

Cuming County Public Power District

West Point, Nebraska

July 2020



A Message from our GM, Chet McWhorter

As part of my job, I spend a lot of time thinking. Considering various options and outcomes, contemplating all the scenarios that I can imagine, bending my mind into a pretzel over many things that I cannot control, all because that is my job. I am not the first person to do this job and if I do it right, will not be the last person to do it, but I wonder if everyone does it the same way. Do all who manage rural utilities spend an inordinate amount of their lives in deep thought? Or am I just doing it wrong?

We are still dealing with the COVID 19 issues. The pandemic has really changed everyone's lives, no doubt. Several months of quarantine, stay home orders, changed routines and limited choices has made many folks a little cranky and justifiably so. I find myself thinking about what I can do to make things better for others and the list is unfortunately short. Due to the limitations on where we can go and who we can go visit, we are all missing many chances to reach out to other. Social distancing is not healthy for human beings, not in the long run anyway.

This brings me back to

where I was last month as I wrote that prior article. Am I doing what is necessary to come out of the other side of this crisis a better person? Are we as a society doing the things that are necessary to come out of the other side of this crisis a stronger, better society? A few weeks ago, we were told that we are saving lives by staying home and staying isolated. My, how things have changed. Now, we are being told that if we are not joining in on protests or at least being an ally to those that are, we are part of a whole other problem. It is a lot of responsibility to be put on to every person. We maybe don't want all of this responsibility. What happened to leadership? Where are the calming voices that used to echo from the capitals, state houses, and halls of worship? Where are the "ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country" moments? Alas, it is too much to ask for someone to bring us together when we are all so far apart.

This brings me back to the start. I am still thinking. What if we could

show people that they and their struggles mattered? What if their struggles and trials are just as big as yours or mine? What if it really isn't me versus you or democrat versus republican or peanut butter versus jelly? What if it really is as simple as all of us against a messed-up system that we inherited and are incumbent upon to either just accept or to try to make it better? Maybe if that is what it is, we can do that. Maybe if we put our shoulders to the plow, we can make the field better for future generations. Maybe we can be better, and all these thoughts will have been worth thinking. I don't know about you, but I'm going to do my part. I hope you have a great summer and that we get timely rains. I also hope that we get back together soon. I know you all miss me!



Bancroft Community Guide Lite

Presented by NPPD

Megan Novak, Bancroft Village Clerk, received the Bancroft Community Guide Lite from Rick Nelson, NPPD's Senior Economic Development Consultant, the first week of May.

Community Guides are published for NPPD communities served at retail or wholesale customers to use as a tool for recruiting new industry, commercial & retail businesses, and professionals. NPPD prepares the publication for printing and online with the assistance of city officials and others in the community. Included in each Community Guide Lite is a variety of detailed information on geography, economic development, labor, market access, infrastructure, communications, tax structure, local

government, education, quality of life, community services, agriculture & raw materials, and climate.

Community Guides are included in the searchable database on NPPD's website (sites.nppd.com). It can also be found

on Cuming County Public Power District's website at www.ccppd.com or directly at this link: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/lois-files/59ed-7fc5994c2e62b62c0cdb/hth3ZftO5.pdf>



Megan Novak ~ Bancroft Village Clerk



Rick Nelson ~ NPPD Senior ED Consultant

2020 INCENTIVES

- Prescriptive Irrigation
- High Efficiency Heat Pump
- Heat Pump Water Heater
- Commercial HVAC
- Cooling System Tune-Up
- Attic Insulation
- Lighting
- Smart Thermostat
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- VFD's
- Hog Heat Mat

Find more info at:
ccppd.com/energywise.rebates

ENERGYWISESM
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

**Cuming County
Public Power
District**



Summer Safety

TIPS

Sun Safety

- Limit your sun exposure between the hours of 10am and 4pm.
- Wear a hat and sunglasses with UV ray protection.
- Apply sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15.
- Apply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating.

Heat Safety

- Reduce the intensity of activities 15 minutes or longer in length
- Make sure you are well-hydrated
- Limit outdoor activity
- Allow your body to acclimate to the change in temperature

**Cuming County
Public Power
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CCPPD's Operation Round-Up® Fund

Round Up Your Electric Bill

Cuming County Public Power District's Operation Round-Up® (ORU) fund is money collected from customers rounding up their electric bill. If your bill is \$27.50, we would round-up your bill to \$28.00 and the extra 50 cents would go into the ORU fund. The fund collects around \$1,000.00 each month.

Area schools have received over \$40,000. Fire & Rescue Departments have received over \$20,000. Funds are distributed to Cuming County area organizations or individuals that have applied for funding. A five-member board decides where the money is distributed. Our current ORU board members are Cindi Peters (Bancroft area), Brenda Bradfield (Beemer area), Brenda Duhsmann (West Point area), Kay Raabe (Wisner area) and Danielle Ortmeier (Dodge area).

The next CCPPD Operation Round-Up® board meeting is September 30, 2020. Get your applications in (find them on our website www.ccppd.com). Also, please let us know if you would like to participate in the program. On average, it's around \$6.00 a year.

Authorization Form



Choose one Option:

- Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up® Program. I wish to have my monthly electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar.
- Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up® Program. I wish to contribute \$ _____ per month to the Operation Round-Up® Program, and the amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Account Number: _____

Please return to:

CCPPD • PO Box 256 • West Point NE 68788

Please call with any questions: 402-372-2463

Call 811 Before you Dig

Know What's Below

PRIVATELY INSTALLED FACILITIES BEFORE DIGGING



CALL 811 TO LOCATE 'UTILITY' LINES
CALL YOUR ELECTRICIAN TO LOCATE 'PRIVATE' LINES

Some examples of private facilities are:

- gas piping to a garage or out-building
- gas grills and pool heaters
- private water systems
- underground sprinkler systems
- customer owned electric lines
- invisible fences
- data communications systems



Know What's Below.



**Call 811 or
800-331-5666
before you dig.**

Handling the Heat

By: NPPD EE Program Mgr: Cory Fuehrer



Over the next several months, Nebraska homes consume 10 to 12 percent of their average annual energy usage to keep cool. Considering 98 percent of these households rely on a heat pump, a central air-conditioner or window air-conditioners to manage indoor comfort, nearly all of us can benefit from knowing how to optimize cooling efficiency while minimizing cooling costs. It all comes down to two simple concepts: #1 - Keep as much heat as possible outside and #2 - Deal with the remaining excess heat using the minimum amount of energy needed.

Keep the heat out! Inspect, Seal, Insulate.

Keeping hot air out and cool air in will require taking some time to inspect your home for air leaks and poor attic insulation and/or ventilation. Spotting daylight, and therefore leaks, around exterior door and window frames is easy. Leaks through cracked caulk or windows that do not close tightly are harder to recognize.

Block out the sun. While you may prefer natural sunlight to turning a lamp on in the middle of a beautiful day, consider this: A Department of Energy (DOE) study found 76% of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters into your home to become heat. What does that tell you? On hot days, keep the shades or blinds closed on sun-facing windows. Highly reflective blinds can reduce heat gain by 45 percent. For even more efficiency, use dual-sided shades that are reflective (white) on one side and heat absorbing (dark) on the other. These can be reversed with the seasons. Remember, the reflective surface should always face the warmest side.

Vent it. When you shower or bathe, use the bathroom fan to remove heat and humidity. Let it continue to run for about 15 to 20 minutes after you have finished. But, don't forget to switch it off thereafter, or you will be needlessly removing cool, conditioned air. Installing a timer switch is an easy way to assure fan doesn't operate longer than needed.

Minimize activities that generate a lot of heat. Examples are washing and drying clothes in hot water, running a dishwasher, or using hot devices such as curling irons or hair dryers. Even stereos and televisions will add some heat to your home. If you can, wait until after dark to run these and other appliances.

Learn to love your microwave and grill. Outdoor grilling and microwave cooking are two ways to prepare food without generating extra heat inside. When only baking will do, consider making smaller portions and using a toaster oven.

Maximize cooling while minimizing energy. Get a cooling system tune-up. According to the Air Conditioning Contractors of American Association, the average system loses 5% efficiency a year as it becomes dirty and requires maintenance. CCPPD has a \$30 EnergyWiseSM incentive available for a professional to provide a tune-up.

Keep your vents clear. Your air conditioner can't work efficiently if your vents are blocked by rugs or furniture. Check all vents to make sure they're open, free of dust and directing air toward the center of the room. Balancing the flow of air is essential for optimizing your system's efficiency.

Check and change your filter regularly. Different filters in different homes require changes at different frequencies. If you are not sure about yours, check with your dealer that installed it.

Use ceiling and pedestal fans. According to the DOE, fans allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees without any reduction in comfort. Just make sure your ceiling fans are turning counterclockwise for summer and that you don't leave fans running in empty rooms. Fans don't cool air, just people!

Upgrade to a smart thermostat. The latest thermostats can be controlled from anywhere with the tap of a smartphone, making it easy to warm things up a few degrees when you're away from home. Many smart thermostats can even learn your heating and cooling habits and anticipate your home comfort needs to save you money. Contact CCPPD to see if you qualify for a \$25-\$100 EnergyWiseSM incentive available for installation of a qualified smart thermostat.

Don't crank it! Avoid setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Free cooling. If you have a day where it cools off at night, turn off your cooling system and open your windows while sleeping. Do not forget when you wake in the morning to shut all your windows and blinds before it gets hot again, or your air conditioner will have to make up for your temporary amnesia.

Cuming County Public Power District and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of the energy they provide you. That includes keeping your home cool this summer. For more ideas on how you can make your home EnergyWiseSM, contact CCPPD 402-372-2463 or visit www.ccppd.com.