February 2018 Newsletter

Cuming County Public Power District
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402-372-2463 or 877-572-2463

Chet McWhorter, CCPPD GM

One of my favorite parts about my job is the aspect of contemplating the future for our Power District. This includes keeping track of national energy policy, watching what the legislature might come up with that would affect us, paying attention to new and emerging technologies that change how electricity is produced and/or used, and tracking trends to attempt to determine future performance. Of course, this makes me kind of a nerd. I own it; I'm a power nerd.

Martin Luther King, Jr said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter." What matters to me is providing reliable, fair, and cost based electrical service to all of you. I think that it is important work and something that folks appreciate. Because of this, I find myself in lively discussions and working hard to protect what has served us well. I always find it interesting when the "experts" have the newest best widget that will save the day. Of late, there has been much discussion regarding renewable electricity and electric vehicles.

Nationally, there is a trend towards more electric cars and trucks. I have seen data that indicates if trends continue, 30% of new vehicles purchased by 2030 will be electric. First, the trend can change. Trends are good to watch, but they are most indicative of what has happened and lack some in their crystal ball replacement duties. Second, I don't believe that Nebraska will see that type of infiltration. Currently, top electric cars can go about 400 miles between charging. Charging takes at least 1 hour on a fast rate, high cost charger. Normally it takes several hours using a standard charge. In the Midwest, it is further than 400 miles to most places. For commuters in the cities, these cars make sense. To replace a family car that goes 25,000 to 35,000 miles per year all over the country, I don't see it yet.

"One of my favorite parts about my job is the aspect of contemplating the future for our Power District."
CCPPD General Manager Chet McWhorter.

In terms of renewable electricity, there is value in certain applications. As I've stated before, I'm a full supporter of a true all of the above approach to electrical generation. On our planet, all energy is derived from the sun. Also, given time, all our energy sources are fully renewable. Fossil fuels, such as coal and natural gas, are removed from the earth. They are naturally produced over time and are fully renewable given enough time. Solar energy and wind energy are created continually. Harnessing them in conjunction with the more stable generation sources available allows for wise use of resources. What I would argue as unwise is displacing farm ground or trees to install solar panels. This takes green space and plant life that removes carbon from the atmosphere out of the equation. This, in my opinion, is not a great use of our limited space on our planet.

Renowned Social Scientist Joseph Grenny stated, "Be sure you are not writing someone off because he is not everything you think he should be." I agree. I think it also stands to reason that we should not write off transportation sources or electrical generation sources that don't meet our expectations. I would love to say that we can solve all our country's energy problems with an electric car and a solar panel, but I assure we cannot. I always remember that the Department of Energy was created in the 1970's under the Carter administration with the narrow and temporary purpose of reducing our dependence on foreign oil. How well has that worked out for us?

Energy Efficiency for the Modern Family and its Many Devices

By: Anne Prince

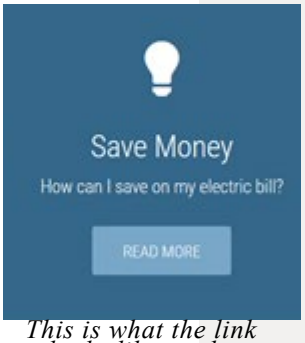
If you are struck by the amount of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords that have become fixtures in your home, you are not alone. The typical American family is well connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while approximately half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

Using smart technology to manage energy savings

So how can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touch-screen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.

From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms - controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics and other devices. One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest models. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor how much energy is used and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home. Check and adjust the program periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.



This is what the link looks like on the home page.

You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR - certified appliances. Many new appliances include smart-technology features such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open. New washers, dryers and dishwashers allow you to program when you want the load to start. This means you can program your task for off-peak energy hours - a smart choice if your electric rate is based on time of use.

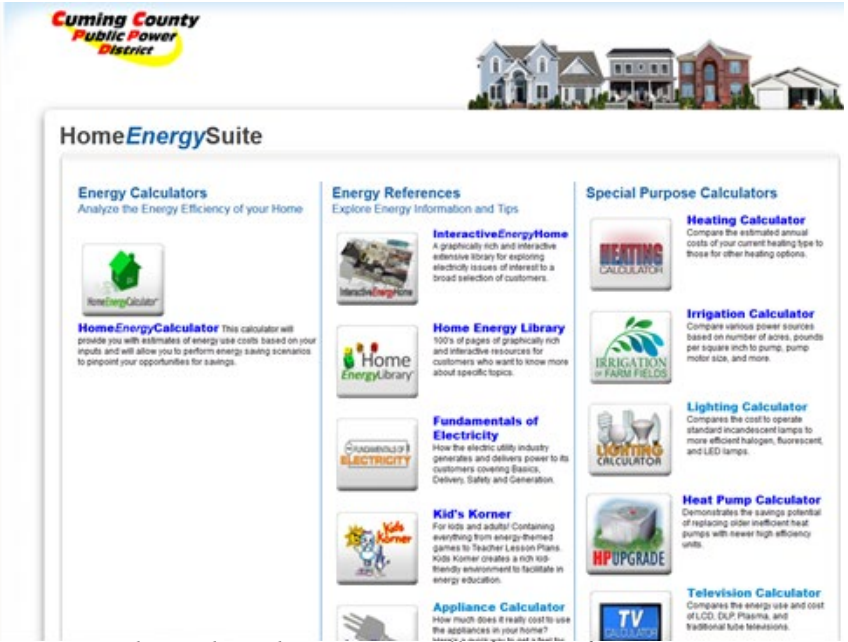
"Old school" energy savings for new devices

Of course there are the time-tested "old school" methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of household electronic devices and screens. Computers, printers, phones and gaming consoles are notorious "vampire power" users, meaning they drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.

While modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your best resource for saving energy and money remains your local electric company.

Regardless of your level of technical expertise with electronic devices, Cuming County Public Power District can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information, energy use, local weather patterns and additional factors unique to your community.

You can also go online to learn more about how to save on your electric bill. Go to ccppd.com and then click on the link on the home page with the light bulb. It says "Save Money. How can I save on my electric bill?" You can then enter things specific to your home and it will give you a detailed listing of how to save money on your electric bill. If you have any questions please call us 402-372-2463.



This is the website to enter all of your information to learn more about how to save on your electric bill.

CCPPD Annual Recognition Dinner

Cuming County Public Power District held their annual recognition dinner on Friday, January 5, 2018 at the Indian Trails Country Club. There was a nice meal catered by JD's Catering.

Awards were given for years of service by CCPPD General Manger, Chet McWhorter and CCPPD Board President, Greg Strehle. Sarah McGill was awarded a pin and plaque for 20 years, Willy Anderson for 15 years and Sheena Kampschneider for 5 years.

Sarah McGill ~ 20 years

Willy Anderson ~ 15 years

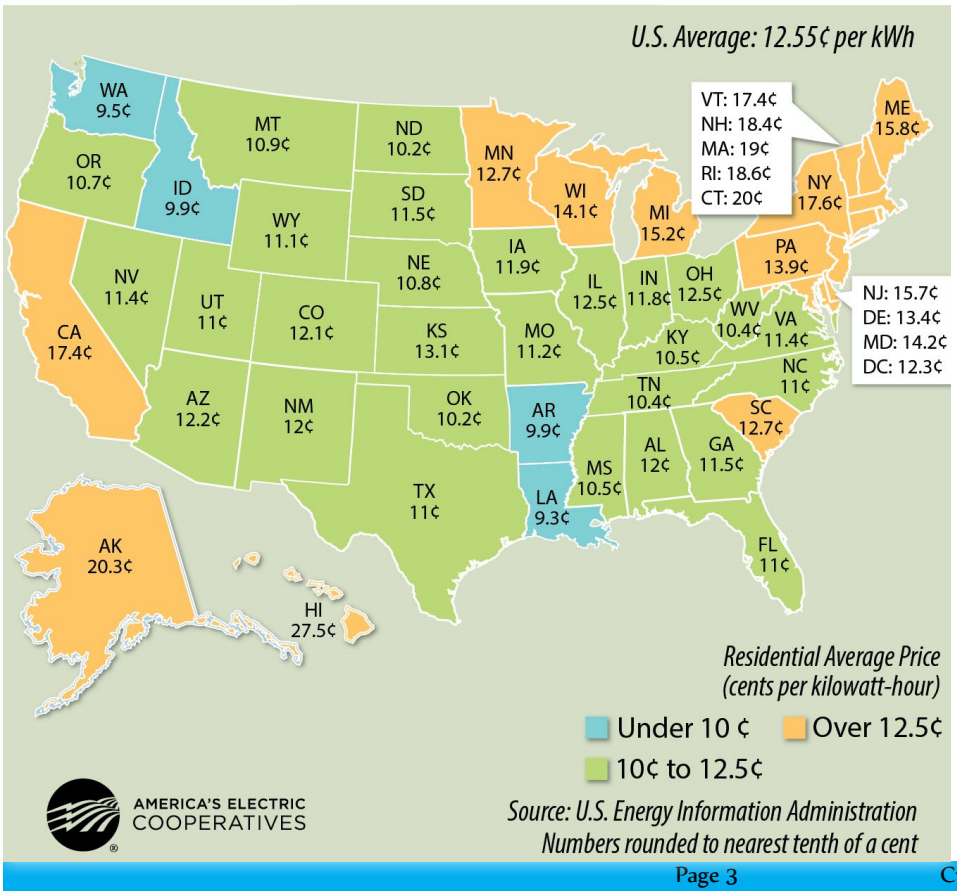
Sheena Kampschneider ~ 5 years

Board Member, Rollin Bremerman was recognized for his 24 years of service to the CCPPD board. He retired this year and will be greatly missed. Fred Schneider was also recognized for his completion of the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program through NRECA. He has done well learning about the industry and has been a great addition to the CCPPD board.

Thank you to all who were able to attend! Your service and dedication to CCPPD is greatly appreciated.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2016 figures, in cents per kWh



Rollin Bremerman ~ 24 years CCPPD board

Fred Schneider ~ NRECA Director Program

Greg Strehle
President
402-380-3659

Leroy Mostek
Vice President
402-528-3872

Ed Kaup
Treasurer
402-372-2966

Dennis Weiler
Secretary
402-372-2713

Fred Schneider
402-528-3683

Danny Kluthe
402-693-2833

CCPPD BOARD

Save Money & Energy Through the EnergyWise℠ Program

$200-1,700

HIGH EFFICIENCY HEAT PUMP DIRECT INCENTIVE or LOW-INTEREST LOAN

Air Source Heat Pumps minimum of 15 SEER, 12.5 EER, & 8.5 HSPF.

Ground Source Heat Pump: Variable Capacity or Ground Source Heat Pumps with a minimum 35 EER and 5.0 COP.

Or

You can apply for the low-interest loan through the Nebraska Energy Office.

$0.15/ sq. ft.

RESIDENTIAL ATTIC INSULATION

$0.15/Sq. Foot (Maximum amount $300)

Attic insulation may qualify when six or more inches are added to an existing amount of less than six inches.

The home must have a Heat Pump, Electric Furnace, or Electric Heat.

Rebate applies to existing homes only; excludes new construction.

$30

COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP

$30 incentive towards having your cooling system tuned up by a qualified HVAC contractor.

This incentive is available every three years.

$200-$500

HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER

Air Source Heat Pump Water Heater with an efficiency factor greater than 1.9 is eligible for a $200 incentive.

A Water or Ground Source Heat Pump Water Heater with an efficiency factor greater than 2.8 is eligible for a $500 incentive.

There are also incentives available for Commercial Prescriptive Lighting, Commercial Heat Pumps and other energy saving improvements. Check our website (ccppd.com) under the Customer Services tab or call the office at 402-372-2463 for more information.