

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

June 2009

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 18, Number 6

## ERPPD invites customers to tour wind farm

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District is issuing an invitation to its customers. You are cordially invited to come along with us on a bus tour of the Nebraska Public Power District's wind-energy facility near Ainsworth, Neb., on Monday, June 22.

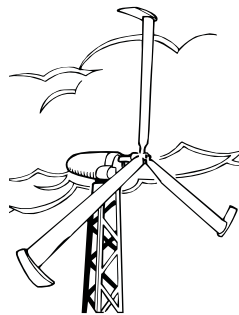
This trip should be interesting and educational for all. See firsthand what it takes to operate a utility-scale wind farm; get a close-up look at the size of these electric-energy generating turbines; talk face-to-face with utility personnel, ERPPD customers, and others who live near our own service area.

Your reservation is required to accompany us. Please, let us know if you will be able to join us. Call Stacie Young at ERPPD, toll-free 1-800-675-2185 **by 4 p.m., Mon., June 8.** She will want to get your name, how many people in your party, a contact number, and where you wish to meet the bus.

We are arranging several points of departure for your convenience. You can catch the bus at the following locations:

City	Leave*	Location
At Norfolk	8:30 a.m.	Wal*Mart, NW corner of parking lot
At Battle Creek	8:45 a.m.	Battle Creek High School parking lot.
At Elgin	9:20 a.m.	St. Boniface Church/School east parking
At Neligh	9:35 a.m.	St. Francis Catholic Church parking lot

\* Times are approximate. Please try to be a little early.



Make your reservation as soon as possible so we can be sure to have a seat on the bus and enough food for everyone who wants to attend. Lunch (sandwich, chips, and a soda) is included. Those who participate will be returned to their places of departure mid to late afternoon the same day.

A rain date is scheduled for one week later, on Monday, June 29.

## Starman to get work experience as intern

A utility line student from the Northeast Community College program will be working as an intern for Elkhorn Rural Public Power District during 2009.



Andrew Starman

Andrew Starman started working on Fridays before school let out for the summer, after which he began working full five-day weeks. He will work out of ERPPD's outpost at Neligh.

## Looking out for customers is not getting easier

Franklin D. Roosevelt said electricity is a necessity, not a luxury. It must be affordable for all Americans. This is as true in 2009 as it was more than 70 years ago.

One issue of concern is **Climate Change Legislation.** Putting a price on Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) could cause electricity prices to rise beyond the reach of many Americans if Congress passes the wrong bill or if the EPA regulates CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under the Clean Air Act.

Some other issues that ERPPD is addressing that could have dramatic effects on energy bills:

- A Renewable Energy Standard (RES)
- An Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS)
- Railroad Anti-trust Reform

ERPPD's website offers a link to Our Energy Our Future, where utility customers can send their concerns to national legislators. Go online to [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com) or [www.OurEnergy.coop](http://www.OurEnergy.coop).



**Our Energy, Our Future**

A Dialogue With America

Will we have the electricity we need in the future?

Start a dialogue with your elected officials at: [www.OurEnergy.coop](http://www.OurEnergy.coop)

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

101 Low-Cost / No-Cost  
Home Energy-Saving Measures



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives

The power of human connections®  
[www.touchstoneenergy.coop](http://www.touchstoneenergy.coop)  
[www.tsesavers.coop](http://www.tsesavers.coop)

## Low-Cost/No-Cost booklet offers 101 ways to save energy

ERPPD, Your Touchstone Energy® Partner, is offering this list of low-cost/no-cost energy-saving measures to help its customers better manage their homes' energy costs. It's another way ERPPD says thanks for being a customer-owner.

This 12-page booklet identifies processes and/or habits that can easily be changed to improve energy efficiencies in either of two high-energy-use rooms or by any of three energy-dependent systems. The rooms where the most energy is used—and wasted—are the laundry and the kitchen. The most energy dependent home systems are heating & air conditioning, water heating, and lighting. A sixth section covers things that don't fit under the other topics.

The booklet is available while supplies last at the ERPPD office.

For more helpful energy-saving hints, go online to visit [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com) or [www.tsesavers.coop](http://www.tsesavers.coop).

## ERPPD rolls out more efficiency programs

In the new economy of environmental concerns and high-cost generation facilities, energy efficiency is becoming more important than ever in terms of maintaining competitive rates and quality service.

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District has instituted several new energy efficiency programs for its customers. The new programs incorporate a mix of the district's wholesale supplier's programs with several of ERPPD's own programs for controlling energy use in homes and businesses.

### Electric Water Heater Replacement

A water-heater replacement incentive is being offered. When a customer replaces an existing gas or propane water heater with an electric water heater, the district will reimburse the customer up to 25 percent of the purchase price.

### Replace A/C with Heat Pump

When a customer replaces any air conditioner (window unit or central system) with a qualified heat pump, ERPPD will match the existing heat pump rebate. This is a bonus incentive that ERPPD will add to the existing Heat Pump incentive (See *WIRE-Page 3*). The new unit must meet equipment specifications. For example, a new 15-SEER heat pump normally receives \$250. If the new unit replaces an A/C unit, the customer gets an added \$250. This incentive does not apply to new construction or heat pump-to-heat pump upgrades.

ERPPD also continues to support NPPD's energy efficiency programs when those programs are a benefit to ERPPD customers.

### Low-Interest Energy Loan

The qualification for this program is the same as for the Heat Pump incentive (the homeowner must install a 14 SEER with 8.2 HSPF or higher - See

*WIRE-Page 3* for this program). Now, customers can apply from their local lenders for a new 2.5% low-interest loan for a qualified heat pump system. This loan is administered through the Nebraska Energy Office's "Dollar & Energy Savings Loan" program. *NOTE: Homeowners who apply for and receive the NEO loan cannot qualify for the ERPPD incentives that range from \$200 to \$400 based on SEER and HSPF levels.*

### Residential Cooling System Tune-Up

A \$30 incentive is issued to a homeowner who has his or her cooling system tuned-up. The homeowner may apply for the \$30 incentive once every three years. Application for the tune-up incentive includes a checklist that must be signed by both the HVAC contractor and homeowner.

### Commercial / Industrial Programs

- **Lights:** Prescriptive and custom incentives are available for lighting applications. These are based on what the customer installs and energy savings that result.
- **Motors:** Incentives are available toward purchase of premium efficiency motors (1 to 200 HP).
- **Variable Frequency Drives:** VFDs can qualify for a \$30 per horsepower for new applications on centrifugal loads. Please contact ERPPD before installing any VFD.

*NOTE: If motors or VFDs qualify for irrigation efficiency incentives, they cannot qualify for incentives from these commercial and industrial programs.*

A full complement of program brochures, applications, and guidelines are available by contacting ERPPD or on [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com) (look for the Energy-Wise section).

Ask Mark Gronau about efficiency. Call ERPPD at 800-675-2185.

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

## Earn a rebate for installing an electric heat pump

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

A residential customer can:

1. Convert to a qualified air source heat pump; or Convert to a water source/geothermal heat pump;
2. Build new and install any qualified heat pump; or
3. Upgrade a lower-SEER heat pump to a qualified higher-SEER heat pump.

\* **Replace an A/C unit with qualified heat pump and double the rebate.**

### 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	New Unit	Replace A/C
Energy Star, 14 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$200	+ \$200
Energy Star, 15 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$250	+ \$250
Energy Star, 16 SEER or higher, 8.2 HSPF	\$300	+ \$300
Water Source or Geothermal Heat Pump Rebate		
Energy Star-qualified	\$400	+ \$400

## 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		Per fixture
What does the customer have now?	What is the customer changing to?	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

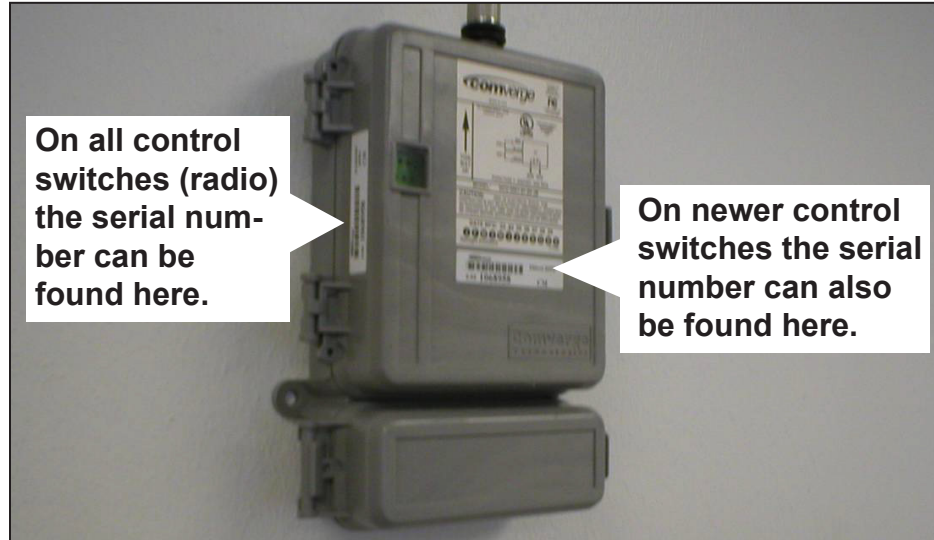
# IRRIGATION

## Irrigator's switch number is important

This irrigation season, an ERPPD irrigator who has occasion to call the utility should reference the system's switch number when giving information.

While account number and location are necessary components, it is the switch number that will best help district personnel to provide the irrigator with the fastest resolution to his or her situation.

See illustration below for location examples.

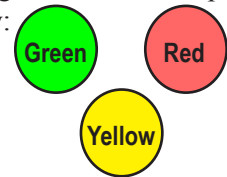


## Lights have meaning

Three LED lights on the control box have particular significance.

- Red - No Control
- Red and Green - Control
- Yellow - Signal Test (has no effect)

The light configuration on the display appears this way:



If the lights are not working, please check the fuses before calling ERPPD's outage number at 800-675-2185.

**Call for ERPPD's  
Load Control Status  
during the season.  
1-800-238-0185**

### 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 Hoefler  
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 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**