

ARE RATES RISING FASTER?

At a recent meeting of rural public power districts, the rising of electrical rates was discussed. There is a perception that Nebraska's electrical rates are rising at a rate that out paces our neighbors, however, data shows that not to be the case.

Previous rate articles in the *Wire*, show that Nebraska as a whole ranks 15th lowest in the nation for residential electrical rates. See graphic to the upper right.

The graphic also shows that we have the lowest electrical rates as compared to our neighbors.

But what about rate increases over time?

Residential rate data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) for Nebraska, surrounding states and the nation show that Nebraska's rates are rising at a slower rate than our neighbors and have flattened out over the last 5 years.

The graph to the right shows how rates have increased over the last seven years. Nebraska's (blue dotted line) rates have remained relatively steady, rising only 2 cents in the last seven years; whereas, the surrounding states and the nation have seen increases of 3 cents and above.

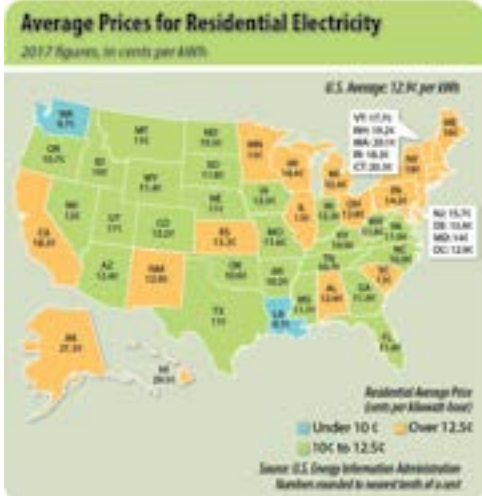
Nebraska is able to keep its rates competitive in spite of having a lower density rate (meters per mile of line) than most states, especially

as compared nationally.

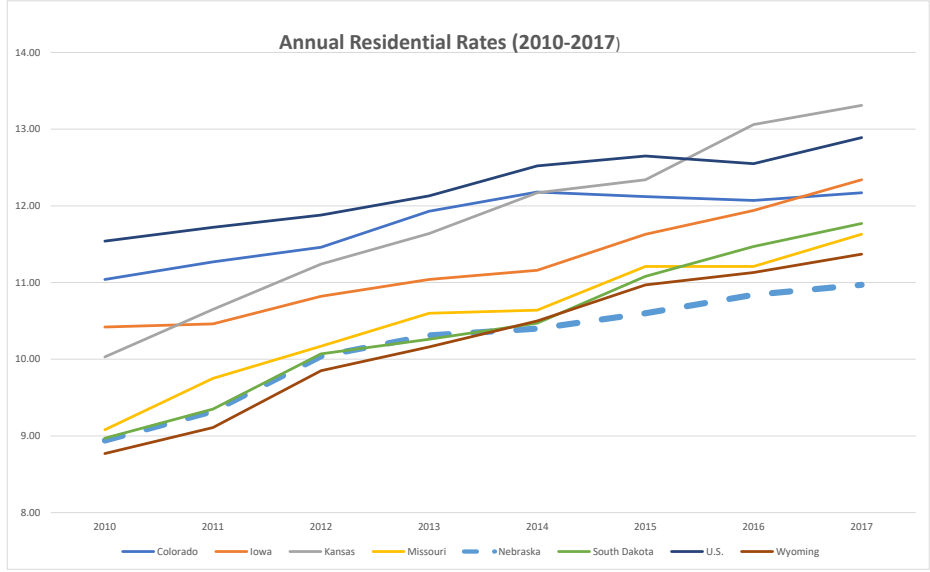
The Public Power Model with local control, community involvement, stewardship of resources and emphasis on safety and reliability, works for Nebraskans.

At Elkhorn, we work tirelessly to provide cost-effective electricity, while maintaining safety and reliability. There has not been a general increase in our rates for the last six years.

Elkhorn's residential rate is more than a cent less than the state average - 9.8 cents/kWh as compared to 11cents/kWh (as reported in the January *Wire*).



Nebraska ranks 15th in the nation for lowest residential electrical rates and has the lowest rate of surrounding states.



The graph above shows that Nebraska's residential rates are rising slower than surrounding states.

GRASSROOTS

National Voter Registration Day September 24

If you are not registered to vote, register today. You can go to the county courthouse to register, pick up a form at your city office or get on-line and register at <http://ne.gov/go/NEreg2vote>. When you register to vote on-line you will need to have your driver's license or state identification card available.

You may need to re-register to vote if you have had a change in address, name change, or had a change in your political party affiliation.

If you are unsure if you are a registered voter, you can check on-line at <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/VoterView/Registrant-Search.do>.



CANDIDATE TRAINING SCHOOL

Thinking about running for office? Don't know where to start? Check out the NREA Candidate Training session

When: November 15
Where: ERPPD Battle Creek Headquarters

Topic Areas:
*Effective Fund raising
*Message Development
*Campaign Budgeting
*Campaign Law
*Media Relations

Contact James at (402) 475-4988 for more information or to register.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cookware Tip: Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: energy.gov



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

will be closed in observance of

Labor Day

Monday, September 2, 2019

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
September 2019

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Fund 4th Quarter Applications Deadline

October 22

Apply on-line at <https://crppd.com/community-development-fund/community-development-fund-application/> or call 402.675.2185 and ask for Jennifer.

It has been a year since the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Community Development Fund (Fund) started receiving applications and giving out funding to area organizations.

The Fund has given \$27,910 to 37 different organizations within the Elkhorn RPPD territory in this first year.

See the list to the right on what sort of projects have been funded in the last year.



"The Fund was established to provide money for worthwhile community projects," stated Sarah Ahlers, Chair for the Fund

Board of Trustees, "They [the projects] should be of wide benefit to the residents within the ERPPD territory and be beyond the daily operations of the organization."

"We have been able to help many organizations fund projects that otherwise could have not been completed, said Ahlers, "Which is very gratifying."

Information, guidelines and an on-line application can be found on the ERPPD website.

The Fund board of trustees is made up of 5 members - one from each of ERPPD's three subdivisions and two at large members. The trustees are Sarah Ahlers, subdivision III, Chair; Eldon Peters, subdivision I, Vice-Chair; Kory Lingenfelter, subdivision II, Secretary/Treasurer; and Judy Hilkemann and Anne Parks-at large.

If you have questions or would like an application emailed to you, contact Jennifer at (402) 675-2185.

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
September 2019

What's Been Funded

- AEDs
- Water rescue equipment
- Christmas presents for children
- Learning curriculum for schools
- Active killer training
- Electric cot for ambulance
- Infant monitors
- Craft supplies for youth activities
- Gas detector for volunteer fire department
- Carpet cleaning for senior center maintenance
- Bounce houses for community activities
- Shade structure for city pool
- Media storage cabinet
- Booster seats
- Rehab equipment
- Post Prom
- Background checks for Team-mate mentors

By the Numbers

\$49,737 - Total funds collected January 2018 - June 2019

\$27,910 - Total funds distributed August 2018 - 2019

37 - Total number of organizations helped

70 - Percentage of customers that round up

50 - Average number of cents contributed by each customer/meter in the operation round up program

Priceless - the support customers give to organizations and residents in our service territory

Pictured below left to right Sarah Ahlers, Fund trustee, and Tom Thiele, Curt Thiele, Marty Kerkman, Melissa Herley, and Janette Kerkman for the Clearwater Rodeo



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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September is National Preparedness Month. Preparation is a key ingredient in being safe. Before jobs, our crews "tailgate" on any safety issues and information that might be needed in case of an emergency.

Ready.gov has some great resources that can help you prepare for disasters or emergencies.



Week 1: Sept 1-7
Save Early for Disaster Costs

Week 2: Sept 8-14
Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters

Week 3: Sept 15-21
Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters

Week 4: Sept 22-30
Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness

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STAY BACK AND STAY SAFE

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. We are dedicated to a culture of safety for our employees and customers.

Yes, we strive to deliver cost-effective and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance – and your help!

Distractions can be deadly.

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous,

and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews— and you.

Avoid Pet "Supervisors"

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while line workers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

Your Family's Safety

We recognize that for your fam-

ily's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize Elkhorn employees and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our line workers because they live right here in our local community.

Slow Down and Move Over.

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road.

This is probably the best safety tip for our workers. If you see signs and cones on the road, please slow down. It does not always work for crews to get off the road when doing line work, so please use caution when passing crews on the road. Then we all go home safely.

