

# SOLAR PROJECTS UNDERWAY

As of the writing of this article, three solar projects are underway in the ERPPD territory.

Late last year, the ERPPD board of directors signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with SunVest Solar, LLC to buy 6.5 MW of solar power. (See January & February 2020 *Wire*)

The estimated time line for the project was 2020, but due to COVID and other delays, the end date will be sometime in the first quarter of 2021.

The 6.5 MW of solar is divided into three different project sites. There will be a 1.5 MW project west of Elgin, a 2 MW project north of Battle Creek, and a 3 MW project a little south and a little west of Norfolk.

The reason for three separate projects in different locations is due to engineering and

economics. The ERPPD electrical system peaks in the summer and there is substantial usage across the entire system. At other times of the year, the loads can be relatively low in some areas.

Therefore, placing these three projects in the locations mentioned above, effectively utilizes the energy produced on a consistent basis, maximizing their electrical impact.

Additional reasons for the three sites include: 1) electricity must be used at the time it is generated, unless you have some sort of storage; and, 2) as part of our power contract with our wholesale power supplier, any renewable energy produced needs to be consumed at the local level. Having the three locations spreads out the supply

to meet the demand in different areas, at the right times, and provides cost savings for all of our customers.

We are excited to have this opportunity to diversify our generation mix and offer our customers a good value for their money.

We will continue to look for opportunities that bring back value for our customers.



*The picture to the left shows an aerial shot of the start of the 3 MW project that is south and west of Norfolk.*

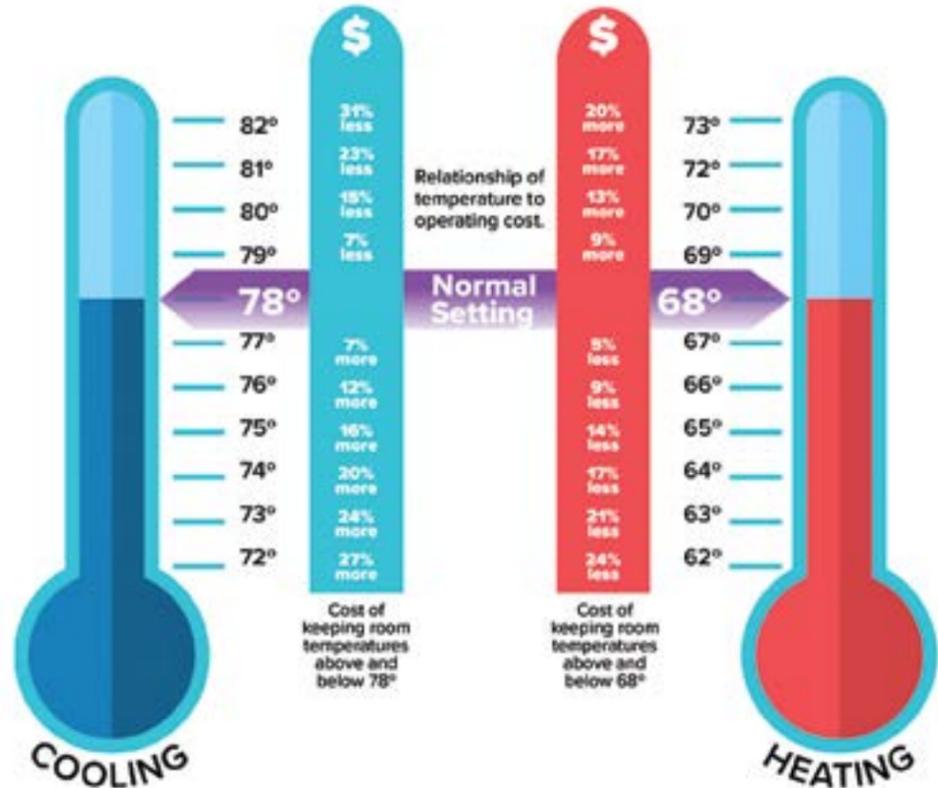


**ERPPD Offices**  
will be closed  
**Wednesday, November 11,**  
to observe Veterans' Day and  
**Thursday, November 26** through  
**Friday November 27** to observe  
Thanksgiving.

# THERMOSTAT WARS?



## HOW YOUR THERMOSTAT AFFECTS YOUR ELECTRIC BILL



Trouble deciding on that optimal temperature for your home?

The graphic to the left shows the cost of keeping your thermostat above and below optimal levels in the summer and winter.

Because heating and cooling is the largest energy expense in the average U.S. home, according to the U.S. Department of Energy; whenever possible, try to keep your thermostat at 78 degrees in the summertime and 68 degrees in the winter to maximize electric savings.

You can visit [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com) for home energy calculators, Energywise incentives and other energy savings tips.

# VOTING COUNTS

In 2016, the rural vote was a deciding factor in the election. Rural votes increased by more than 500,000 people nationwide in 2016. In Nebraska alone, the percentage of voters increased by 2 - 2.9 %. And the number of rural voters was actually higher than the number of urban voters.

Be sure to let your voice be heard this election!



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District  
November 2020

# ENERGY SAVINGS IN THE KITCHEN

Ah, the kitchen. With Thanksgiving and the holidays right around the corner, we will probably be spending more time in the kitchen. However, you probably aren't thinking about saving energy when you're planning that perfect holiday meal or all those holiday goodies!

Here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

1) When possible, cook with smaller appliances. Using smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers,



toaster ovens and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

2) Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load. Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen – these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or better yet, use a power strip for convenient control.

3) Help large appliances work less. There are small ways you can help your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers

in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

4) Use your dishwasher efficiently. Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty



dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final rinse and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

For more energy saving tips and the EnergyWise program, you can call the office at (800) 675-2185 and speak with Brian Suckstorf or you can visit our website [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com), under the Energy tab.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

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





# ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.



**Take notice** of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.

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**Do not** shoot at or near power lines or insulators.

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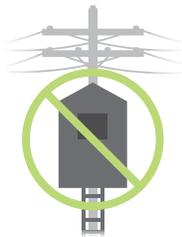
**Know** where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.

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**Be especially careful** in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.

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**Do not** place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.

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**Do not** place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.