

# Cuming County Public Power District



April 2026

## Manager's Report

By Chet McWhorter, CCPPD GM

Beginning on April 1, customers will see a 5.9% overall rate increase, and those accounts who have not been traditionally charged for demand, including residential services, will experience a new \$0.50 per kW demand charge. These changes are driven by higher wholesale power costs, increased material expenses, and system needs, but customers can manage their bill by reducing simultaneous use of high-demand appliances.

One of the primary drivers that affects how much it costs to deliver power is something called peak demand. Peak demand is a measurement that electrical utilities calculate to make sure there is enough electricity available when people need it the most. Rick Nelson, the General Manager of Nebraska Rural Electric Association, our statewide organization, has offered the following analogy. Consider your electric use like water flowing through a pipe. Consider also that the total amount you use over a month is an important factor, but so is the maximum flow at any one time. That maximum flow is your peak demand. Now, suppose you want to fill a five-gallon bucket with water. You can use an inexpensive garden hose connection to your sink faucet providing one gallon per minute to fill it, and it will take five minutes. Or you can get to a more expensive high output faucet that provides five gallons per minute. Using the high output faucet, the bucket will fill in one short minute. The flow rate is equivalent to demand, and the five gallons of water are equivalent to consumption. In this example, filling both buckets has the same amount of consumption but very different peak demands. In terms of electricity, peak demand is the highest level of energy you use at one time during the billing period. For example, if your household is running the air conditioner, oven, clothes dryer, and dishwasher all at once on a hot July afternoon, you are most likely hitting your peak demand for the month.

CCPPD has built and maintains a system that can handle everyone's peak demand, not just the average usage. That means having enough access to power plants, lines, substations, and equipment to meet the highest possible peak demand at any given moment. These systems cost money whether they are being used fully or not, and that cost is passed on to all of us through the rates we pay for electricity. This is where peak demand rates come into play. As of today, CCPPD has peak demand rates that are charged to all large power customers and irrigation accounts. At their April meeting, as part of a needed overall increase of 5.9% on all rate classes, CCPPD's Board of Directors are considering appropriate peak demand rates for all rate classes. The recommendation is to charge \$0.50 cents per KW for demand for those classes who have not traditionally had demand charges. These rates are designed to encourage customers to use electricity more evenly throughout the day and to avoid using too many high-powered devices at any given time. By reducing peak demand, we can make better use of the infrastructure we already

have, avoid building potentially unnecessary new power plants and/or power lines and keep rates more affordable for everyone.

While we will all feel the impact of the 5.9% rate increase, the good news is that managing peak demand is something every customer can help with. You could shift your laundry and dishwashing to the evening, turn up the thermostat a few degrees during the hottest part of the day or use smart home devices to stagger when things turn on. These small changes may not seem like much, but when hundreds of people participate, the results are significant. These changes can also save you money, which is never a bad thing! Awareness of peak demand and its effect on the CCPPD system is a good starting point for the best possible use of electricity for each customer and for the entire district. Please note the frequently asked questions section that follows but if you have any further questions about how to most efficiently use electricity or how to save money on your power bill, give us a call.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**Why is CCPPD increasing rates?** The increase is driven by higher wholesale power costs, rising material expenses, and ongoing system needs to maintain reliable service.

**Who will see the new \$0.50 per kW demand charge?** Customers in rate classes that have not previously been billed for demand—such as residential and certain small commercial accounts—will see this new charge.

**What is "peak demand"?** Peak demand is the highest amount of electricity a customer uses at one time during the billing period, not the total electricity used.

**How can I reduce my peak demand?** Avoid running multiple high-demand appliances at the same time—for example, staggering use of the oven, dryer, dishwasher, or air conditioning.

**Can managing peak demand lower my bill?** Yes. Reducing your maximum simultaneous usage can help stabilize your bill and lessen the impact of demand charges.

**Why does peak demand matter to the district?** CCPPD must build and maintain infrastructure capable of meeting everyone's highest usage moments, which is costly even when not used continuously.

**HAPPY EASTER!**  
May your day be full of Joy, Happiness and Peace

Cuming County Public Power District ~ 500 S Main Street ~ West Point NE 68788

Website: [www.ccppd.com](http://www.ccppd.com)

X (Twitter): [@CumingCountyPPD](https://twitter.com/CumingCountyPPD)

Facebook: [facebook.com/CCPPD](https://facebook.com/CCPPD)

Instagram: [cumingccppd](https://instagram.com/cumingccppd)

# Youth Energy Leadership Camp

July 20-24, 2026

Nebraska Rural Electric's Youth Energy Leadership Camp is July 20th through July 24th at Camp Comeca near Cozad, NE. Any high school student currently in 9th through 11th grade can attend. CCPPD covers your cost for camp and takes you to and from camp. You will learn about the electric industry and could make life-long friends. There's also camping, sports, a banquet and dance. A tour of Gerald Gentleman Power Station and the Kingsley Hydro Electric Power Plant provide for a first-hand look at the process of generating electricity. Contact Nicki White at CCPPD for more information 402-372-2463 or turn in this application form by April 27, 2026.



Deadline: April 27, 2026

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Your Sponsoring Rural Electric System: \_\_\_\_\_

## NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp

Camp Comeca near Cozad, Nebraska



*Lineman Appreciation*  
THANK A LINEMAN

## CCPPD Rebates

CCPPD.ENERGYWISENEBRASKA.COM

# WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT SO DO THEY!

April 20, 2026



Cuming County Public Power District

## 2026 Incentives CCPPD

- LIGHTING
- ATTIC INSULATION
- HIGH EFFICIENCY HEAT PUMP
- HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER
- COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP
- LAWN & GARDEN
- SMART THERMOSTAT & MORE

Cuming County Public Power District

# Employee Spotlights

Each month we will spotlight two employees at Cuming County Public Power District. Please help us thank them for their dedication.

## Tristan Bettenhausen



Tristan Bettenhausen started his career at Cuming County Public Power District in 2014 as a summer intern.

When he completed the Utility Line Program at NECC in Norfolk, he became a full-time CCPPD groundman in

May of 2015. He moved into an apprentice lineman position shortly after and completed his journeyman lineman status in 2019.

He lives on the family homestead outside of West Point with his wife, Megan, and three children: Ross, Henry and Allie.

Outside of work, Tristan enjoys working in his garden and helping with the family farming operation. When he gets the chance, he enjoys heading to Colorado to explore the mountains and go snowboarding.

Please help us thank Tristan for his dedicated service to Cuming County Public Power District.

## Kim Steffen



Kim Steffen began working for CCPPD in November 2022. As the Accounting Supervisor, her many duties include Payroll, Accounts Payable, and preparing the monthly Financial Statements.

Kim is originally from Columbus, Nebraska and moved to the West Point area in 2010 with her husband. She received her bachelor's degree in accounting & finance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her father worked at NPPD while she was growing up, and she was excited to follow in his footsteps when starting her career at CCPPD.

Kim and her husband, Kyle, live just north of West Point with their four children: Braeden, Brooklyn, Barrett and Hunter. She enjoys following her children at all their many events and spending time with family. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hiking and spending time outdoors.

Please help us thank Kim for her dedicated service to Cuming County Public Power District.



# 2nd Street Market

## Dave & Malinda Kempf

Malinda and Dave Kempf have owned the 2nd Street Market in Dodge since February of 2008. For 18 years, Dave and Malinda have seen families grow and the community change. They have supported area events and spent years volunteering in several community groups that plan and bring everyone together.

The Kempf's are looking to take a step back and sell the business to someone wanting to keep the grocery store in town. This is an important staple of Dodge. Not one that anyone wants to see close. Malinda said they will not close the store until they find the right person that wants to keep the grocery store open. Maybe another family or a group of investors or a coop-type set up.



Malinda & Dave Kempf & Family

Many things have been added to the business over the years: Howells-Dodge lunch program, bakery items, lunch & dinner meals including Hunt Brothers Pizza and catering. They have upgraded the drink station in the front of the store, touch screen check-outs, lighting, roof, doors and sidewalks. Every improvement helps the store stay up to date.

Malinda said if she had advice for the next owner, it would be to get involved in the community. Listen to what people need or want in the store. It's important to have positive relationships with everyone in the community.

Speaking of great relationships, each one of their employees mean the world to them. They couldn't do this without them. Malinda wants to extend her heartfelt thanks to each one of them and also to the community for keeping them going for so many great years.

If you would be interested in any information on purchasing the 2nd Street Market, please contact Malinda at 402-693-2260 or email: dm Kempf2000@gpcom.net.



2nd Street Market

# Leadership Program

## Jess Hunke

April 2026



Please join us in congratulating Jess Hunke (left in picture below), Cuming County Public Power District's Working Foreman, on graduating from the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's Leader Essentials



Program instructed by LDR Leadership!

Through this intensive leadership development experience, Jess completed 15 four-hour learning blocks focused on self-awareness, critical thinking, emotional intel-

ligence, decision-making, team dynamics, and performance coaching. The program challenged participants with real-world case studies, interactive discussions, and hands-on learning designed to strengthen leadership skills at every level.

We are proud of Jess's commitment to personal growth and to leading effectively, safely, and with positive influence for our customers and team. His dedication to continued development helps ensure CCPPD remains strong now and into the future.

Congratulations, Jess, on this outstanding achievement!

## CCPPD Board Members

CCPPD Board Meetings:  
Second Wednesday of the month at the  
CCPPD Office at 500 South Main Street  
West Point NE 68788



Greg Strehle  
President  
402-380-3659



Leroy Mostek  
Vice President  
402-380-8803



Brad Petersen  
Secretary  
402-404-0588



Sonya Arduser  
Treasurer  
402-649-8113



Danny Kluthe  
Director  
402-720-3425



Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong  
Director  
402-380-1649

CCPPD Board Members

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