

# VOTER REGISTRATION

National Voter Registration Day is September 22, this year. It is a good reminder for us to think about the privilege we have to vote and have a voice in the policies and laws that effect our lives.

“Rural Votes Count” is a campaign through the Nebraska Rural Electric Association in conjunction with the National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association to heighten awareness of rural voters to the impact they can have in local, regional and national elections. Rural voters just need to make sure they are registered to vote and then take part in the general election.



Registering to vote is easy and you can do it on-line 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 can also go to the county courthouse to register or pick up a form at your city office.

You 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/>. You can also look up your polling place at the above web page.

To vote in person on Election Day, the completed application must be submitted on or before the third Friday before the election, which is October 16, this year.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, early voting requests are recommended rather than in person voting at polling places. You can request a ballot by filling out an early voting form and emailing or mailing it to the Secretary of State or your county election office. Early voting ballots will start being mailed out September 28.

For more information about ballot issues, candidates that are running for office or just general election information, you can

September 22, 2020

visit the Nebraska Secretary of State website at <https://sos.nebraska.gov/elections/elections-division>.

Make sure your voice is heard on issues that effect you, by registering for and voting in this fall’s general election.



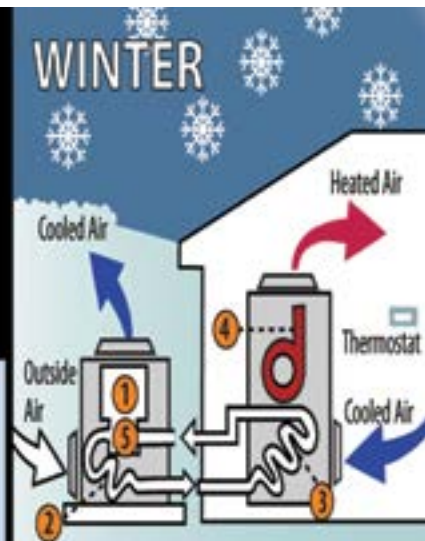
Elkhorn Rural Public Power District  
will be closed in observance of  
**Labor Day**  
Monday, September 7, 2020



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## How Do Air-Source Heat Pumps Work?

By transferring heat between a house and outside air, these devices trim electricity use by as much as 30 percent to 40 percent in moderate climates.



**1 Compressor**  
Increases refrigerant/freon pressure to accept the maximum heat from the air.

**2 Condenser**  
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.

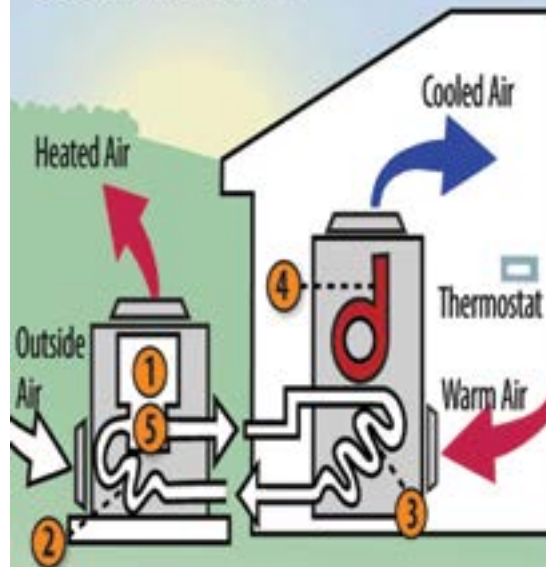
**3 Evaporator**  
Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.

**4 Air Handler**  
Fan blows air into a home's ducts.

**5 Reversing Valve**  
Switches the direction of the freon flow, changing the heat pump's output to hot or cold air (controlled by thermostat).

Source: NRECA

## SUMMER



**Did you know.** . . Air-source heat pumps freeze and thaw.

Because the heat pump operates during the winter, the outdoor temperature has an impact on the system. As the outdoor temperature drops, the heat pump coil temperature also drops causing frost to form on the coils. The system will then go into defrost mode. This is a normal part of the system, but many times homeowners are concerned since this can be an audibly loud process.

If you are in the market for a new furnace/air conditioner, consider an air-source heat pump.

Heat pumps use the ambient air to heat and cool homes more efficiently - see graphic to the left.

There are also energy efficiency credits available for installing heat pumps-see table below.

You can find out more at [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com) or calling Brian Suckstorf, Energy Service Representative at 402-675-2185.

### High Efficiency Heat Pump Rebates

Incentive Criteria*	Incentive Amounts
Air Source HP: 15 - 15.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$400
Air Source HP: 16 - 17.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$800
Air Source HP: 18+ SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$1,200
Air Source HP: Variable Capacity	\$1,200

\*For full criteria and application see [www.erppd.com/energy](http://www.erppd.com/energy)

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

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



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND



Pictured left: Orchard Volunteer Fire Department with the Life Pak 15 Monitor/Defibrillator. Pictured right: Cheryl Veik, manager of Tintern Retreat.

Pictured bottom left: Barb Bode and Diane Gunderson with Elgin Public Library.



### Community Development Fund Requests and Awards (August 2020)

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
Battle Creek Public Schools	Welders for welding class	Battle Creek	\$500.00
Battle Creek St. Patrick's Church	Moving church/foundation	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Big Bang Boom Fest 2020	Fireworks	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Bargain Box	Roof repair	Elgin	\$1,000.00
Elgin United Methodist Church	Sound system upgrade	Elgin	\$500.00
Elgin Public Library	Large-print books	Elgin	\$1,000.00
City of Elgin	Decorative street lighting	Elgin	\$500.00
Orchard Economic Dev. Association	Welcome signs for Orchard	Orchard	\$500.00
Orchard Historical Society	Rex Theatre kitchen remodel	Orchard	\$1,000.00
Orchard Volunteer FD	Life Pak 15 Monitor/Defibrillator	Orchard	\$1,000.00
Pierce County Ag Society	Livestock wash racks	Pierce	\$1,000.00
Pierce Historical Society	Concrete display pads	Pierce	\$1,000.00
Summerland Ball Association	Football equipment	Orchard	\$1,000.00
Tintern Retreat and Resource Center	Maintenance/up keep	Oakdale	\$1,000.00
Zion Lutheran School	iPads and MacBook Pros for students and faculty	Pierce	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$13,000.00</b>

**Third Quarter**

**Application Deadline  
October 19, 2020**

**Board Meeting Date:  
November 2, 2020**

### Work Project

Despite the pandemic, ERPPD crews continued to be busy working on the system.

Pictured to the right is a 1000 kVa pad-mount transformer being installed for Northeast Community College and the new Vet Tech building.

Pad-mounted transformers are connected to underground utility distribution lines at what is called a "service drop", in order to step down the primary voltage on the utility distribution line to the lower secondary voltage which is then supplied to a customer.

As with any electrical equipment, safety is paramount. Pad-mount transformers should not have large bushes or trees planted too close to them. If the cabinet is open, unlocked or damaged, don't try to close or fix it as there could be the potential for electrical contact -just immediately report it to ERPPD.





# ELECTRICAL SAFETY IS FOR EVERYONE

In August ERPPD was able to provide high voltage safety demonstrations to Battle Creek Farmers Coop and Central Valley Ag.

Each company educated workers on the dangers of high voltage power lines.

*“The demonstration really showed the importance of safety when around rural power equipment. It reminded our staff of the hazards that exist every day to themselves and our farmer-owners and I realized electricity isn’t something to mess around with. It is a great program and we are grateful for the educational & partnership opportunity with our friends at ERPPD.”*

*-- Dean Thernes, President, Farmers Pride Cooperative.*

With harvest right around the corner, it will be important to be aware of power lines to avoid them, or, if the worst happens and you are involved in an accident involving power lines, what you need to do.

If you are in an accident with power lines, assume that they are live. DO NOT try to exit the equipment or vehicle unless absolutely necessary. If you do have to exit, jump free of the equipment with both feet together, shuffle or hop with feet together to a safe distance from the downed power line.



**Pictured above: Blake Papik; Marc Ahlers and Patrick Hintz provide an electrical safety demonstration for BC Coop; Right - Blake Papik operates a switch for the safety demo; Below - Safety window cling available at the BC office for customers.**



## FALL SAFETY TIPS:

- \* **Each day** review all farm activities and work practices that will take place around power lines and remind all workers to take precautions. Start each morning by planning the day’s work during a tailgate safety meeting.
- \* **Know what jobs** will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep the assigned workers safe.
- \* **Know the location** of power lines, and when setting up the farm equipment, be at least 20 feet away from them. Contact ERPPD (800-675-2185) if you feel this distance cannot be achieved.
- \* **Be aware** of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- \* **Never attempt** to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call ERPPD to repair them.