



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2018

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 27, Number 3

## “THE WEATHER OUTSIDE WAS FRIGHTFUL”

Mother nature blasted us the last part of January with significant snowfall - 12 inches and above - recorded in the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District footprint.

There were strong winds with gusts up to 60 mph reported and blizzard conditions. Despite the weather outside being very frightful - for the vast majority of our customers the lights were on and the furnaces were working.

During winter storm “Jaxon” we had a total of three relatively minor outages. For those customers that did experience an outage, we worked as fast as we could to locate the cause and safely address the problem.

Although we may not always be as lucky as we were with winter storm Jaxon - not getting the amount of rain and ice that were predicted, we work to prevent outages where we can in the first place. We maintain the system through a pole testing program, line patrol, and vegetation management. These programs are always balanced with customer needs/concerns and making sure we keep our costs in line so that we minimize rate increases.

System reliability is also important for keeping our employees and



*Visibility was greatly reduced during Winter Storm “Jaxon”. ERPPD system did not falter even with these conditions, keeping our customers safe and warm.*

customers safe. If we can prevent the outages, we don’t have staff going out in dangerous weather conditions or potential issues with lines being down and customers coming in contact with them.

Elkhorn’s reliability rate is 99.98%.

We really strive to provide the best possible electrical service for our customers. We balance that with safety and keeping rates cost effective for all our customers.

We look forward to continuing to serve you in all kinds of weather.



# RATE DESIGN CHANGE

Even as we are striving for excellent reliability for our system, we are also looking for ways to keep rates fair and cost effective.

In the last several newsletters, we have been reporting on different aspects of rate design changes.

We had a cost of service study completed last year by a nationally reputed rate consultant to make sure we are capturing costs for our services appropriately. We are making revenue neutral adjustments to those costs over time so that we are not taking large increases that will adversely affect our customers.

The board approved cost of service study rate design changes to bring the cost of service in line with actual costs for providing

services.

We will be implementing a rate design change - we will now be collecting a 50 cent demand charge for services that are not currently being billed on demand.

As we explained in the February issue of the *Wire*, KW demand is currently collected in your energy charge. It will now be a flat rate of 50 cents/KW and you will see your energy costs decrease.

Most of our customers will not see a significant change in their electric bills.

These changes are revenue neutral for Elkhorn Rural PPD. The customers that have a KW demand charge added could see slight increases, but most will notice no change or a slight decrease in their

bill.

All the electrical rates are listed on our website: [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com). The rates are listed under the "Customer Service" tab at the top of the page.

We continue to work hard to keep your electrical rates low. You can see in the Energy Information Administration data pictograph at the bottom left of the page, that Nebraska's average residential electrical rates in 2016 (the latest information available) were very competitive nationally.

As reported in the January *Wire* - Rates for 2018 - Elkhorn Rural PPD's average residential rates were an additional 10% lower at 9.8 cents/kWh.

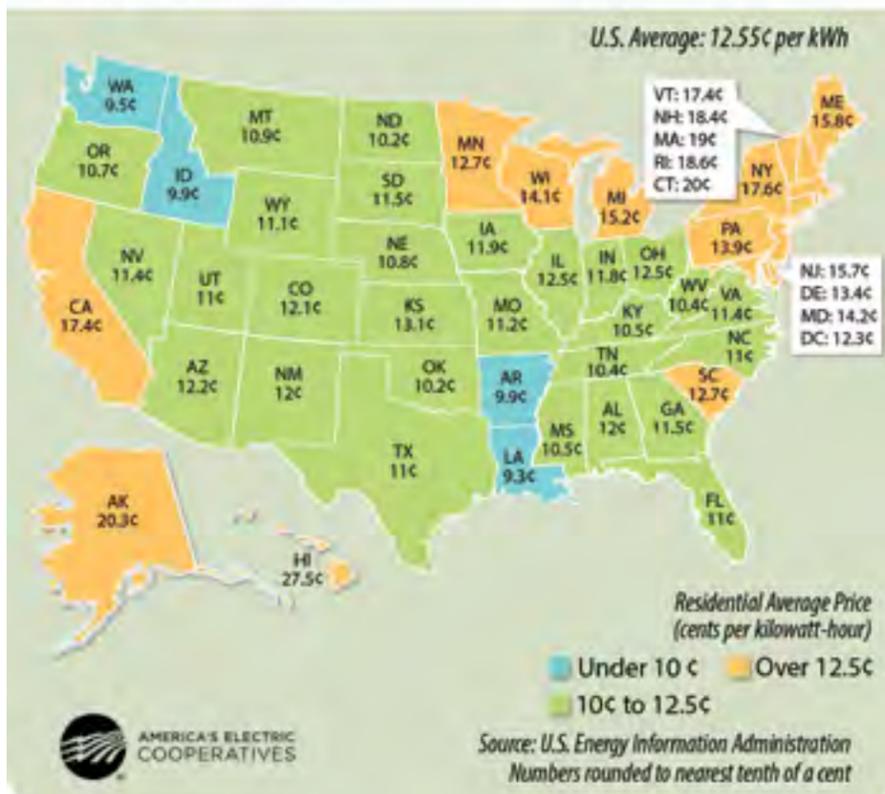
The pictograph on the back page, "How Much Does My Electricity Use Cost" shows what value you get in using electricity. The cost to power your electronic devices, appliances and homes is really a great value.

We also have ways for you to decrease your electric consumption and save on your bill. Call the office at (800) 675-2185 and ask to speak with Brian for tips and incentives to save electricity.

You can also visit our website [erppd.com](http://erppd.com) for usage calculators and other resources on efficiency measures.

## Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2016 figures, in cents per kWh



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction. This will create a cool breeze. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.

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

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# NORTHEAST NE FARM SHOW WINNERS



Marc Ahlers, left, explains step potential to the audience at the Northeast Farm Show in January.

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, in partnership with Stanton County Public Power District, participated in the 2018 Northeast Nebraska Farm and Equipment Show held at the Ag Complex on the Northeast Community College campus in January.

We like to see customers and remind them about safety around power lines and let them know about energy efficiency practices and incentives.

Judy Krueger of Madison was the Grand Prize Winner of an air fryer from our booth registration drawing.

Other winners of the booth drawings include: Phyllis Dusel of rural Tilden; a shop light and Lois Petersen of Madison, winner of GE LED light bulbs.

Congratulations to our winners!

Thank you to everyone that stopped by and visited with us during the show.

# SAFETY NEWS

"Prevention is better than cure" - Desiderius Erasmus - Dutch Philosopher 1466-1536. The concept of prevention before calamity has been around for a very long time.

Prevention and preparation are key for safety. While Elkhorn Rural PPD works on prevention of outages, you can be prepared and know what to do in case of an outage.

The graphic to the right gives you some good food supplies to have on hand in case of an outage.

Other items to have in your storm preparation kit include the following:

- \*Flashlight/batteries
- \*Manual can opener
- \*First Aid Kit
- \*Battery operated radio
- \*Food for any pets you have
- \*Supply of medications

Here are some not so common items to think of supplying in case of a prolonged outage:

- \*Whistle to signal for help;
- \*Moist towelettes, plastic bags and ties for personal sanitation;
- \*Dust masks; plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place;
- \*Local Maps; and

- \*Backup batteries for cellphones
- You can check out [erppd.com](http://erppd.com) for more helpful hints and resources under the safety tab on the front page.

## YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL

Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.

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## Electric Vehicle Incentive

The market for electric vehicles continues to grow - there was a 63% increase globally for electric vehicles and many nations are looking at decreasing transportation emissions (*Bloomberg.com 11/20/17*)

Many advancements have been made to electric vehicles to make the range longer and more charging stations and infrastructure are being built to accommodate the growth. See the pictograph to the right on the types of electric vehicles.

Though electric cars may not be a significant trend in the midwest for some years, it will

have a significant impact on the distribution of electricity. More data is needed to determine how to serve the demand for charging electric vehicles.

By collecting data on individual charging stations, the utilities can better implement strategies to maintain and improve utility infrastructure. In order to collect this information, the utility is offering an incentive to eligible customers with qualifying equipment.

A \$200 EnergyWise incentive for the installation of a residential vehicle charging station is available for a limited time. This incentive is for customers living in the service area who purchase an electric vehicle and choose to install a ChargePoint 32 amp WI-FI enabled station.

Please visit [erppd.com](http://erppd.com) or call Brian Suckstorf at 800-675-2185 for more information.

