

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

April 2009

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 18, Number 4

*Redesigned [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com) on web—*

## ERPPD site offers more energy efficiency ideas

The new website that Elkhorn Rural Public Power District introduced recently offers many ideas which can help its customers gain better “energy efficiency” as well as ideas that can lead to changes of habit in working toward “energy conservation.” (The difference between those two concepts is defined in the article below.)

ERPPD customers have options when they go to [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com). Under the Energy header, they’ll find

a variety of helpful Energy Websites to help save energy as well as be more efficient in using energy. The Federal and Nebraska departments of energy offer great ideas in these areas. James Dulley Energy Efficiency Information is a website dedicated to using energy more wisely. An energy website would not be complete without a link to EnergyStar, a government-sponsored site where customers can find some of the most common ideas for savings.

One of the most useable areas under the Energy header is labeled Calculators. When site visitors click on an item (Appliance, for instance) within this area, they see a Welcome Home page. A click on the gray Calculators tab brings up a blue line which offers three more calculator tabs. These can be very beneficial, so every customer should take time to explore them. They are: Appliance Calculator, CFL Calculator, and Heat Pump. Be explorers today.

## Is it ‘energy efficiency’ or ‘conservation’?

The wholesale power costs for all the public power districts in Nebraska have increased about 7 percent. Customers of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District are seeing this as about a 4 to 5 percent increase on their monthly energy statements because the 7 percent increase directly affects between 60 and 65 percent of the district’s energy charge.

There are two terms that are being bandied about in the media with increasing frequency these days, but their concept in saving energy dollars is quite separate and distinct. The terms are “energy efficiency” and “energy conservation.”

Elkhorn Rural Public Power is offering several energy efficiency programs that have been developed for its customers. A couple of these are highlighted on *WIRE-Page 3* of this publication.

Energy efficiency is the result of

installing or implementing a system or process that accomplishes a specific task while using less energy than the previous system or process did to complete that same task. For example, replacing an aging refrigerator with a new, EnergyStar-qualified model would be energy efficiency.

Energy conservation involves changing the way energy is used in order to use less. Removing half of the light bulbs in the home *and not replacing them* would reduce energy usage. In short, doing without something is conservation. In the example of the light bulbs, this would save energy but it would also provide less light for any evening and nighttime activities.

There is a difference in the two concepts and that needs to be kept in mind when listening to people talk. When someone says that Americans need to conserve energy, it means Americans

need to do without, or sacrifice. In 2008, many people conserved energy in the form of gasoline by driving fewer miles.

However, when people talk about being more energy efficient, they talk about increasing the efficiency of their operation. Regular maintenance on a car, such as changing the air filter and making sure the tires are properly inflated, helps to improve a car’s efficiency (its miles per gallon).

In the first driving example, driving fewer miles results in saving energy by conservation. In the second example, better maintenance results in saving energy while driving the same number of miles but with better-maintained equipment. This is energy efficiency.

In addition to energy efficiency projects listed on the *WIRE-Page 3*, ERPPD also has numerous helpful ideas on its website under Energy.

# YOUTH ENERGY CAMP

## ERPPD is seeking campers for 2009 camp

The Rural Electric Youth Energy Camp has involved up to 100 high school students (in the ninth, 10th, or 11th grade) each year who have been selected by the rural electric system serving in their areas. The camp, set in the beauty of Nebraska's National Forest at Halsey, offers educational and recreational experiences, leadership training, environmental awareness, character building and social interaction.

Through workshops and guest speakers, campers learn about energy, electric safety, energy management, and careers. One day of the camp is reserved for a tour of the Gerald Gentleman Power Station near North Platte and the Kingsley Hydroelectric plant near Ogallala. The week is interspersed with fun activities, including a get-acquainted party, canoeing, volleyball, a talent contest, dancing, a cook-out, and time to socialize and make new friends.

Leadership is stressed when interested students compete to win a free trip to Wash., D.C., as an ambassador, and return to next year's camp as a junior counselor.

Those selected by their sponsoring rural electric system will receive the all-expense paid trip to the Nebraska Youth Energy Camp at the State 4-H camp near Halsey. Camp begins around 3 p.m. on Monday, July 13, and ends around noon on Friday, July 17. ERPPD provides its camper representatives with transportation to and from the camp.

To enter, complete the form below and mail **by May 1, 2009** to:

**Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, c/o Wayne McCormick, Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715**



### 2009 ERPPD ENERGY CAMP APPLICATION FORM

(Entry Deadline May 1, 2009)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' or Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

#### COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2009 Youth Energy Camp at the 4-H camp at Halsey National Forest on July 13-17 as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

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# ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

## Earn a rebate for installing an electric heat pump

### How does a customer become eligible for a heat pump rebate?

Three possibilities exist. A residential customer can:

- 1.A. Convert to a qualified air source heat pump or
- 1.B. Convert to a water source/geo-thermal heat pump;
2. Build new and install a qualified heat pump; or
3. Upgrade from a lower-SEER heat pump to a qualified higher-SEER heat pump.

### How does the residential customer get the rebate?

The heat pump installer must complete a verification form for a unit that meets the minimum standards (see box). Verification ensures that the new unit is operating within 10% of manufacturer specifications. The dealer must sign the form; the customer must sign it; then it must be submitted to Mark Gronau at ERPPD.

- *Rebates are available first-come, first-served until funds are exhausted.*

#### Air Source Heat Pump Rebates

Energy Star, 14 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$200
Energy Star, 15 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$250
Energy Star, 16 SEER or higher, 8.2 HSPF	\$300

#### Water Source or Geothermal Heat Pump Rebate

Energy Star-qualified	\$400
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## Commercial, industrial lighting get efficiency rebates

### 4-Step To-Do List

1. Discuss potential C&I Lighting projects and guidelines (at right) with ERPPD's Mark Gronau and get an application form.

Call ERPPD at 800-675-2185.

2. Select a contractor; install any of the systems identified in the box below.

3. After installation, complete the application form.

4. Within 90 days of installation, submit the signed application (along with copies of the proof-of-purchase identified in the application's terms & conditions) to Elkhorn Rural Public Power.

### Guidelines

- All replaced/retrofitted lighting equipment must be permanently installed.
- Only commercial and industrial customers qualify for the energy-efficient fluorescent fixture incentives.
- All incentives sought that are \$5,000 or greater require a pre- and post-installation inspection to be conducted by Elkhorn Rural PPD.
- An equal number of lighting fixtures will be impacted when compared to the number of fixtures considered for retrofit or replacement. Only existing lighting systems qualify for upgrade. New construction or addition of more light fixtures in a facility or in a facility addition do not qualify.
- Area lighting may be metered or unmetered, and area lighting may be customer-owned or utility-owned via a rental/lease agreement.
- *A custom program is available if these prescriptive measures don't apply. Call ERPPD for specific details.*
- *Rebates are available first-come, first-served until funds are exhausted.*

### COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL LIGHTING REBATES

What does the customer have now?	What is the customer changing to?	Per fixture Rebate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>High Bay Lighting</b> Replace Metal Halide fixture</li> </ul>	with Fluorescent High Bay fixture	\$50-\$75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exit Signs</b> Replace or retrofit Incandescent Exit Sign</li> </ul>	with LED Exit Sign	\$20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4-ft Fluorescent Tube Lighting</b> Replace or retrofit T12 fixture (w/ 2,3,4 lamps)</li> </ul>	with T8 and electronic ballast fixture	\$10-\$20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>8-ft Fluorescent Tube Lighting</b> Replace or retrofit any T12 fixture</li> </ul>	with T8 and electronic ballast fixture	\$15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Area Security Lighting</b> Replace Mercury Vapor lamp</li> </ul>	with comparable High Pressure Sodium	\$20-\$40

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Grant funds available for Antelope, Holt Counties

CORE Development Inc. (CORE) has grant funds available! CORE is a non-profit organization that was formed to assist the rural areas in Antelope and Holt County by encouraging business development and job retention, and improving the quality of life through improvement of housing, recreation, and community development.

At the present time, CORE has down payment assistance funds available for income eligible home buyers that are looking to purchase a home within one of the eleven communities that are within the CORE service area. The eleven communities include: Brunswick, Chambers, Clearwater, Elgin, Ewing, Inman, Neligh, Oakdale, Orchard, Page, and Royal.

If you have questions regarding the grant funds or would like an application please call the Housing Adminis-

trator, Randy or Leigh Alexander, of Community Development Services, at 402-582-3580.

The CORE Development, Inc. Board of Directors has been a recipient of CDBG, Affordable Housing Trust Funds, and HOME funds for the past 10 years. These funds were used for both housing rehabilitation and home ownership down payment assistance for persons of low-to-moderate income status and very low income, as determined by the most recent income limits for Antelope and Holt Counties. CORE has submitted regional grant applications which allow for participation of all member communities, along with adjacent rural areas.

The results of completed Housing Rehabilitation and Down Payment Assistance projects are immeasurable

and are expected to continue to greatly benefit the member communities. Not only has there been an effect on improving housing stock, but local communities have also benefited. Impacts and continued expected results include additional jobs for contractors and suppliers, motivation for homeowners and renters to improve their properties, additional businesses, families relocating to CORE communities, upgrading living standards, and improving community and self pride.

CORE is a wonderful community organization and would like to assist their member communities in promoting home ownership through the use of down payment assistance funds they have been awarded.

Call Randy or Leigh Alexander at 402-582-3580 to find out more!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner  
President.....II
- Tim Means  
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl  
Secretary .....III
- Dennis Kuchar  
Treasurer ..... I
- Robert Kee  
Director .....II
- Mark Miller  
Director ..... I
- Joe Thiele  
Director .....III
- Greg Weidner  
Director ..... I
- David Hoefer  
Director .....III

### MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

### For Emergency Service or Outage Reporting

**1-800-675-2185**

#### After Hours Note:

The entire 800-number *must* be dialed, even for a local call.

### Communicate Electronically With ERPPD

Internet: [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)

E-mail: [erppd@erppd.com](mailto:erppd@erppd.com)



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

**It's the law!  
Call 811 Before  
You Dig!**

Or 1-800-331-5666  
Diggers Hotline  
of Nebraska

### Outage Checklist

In the case of an outage:

- First check to see if the fuses below the meter are good.
- If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out.
- If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position.
- Check with neighbors to see if they have power. By doing this before calling us, we can determine if it is a line or an individual outage. This can help cut down on outage duration.
- Please, be prepared to give the name that on the account plus the consumer number and/or the legal location. This will assist us in sending our crews to the correct place.

### Questions about your bill?

Please call the ERPPD office at 402-675-2185 or toll-free, 1-800-675-2185, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you would have your meter serial number or customer account number and current meter reading. Remember to call the Battle Creek office if you have billing questions. All account payments should be mailed to:

**Elkhorn Rural  
Public Power  
District  
P.O. Box 310  
Battle Creek, NE  
68715**