with a utility pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity’s path to the ground and could be electrocuted. Loose wires and other equipment may be in contact with your car or near it—creating a risk for electrocution if you leave the vehicle.

While downed lines can sometimes reveal they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal.

After an accident, stay in the car, and tell others to do the same. If you come upon an accident involving power lines, do not approach the accident scene. If you see someone approaching, warn them to stay away. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and utility services. Do not leave your vehicle until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so. The safest place to be is almost always inside the car. The only circumstance when you should exit the vehicle is if it is on fire—and those instances are rare. If you must exit the

vehicle, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to “bunny hop” with your feet together to safety. Doing this will ensure that you are at only one point of contact and will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another, which can be deadly. *Source SafeElectricity.org*

For more information and to see Lee and Ashley’s story, visit the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District website [erppd.com](http://erppd.com) and click on the SafeElectricity.org link on the left side of the page.



# YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP

## ERPPD is seeking campers for 2016 camp

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Energy Leadership Camp involves high school students (in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade) each year who have been selected by the rural electric system serving in their areas. The camp, set in the beauty of Nebraska's National Forest at Halsey, offers educational and recreational experiences, leadership training, environmental awareness, character building and social interaction. Check out the Working for Nebraska video on Energy Camp and Youth Tour on the [erppd.com](http://erppd.com) website for more information.

Through workshops and guest speakers, campers learn about energy, electric safety, energy management, and careers. One day of the camp is reserved for a tour of the Gerald Gentleman Power Station near North Platte and the Kingsley Hydroelectric plant near Ogallala. The week is interspersed with fun activities, including a get-acquainted party, canoeing, volleyball, a talent contest, dancing, a cook-out, and time to socialize and make new friends.

Leadership is also stressed when interested students compete to win a free trip to Wash., D.C. Three winners will be selected to go as ambassadors from Nebraska next summer. They also are able to return to the next year's camp as a junior counselor. Those selected by their sponsoring rural electric system will receive the all-expense paid trip to the Nebraska Youth Energy Leadership Camp at the State 4-H camp near Halsey. Camp begins around 3:30 p.m. on Monday, July 11, and ends around noon on Friday, July 15. ERPPD provides its camper representatives with transportation to and from the camp.

To enter, complete the form below and mail *by April 22, 2016* to:

**Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, c/o Stacie Young, PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715**



### 2016 ERPPD ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION FORM

(Entry Deadline April 22, 2016)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' or Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

#### COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2016 Youth Energy Leadership Camp at the 4-H camp at Halsey National Forest on July 11-15 as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

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# 195 Years of Working for the Customers of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District



**Steve Petersen**  
General Foreman,  
Neligh  
35 years



**Dan Belt**  
Foreman, Battle Creek  
25 years



**Jeff Kerkman**  
Foreman, Neligh  
25 years



**Todd Knutson**  
General Foreman,  
Battle Creek  
20 years



**Jim Wennekamp**  
Journeyman Lineman  
20 years



**Stacie Young**  
Customer Service Rep  
20 years



**Tim Means**  
Director  
15 years



**Carmen Thelen**  
CFO, Office Manger  
15 years



**Galen Beckman**  
Accounting Clerk  
10 years



**Joe Thiele**  
Director  
10 years

Employees and directors were recognized for their years of service for 2015 at the annual awards banquet in January. This service and dedication are what make ERPPD a great organization. Thank you for all you do!

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries – and an ENERGY STAR charger for them – which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## ERPPD is on Facebook

Please join us!!!  
We will be giving away either a free “Cooking with Power” cookbook or LED lightbulb to the first 100 customers that “Like” us on Facebook.  
See you there!



Working for  
Nebraska

Check out the new Working for Nebraska video on the [erppd.com](http://erppd.com) web page - Energy Camp and Youth Tour.

Engaging youth in the public power model is important for our communities, businesses and future.

Encourage a youth you know to apply for the Youth Leadership Camp.