

# SPD Newsletter

Series 35, Issue 1  
February 2018

LIGHTING THE WAY

## Electric Rate Adjustments Effective March 1st

### Some History of our Retail Rates

Southern's rates have remained stable since our last across-the-board rate increase on January 1, 2013. Rates for all customers have remained the same since then, with the exception of an energy charge decrease for irrigation customers in 2013 and lower rates for our general service customers in 2015.

This year, NPPD has announced that their wholesale rate will have very little impact to Southern's annual costs; however, there has been an increase in their summer demand costs, a lowering of their energy costs and some shifting of costs from the summer months to the winter months. Combining these changes lead to higher costs for the District from October through May and lower costs from June through September.

Responding accordingly, we completed a cost of service study in January that provided the impacts to each of our customer classifications from this shifting of costs, redesigned our rates to match those results and approved the new rates at the January Board of Directors meeting. *The result is an overall reduction in rates of approximately 0.75%.*

### What Will the Major Changes Be in the Rate Schedules?

Impacting all of our residential and general services will be the elimination of the "Customer Minimum Charge" of \$19 per month and the allocated 50 kWh's that was included with it. We will be replacing that provision of the rates with a monthly Customer Charge of \$21 per month. There will be no kWh's included with the new Customer Charge.

To offset this small increase, the energy charges for each rate schedule have been reduced. The summer energy charges have been reduced more than the winter energy charges to reflect changes from NPPD in our wholesale costs.

<b>Customer Charge</b>	<b>21.00</b>
<del>Customer Minimum (1st 50 kilowatthours)</del>	<del>19.00</del>
<b>Energy Charge</b>	<b>32.54</b>
Nebraska State Tax	2.83
Operation Roundup	0.63
<b>BALANCE THIS SERVICE</b>	<b>55.00</b>

On the bill you receive in March, you will notice a \$2 increase in the Customer Minimum/Customer Charge line item. The highlighted "Energy Charge" is the portion where reductions will occur.

#### CUSTOMER CHARGE

The customer charge is the portion of your bill that accounts for the cost to provide minimum services to your home. This includes the cost for a pole, transformer, meter as well as some customer service and billing expenses.



#### ENERGY CHARGE

The Energy Charge accounts for the total amount of energy you are using in your home.



# Electric Rate Adjustments Effective March 1st

## What Can Our Customers Expect to See?

The rate schedules that will be placed into effect on March 1st will impact our various customer classifications differently due to the seasonal cost shifts.

Here are a few scenarios that depict what customers in two of our most common rate classes may see in their billing over the course of one year:



### RURAL RESIDENTIAL & FARM SERVICE (RR)

Usage: 1,500 kWh;s per Month  
Potential Reduction: \$70 per year



### RESIDENTIAL VILLAGE SERVICE (RV)

Usage: 1,000 kWh's per Month  
Potential Reduction: \$40 per year

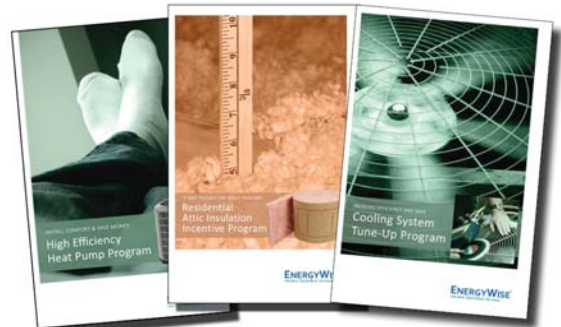
Customers who are classified in rate schedules that consume more energy in the winter months will see a small increase beginning in March. These schedules include our all-electric rates for rural residential, residential village and general service customers. These rate classes have increased by about 1.0-1.5% to reflect the higher costs in winter months. Customers on our Full Service Irrigation Rate will also see an increase of about 1.5% due to higher summer demand costs from NPPD that could not be offset with the lower summer energy rates. Our Interruptible Irrigation Rate schedules are being lowered 1.0-1.5%. Irrigation customers will receive more information on rate impacts in a newsletter scheduled to be published in February.

## Some Final Thoughts

Rate making is a very complicated process. Overall, our goal is to provide rates that are fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory as our State Statutes require. The resulting rate schedules from our studies should meet those requirements and many of our customers should experience reduced bills starting in March.

We are also determined to be competitive with the other providers here in Nebraska as well as in our surrounding states. Nebraska is consistently ranked high as being one of the lowest cost electricity providers in the nation and we continue to be proud to offer some of the lowest rates in the state.

We also encourage our customers to discuss their energy needs with the District's representatives to ensure you are being billed on the lowest rate schedule available to you and to find ways to save energy costs through our energy efficiency programs. Our rate schedules and energy efficiency programs can also be found on the District's website at [www.southernnpd.com](http://www.southernnpd.com).



A variety of incentive programs are featured on our website: [www.southernnpd.com](http://www.southernnpd.com)

## Manage Your Account with SmartHub

SmartHub is a customer self-serve solution that allows you to manage your SPD accounts with mobile and web apps in a secure environment. With this app you can easily view your billing, usage and payment history, pay your bill, all in a paperless format.

Sign up for SmartHub from our website at [www.southernnpd.com](http://www.southernnpd.com). Further questions can be addressed to our Customer Services Department at 800-579-3019.



# Marathon™ Water Heaters

We are pleased to continue to offer the Marathon™ water heater program to our residential customers. The following tables outline the unit prices currently available to our residential customers.

You can find all the details about this program by logging on to [www.southernpd.com](http://www.southernpd.com), or by contacting Sam Reinke at Southern Power District.

## Conversions

From Natural Gas or Propane, and

## New Home Construction

to a Marathon™

## Upgrades

From Existing Electric Water Heater to a Marathon™

SIZE	SERVICE CHARGE Time Clock Required
50-Gal	\$325
85-Gal	\$125*
50-Gal	\$565
85-Gal	\$510*

\* Time clock required. Control times for water heaters with time clocks are (8-10 a.m. and 5-8 p.m. DST; 7-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. STD). Inspection of the Time Clock by Southern Power District is required. Installation is not included. One water heater per household.

# Heat Pump Incentives

Your heating and cooling system is likely the largest user of energy in your home. If you choose to upgrade your heating/cooling system to an energy efficient heat pump, we have incentives available for you. As an SPD customer, you are eligible for BOTH the EnergyWise and SPD Incentives outlined in the chart below.

Once you decide to take the step to improve your home's efficiency with a heat pump, you will be required to have a performance verification completed in order to qualify for your incentive. This will assure that your heat pump is operating properly and assure the energy savings you deserve.



SYSTEM TYPE	CRITERIA	RECIPIENT	ENERGYWISE INCENTIVE	SPD INCENTIVE
AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP	15-15.9 SEER 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	HOME OWNER	\$200	\$100
AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP	16-17.9 SEER 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	HOME OWNER	\$400	\$200
AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP	18+ SEER 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	HOME OWNER	\$600	\$300
AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP	VARIABLE CAPACITY	HOME OWNER	\$600	\$300
AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP	MULTI STAGE (More Than 2 Stages)	HOME OWNER	\$400	\$200
WSHP HEAT PUMP 1 or 2 Stage	ANY EER	HOME OWNER	\$1,200	\$400
VARIABLE CAPACITY GROUND SRC HEAT PUMP	35 EER, 5.0 COP	HOME OWNER	\$1,700	\$400
ALL HEAT PUMPS	PERFORMANCE VERIFICATION WITHIN 10%	HEATING/COOLING CONTRACTOR	\$50	N/A





## We Welcome Brittney Houselog

Please join us in welcoming Brittany Houselog to our team at Southern Power District. Brittany began working as a Customer Service Representative in January in our Grand Island Corporate Office. We're glad to have you Brittany!



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308-384-2350 or 800-579-3019

### ON THE WEB AT:

[www.southernpd.com](http://www.southernpd.com)

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This newsletter is published as a service to Southern Power District's customers.

Comments or questions?

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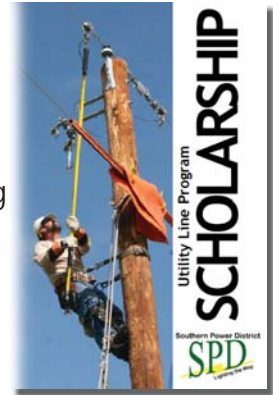
## Scholarship Deadline Quickly Approaching

High school students, the deadline to apply for a Utility Lineworker Scholarship from Southern is coming quickly! As you are finalizing your long list of tasks to close out your senior year, don't forget to put in your application!

For students interested in pursuing a career as a utility lineworker, this scholarship offers \$1,000 toward the cost of a one year program, or \$2,000 toward a two year program.

In addition to the assistance provided by the scholarship funds, this program also allows you to "test the waters" in this career, by completing a 12-week internship with Southern Public Power District.

The application deadline will be here before you know it. If you are applying for this scholarship, please submit your completed three-step application to Brad Kool at SPD prior to April 1, 2018. The application can be found on our website at [www.southernpd.com](http://www.southernpd.com).



## Maple-Walnut Apple Cobbler

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 C all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 C butter, cut into small pieces
- 2/3 C walnuts, toasted and chopped
- 1/4 C milk
- 3 T pure maple syrup
- 2 T butter
- 1/2 C packed brown sugar
- 5 Braeburn apples, peeled, cored, and cut into 3/4-inch pieces (5 cups)
- 1 T all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- Vanilla ice cream (optional)



### PREPARATION:

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a medium bowl, combine 1 C flour, baking powder and salt. Add 1/4 C butter and toss to coat. Using a pastry blender or your fingertips, cut or rub the butter into the dry ingredients until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in 1/3 C walnuts. Add milk and maple syrup. With a fork, mix together until a dough forms. Add a little more milk to moisten, if necessary.
2. In a 9- or 10-inch cast-iron or other heavy oven-going skillet, heat 2 T butter the brown sugar over med-high heat. Cook and stir until butter is melted and sugar begins to melt. Add apples to skillet. Sprinkle with 1 T flour and the cinnamon. Cook and stir until apples are coated. Remove from heat. Stir in remaining 1/3 C walnuts.
3. Drop dough mixture in six mounds atop the apple mixture. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until apples are tender and topper is browned. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream, if desired.