



STEADY SERVICE THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES



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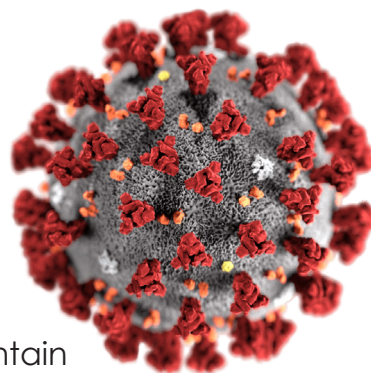
DISTRICT NEWS

SPPD OFFICES REMAIN CLOSED

Southern Public Power District offices will remain closed to walk-in traffic for now, in order to minimize potential exposure and spread of the COVID-19 virus.

We have a responsibility to maintain reliable service; and, the health and safety of our employees is at the top of our list of priorities. We are working hard to ensure that distancing does not minimize our service to you. This continued walk-in limitation increases the likelihood that our employees can continue coming to the office to do their valuable work.

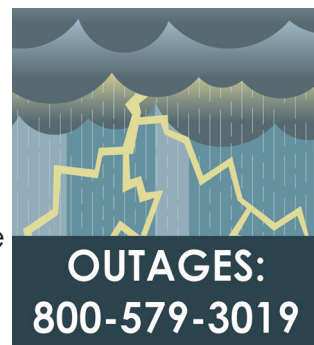
We will reopen our offices to the public when conditions indicate that the risk has diminished. Until then, our offices are staffed and accessible by telephone, Monday through Friday from 8 AM through 5 PM. Payments can be made through our SmartHub portal, submitted by standard postal mail, or dropped in payment boxes at any of our five office locations.



POWERING A BRIGHTER FUTURE--THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

In the midst of office closures, electrical service and outage response hasn't missed a beat. The most significant storm of the summer occurred in late June, with extensive damages in Hamilton County near Mars PetCare on Highway 34 west of Aurora. SPPD crews worked hard the following day resetting structures, including subtransmission and distribution poles.

Remain assured, we are here and ready to serve you. We have continuously monitored the local status of COVID-19, and have put into practice safety measures to keep our lineworkers healthy and ready to respond. Outages may be reported to SPPD by phone, at 800-579-3019. Updates for large scale outages are also shared on our Facebook and Twitter social platforms.



THE VALUE OF PUBLIC POWER

The month of October is nationally recognized as Public Power Month--and public power is an operational structure that holds unique significance for the state of Nebraska.

The public power advantage offers reliable, affordable electricity, with revenues reinvested right back into the infrastructure that powers the businesses, communities, rural residents and farm operations it serves. A few points to consider:

- Every state in the U.S. has a public power utility. But, **Nebraska is the only state with 100% service by community-owned utilities.**
- More than **3,000** public power electric utilities serve 90 million people across the United States.
- Public power utilities are **not-for-profit**.
- **Customers** are the key stakeholders.
- Public power is supported by customer revenues, **not taxes**.
- Rates are set by **locally-elected or appointed boards**.
- Board meetings and utility records are **open to the public**.
- Public power pays **more than \$100 million** statewide in payments in lieu of taxes and other local transfers.
- Public power provides careers for approximately **6,000 employees statewide**.
- Low rates and high reliability are a key driver for **economic development**.

SNAPSHOT OF PUBLIC POWER ADVANTAGES



RELIABILITY

Investments in construction, refurbishments, and proactive maintenance ensure the highest reliability.



AFFORDABILITY

Nebraskan's electric rates have consistently ranked among the lowest in the nation.



SUSTAINABILITY

Investments in renewable resources and energy efficiency reflect a commitment to environmental stewardship.

SOURCE: Nebraska Power Association

At Southern Public Power District, we strive to achieve and demonstrate these valuable advantages. We are guided by our vision, mission and value statements, which provide framework for our practices now, in the future, and toward the customers we serve.



VISION

Powering a brighter future for our customers and communities while supporting public power in Nebraska.

MISSION

To safely provide our customers with highly reliable and competitively priced electricity, superior customer service and innovative energy solutions.

VALUES

We value our employee and customer opinions.

We work together to support, trust and respect each other.

We conduct business in a safe and honest manner.

We do what is right, treat others the way we want to be treated and lead by example.

We strive for excellence.

HELPING YOU FIND VALUE

If you have been using your time at home to tackle home improvement projects, consider working on those that will provide you with energy savings.

There are a variety of improvements that can help you maximize energy efficiency. And, home improvements come in all sizes--some can be completed for less than \$100, others require a larger investment, and professional installation.

Take a look at these options, including some that offer energy efficiency rebates through our EnergyWise program.

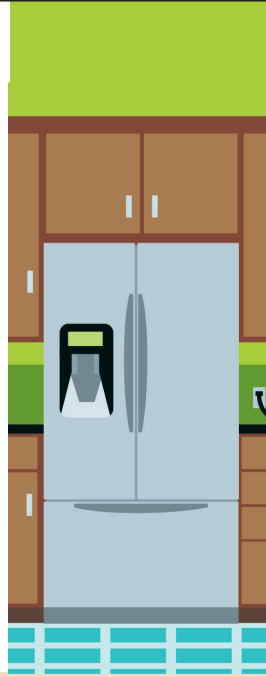


Tax credits may also be available for improvements that boost your energy efficiency. We recommend checking out energystar.gov to learn which improvements are eligible for tax incentives through December 31, 2020.

BUYING NEW?

If you're in the market for a new household appliance, be sure to choose a product that is Energy Star certified.

Energy Star certified products are noted for reductions in energy usage, which result in a savings for consumers, without sacrificing performance.



WEATHER STRIPPING DOORS

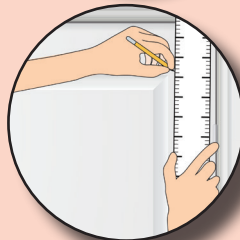
Capturing Energy Savings by Sealing Air Leaks

Save energy and seal air leaks by weather stripping exterior doors. How do you know if you need to weather strip? If you can see any amount of light between the door frame and the floor, weather stripping should be applied to eliminate energy waste. This DIY energy-saving project is relatively easy and inexpensive depending on the type of materials selected. The most common weather stripping material is self-adhesive foam strips, although rubber, vinyl, metal, or a combination of materials may also be used.



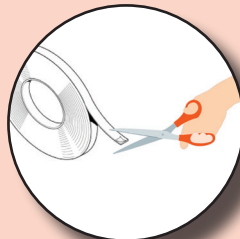
1 CLEANING SURFACES

Clean the door and door jamb to be weather stripped. For best results, weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces above 20°F.



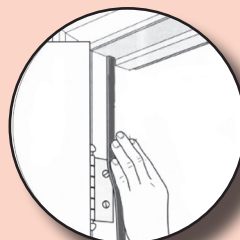
2 MEASURING DOOR & DOOR JAMBS

To ensure greater accuracy, measure your space twice before cutting the material. It is best to plan for one continuous strip for each side of the door and door jamb.



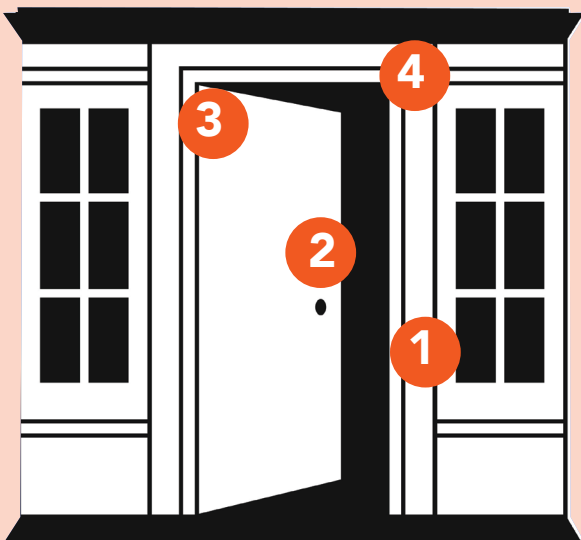
3 CUTTING FOAM

Cut long pieces of self-adhesive weather stripping material (foam, vinyl, etc.) for each side of the door jamb and door.



4 APPLYING WEATHER STRIPPING

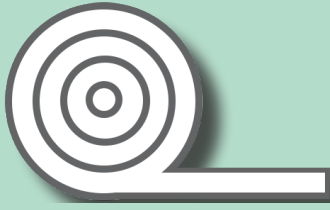
Peel back the self-adhesive foam. Apply one continuous strip of material snugly along each side. Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners and is pressed firmly onto the door and door jamb. The material should compress tightly between the door and door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.



ENERGY SAVING HOME IMPROVEMENTS

ATTIC INSULATION

Your house acts like a chimney in the winter--cool air enters the house in lower areas and attempts to exit in the warmer, higher areas. In the summer, attics can rise to as much as 140° F when the home's interior is 75° F.



Acquiring the appropriate level of insulation in your attic can help to prevent extreme differentials in temperature, and leaks that compromise your comfort in extreme temperatures.

New homes under construction in Nebraska are required to have R-38 or R-45 insulation in the attic. This amounts to 12-15 inches of blown-in cellulose.

If your home has six inches of insulation or less, and you use electricity as your primary heating source, you may be eligible for an EnergyWise incentive to offset the cost to increase your insulation levels in the attic. The incentive offers \$.15 per square foot with a maximum incentive of \$300 per residential dwelling.

SMART THERMOSTAT

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled devices that automatically adjust temperature your home. The units provide the benefits of convenience, control and information.



These units can learn your preferences over time, and adjust according to your patterns of time spent inside the home, or asleep. Some units also detect when you are on your way home, and adjust in order to prepare for your comfort.

The units also allow you to control your heating and cooling through your smart phone, even when you are away from home. This can help to assure your settings provide the most optimal usage, which can provide you with savings on energy use. Incentives of up to \$100 are available for qualified thermostats according to your specific heat source, and your method of installation. Read through the program details before purchasing your unit.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ENERGYWISE INCENTIVES:
southernpd.com/incentive-programs

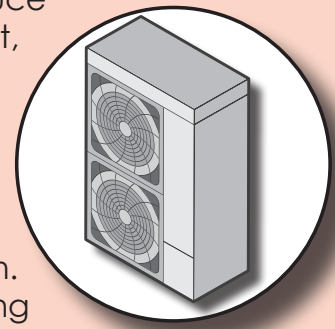
A GREAT OPTION FOR LONG-TERM ENERGY SAVINGS

According to the Department of Energy, heat pumps can reduce residential electricity usage for heating by approximately fifty percent, compared to electric furnaces or baseboard heaters.

This home improvement project isn't one that you can tackle on your own--you will need to enlist in the services of a licensed HVAC technician. But replacing your furnace and air conditioning system with a highly-efficient heat pump can greatly impact your energy usage and provide you with substantial savings in the long run.

If you are considering a heat pump for your heating and cooling needs, we encourage you to do your research. Consider the square footage of your residence, and the functionality of units such as air source, geothermal or ductless mini-split heat pumps. Visit with your trusted HVAC technician and choose the unit that will best meet your needs.

When you are ready to invest in a heat pump, look to SPPD for added value. Our EnergyWise program offers incentives ranging from \$400 to \$3,300, depending upon the type and size of your unit. All of the details and requirements are available for review on our website.



HEAT PUMPS

FOCUS ON SAFETY

LOOK UP LOOK OUT LIVE



Advancements in technology have allowed for a variety of streamlined processes in the field. GPS-enabled features can provide precision in planning, hands-off navigation and overall guidance for your equipment and machinery. But, these advancements should NEVER be assumed to be as thorough as awareness and personal attention to safety.

Engaging in a complete reliance on navigational systems is dangerous. You should always remain aware of the location of poles and overhead lines. As you work to complete your harvest, we urge you to keep the following safety tips in mind:



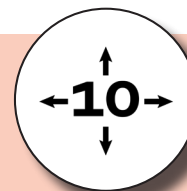
LOOK UP

when operating large machinery near power lines.



LOOK OUT

for utility poles and other structures when maneuvering through your field.



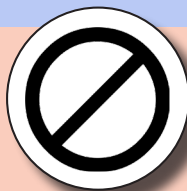
MAINTAIN 10-FT DISTANCE

in all directions when operating large machinery near power lines.



USE A SPOTTER

when operating large machinery near power lines or other structures.



NEVER

move a power line or raise it for clearance.



STAY INSIDE

if your equipment comes into contact with a power line, call SPPD.

OPERATION ROUND UP NEWS

SECOND QUARTER GRANTS DISTRIBUTED

Since the program's beginning 2014, a total of \$326,215 has been distributed to applicants of SPPD's Operation ROUND UP program. This program is made possible by participating SPPD customers, and we thank you all for participating. Projects that receive funding through ROUND UP are reviewed by a seven member board, and are determined to be beneficial to customers of SPPD.

In the second quarter of 2020, a total of \$7,500 was granted to three applicants.

We are now accepting applications for the third quarter of 2020, through September 30, 2020.

Applications can be submitted to LeAnne Doose at SPPD's Corporate office in Grand Island.



Village of Alda Sprinkler System for Park	\$2,500
Roseland Community Club Inc. Community Center	\$2,500
Franklin Public Library Window Shades	\$2,500

CYBERSECURITY: A GROWING CONCERN

We are all familiar with the dark practices of scammers. Not only do they reach out to us by phone, but they may also try to capture your information and payment information by email.

At SPPD, we have added customer portals in order to provide convenience and options for account access for our customers. Many communications from that portal are provided to you through electronic mail, so it is important for you to recognize when an email is coming to you from a fraudulent source.

Some of the most common red flags for suspicious emails include:

- ❗ The email is unexpected.
- ❗ There is a sense of urgency conveyed.
- ❗ There is an offer that seems too good to be true.
- ❗ There are typos and misspellings.

October is nationally recognized as Cybersecurity Awareness Month. We will be sharing content on our website and social platforms to educate customers with even more detailed safety information. Visit our website or follow our social pages and get in the know!

We can all play a part in making our interconnected world safer.



Do Your Part.
#BeCyberSmart.

**October is
National Cybersecurity
Awareness Month.**

Visit staysafeonline.org for cybersecurity tips.

LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD IS OPEN

Southern Public Power District has opened its application period for Utility Lineworker Scholarship applications. This program offers scholarships to students attending an accredited utility line study program. Scholarships amount to \$1,000 for students pursuing a one-year program, or \$2,000 for those attending a two-year program.



Applicants must currently reside within Adams, Franklin, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Merrick or Phelps Counties in Nebraska. Scholarship winners will be required to serve a 12-week summer internship with SPPD in cooperation with the school attended.

The deadline for scholarship applications is April 1, 2021.

We encourage potential students to reach out to the program of their choosing as soon as possible. These programs can fill up quickly, and it is best to enroll in order to assure a spot will be ready for the next academic year.

To learn more about our scholarship program, please contact Brad Kool at Southern Public Power District.

VERIFY YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Occasionally, large-scale weather events create a massive volume of phone traffic as customers call to report power outages. When this occurs, your experience on the phone will be far more efficient if your contact information is current and accurate.

Please take a moment to review your most recent bill from SPPD, and check the contact information listed. It is important to know which phone number is listed as your primary number on your account. If you need to make changes to this number, please contact our Customer Services Department. Also, let members of your household know which phone number should be keyed in, if they are reporting an outage on your behalf.

RECIPE

CAULIFLOWER MAC 'N' CHEESE

- 3 T. olive oil, divided, plus more for baking dish
 - 1 lb. cavatappi or other short pasta
 - 1 med-sized head cauliflower (about 2 lb), cored and thinly sliced
 - 4 cloves garlic, sliced
 - 1 lg. yellow onion, thinly sliced
 - Kosher salt & freshly ground black pepper
 - 1 cup extra-sharp white Cheddar cheese, grated
 - 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
 - 1/4 tsp. mustard powder
 - Pinch cayenne pepper
 - 1-1/2 c. panko breadcrumbs
 - 1/2 c. fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Lightly oil a 9x13-in baking dish. Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain.
 2. Heat 2 T. oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add cauliflower, garlic, and onion. Season with salt. Cook, covered, stirring occasionally, until tender, 15-20 minutes. Add 4 C. water and simmer until vegetables are very soft, 10 to 12 minutes. Drain, reserving 2 C. cooking liquid; let cool slightly.
 3. Combine vegetables, Cheddar, Parmesan, mustard powder, and cayenne in a blender. Purée, adding just enough reserved cooking liquid to get mixture moving, until smooth, 1-2 minutes.
 4. Add sauce to pasta and toss to combine. Transfer to prepared baking dish. Toss together panko, parsley, and remaining oil in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle over pasta. Bake until golden brown, 14-16 minutes.

