

We want to help you lower your electrical usage

ENERGYWISE

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

If you are looking for ways to lower your electric consumption, check out our EnergyWise Program. EnergyWise, which kicked off last fall, includes a variety of programs that offer incentives for customers to become more energy efficient. The initial programs included: Compact Fluorescent Lighting, Commercial & Industrial Area Lighting, High Efficiency Heat Pumps, Irrigation Efficiency and Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Program.

***Compact Fluorescent Lighting (CFLs)** Home and business lighting is one of the energy efficient programs that we call 'low-hanging fruit.' We call it this, because it is easy to implement and it has quick paybacks for the customer. All you do is replace your incandescent bulbs with CFLs, flip the switch, and start saving energy.

***Commercial & Industrial Lighting** is a program that offers rebates to customers who replace inefficient lighting fixtures. An example would be a school replacing metal halide gym

lighting fixtures with qualifying fluorescents. Other examples include replacing incandescent exit signs and mercury vapor area lights.

***High Efficiency Heat Pumps** is a program that offers rebates to residential customers who install high efficiency heat pumps. The program also offers a dealer rebate for efficiency testing. Here's how the program works:

*The homeowner selects a qualified heat pump (14 SEER or higher, and 8.2 HSPF or higher).

* Once installed, the contractor performs a Performance Verification Test on the system, records the results on the application form and signs it.

*The homeowner signs and submits the application to Perennial. (The dealer can also submit the application for the customer).

*If the installed heat pump operates within 10% of the manufacturer's specifications, then both the homeowner and the dealer get a rebate.

*If the installed heat pump does not pass (which may be the case with existing homes), only the homeowner gets the rebate because they chose a high efficient heat pump. The contractor does not qualify for a rebate because the desired energy perfor-

mance is not obtained. *Perennial will pay the rebate directly to the homeowner, and the Nebraska Public Power District will provide the incentive to the contractor.

Rebates range from \$200 - \$400 depending on the type and efficiency of the system.

Irrigation Efficiency is a program that pays incentives to help defray improvement costs associated with energy efficiency improvements to irrigation systems. Improvements may include:

*Converting a high-pressure system to low-pressure.

*Rebuild or replace an inefficient pump.

*Convert gravity irrigation to center pivot or sub-surface drip irrigation. A pre and post efficiency test will need to be performed by a licensed irrigation pump specialist. Perennial will pay up to \$350 for the efficiency test.

Refrigerator and Freezer Recycling is a program that pays \$35 for a second refrigerator or freezer that you have operating in your basement, garage, etc.

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Power costs are rising

by Jamey Pankoke

The electric utility industry across the country is facing an era of increased demand for power and rising costs of power supply. Unfortunately, we are not exempt from these pressures. Our power supplier, Nebraska Public Power District implemented an increase in wholesale power rates, effective January 1, 2009. Citing a significant change in the price of fuels used to run the majority of their power plants, a record rate of growth for electricity, and investments made to their energy delivery system, NPPD increased wholesale rates approximately 7 percent.



Jamey Pankoke
General Manager

Approximately 67 cents of every dollar we collect in revenue goes to NPPD for wholesale power. The balance of the district's revenue is used to pay for operational expenses which have also increased significantly in recent years. Our cost of transformers, wire, labor, insurance, fuel used to operate our vehicles, and other operating expenses continue to rise.

We certainly understand that customers are facing financial challenges, as the cost of nearly everything in their lives is also going up. Still, we must ensure that we maintain the financial stability that is necessary to meet your electric needs today and in the future. In an effort to meet these needs, and to maintain the quality and reliability of the services we provide, our board of directors have approved the pass-through of the

wholesale rate increase to our retail rates. The net impact of the new retail rates, which also went into effect January 1, will be 6.1 percent, on average, for all classes of consumers. For residential customers, this could mean an increase in your monthly electric bill of \$4 to \$8, depending on the amount of energy used.

While we will work hard to control our costs as much as possible without sacrificing service levels, there are a number of ways you can reduce your energy bill. For example, you can request an energy audit. It's a free service that allows us to come into your home or business, evaluate your energy use, and look for ways you may be able to save money. Switching to budget billing can help you to effectively plan and balance your energy spending by spreading high heating bills out over several months. You can also have your energy payments automatically withdrawn each month, which can save a little money and time. Finally, implementation of any of our EnergyWise energy efficiency programs that will be highlighted in this and future newsletters can add up to big savings.

If you have any questions concerning this rate adjustment, I would encourage you to contact me or anyone from our dedicated staff. Although we must raise our prices to cover our costs of doing business, I can assure you that we are committed to providing you with reliable and affordable electric service.

Home and garden shows

Be sure to stop in and see us at the home shows this spring. Starting Saturday February 28th, we will be at the **Henderson Home and Garden Show** at Heartland Community School from 9:00 - 2:00. There will be a pancake feed from 7:00-8:30 and lunch will also be

served by the Henderson Health Care Services Hospital Auxiliary. A Health Fair will also be included with the show and blood draws will take place at the school in the morning for all those interested. The gym will also be full of booths for you to look at.

The Geneva Home and Garden Show will take place on Friday March 20th from 11:00 - 8:00 and Saturday March 21 from 9:00 - 2:00. The show is always a success with lots of community involvement. The Home & Garden Show Committee is looking forward to a bigger and better show this year.

E-bill is coming

Plans are underway to make electronic billing (E-bill) available to Perennial customers during the first quarter of 2009. Customers signed up for E-bill would receive their monthly bill by email instead of regular mail. To participate in E-bill, customers would need to provide their **name, address, phone number and email address**, to setup an account. Each customer would be issued a secure user name and password to view and pay their bill online.

Signup now so you can start receiving your E-bill when the program is launched!

Name (printed) _____

Name (signed) _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Clip and return to Perennial
to signup for E-bill



Continued from page A

Many of these second refrigerators and freezers are old and inefficient and are responsible for high electrical usage. Both Perennial and the homeowners will benefit from these units being taken out of service. Here's how the program works:

*A company called JACO Environmental has been hired to handle this program.

*Soon you will start seeing ads in local newspapers offering you \$35 for recycling your old refrigerator or freezer.

*The ads will tell you how to contact JACO Environmental so they can schedule a pickup of your refrigerator or freezer.

*The refrigerator or freezer cannot be your primary units.

*The refrigerators and freezers must be in working condition. This typically means that the units must be capable of making ice cubes.

We will continue to expand the Energy Wise Program and add programs that make sense. In the near future we plan to add more options to our lighting program to include larger wattage CFLs. We are also looking at an insulation program as well as a heating and air conditioning equipment maintenance (or tune-up) incentive. We are also working with the Nebraska Energy Office on a low interest loan program for installing high efficiency heat pumps.

There are many opportunities for saving electricity in homes, business and on the farm. As we develop more programs, we will continue to keep you up to date and let you know how you can participate.

Perennial utility line scholarship recipients named

The 2009 utility line scholarship recipients have been chosen. Preston Bolte, a senior at McCool Junction High School, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the utility line program at Metro Community College in Omaha. Bolte is the son of Greg and Cynthia Bolte of McCool Junction.



Preston Bolte

Ethan Schaldecker, a senior at Heartland Community School in Henderson, will receive a \$1000 per year scholarship to attend the utility line program at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. Schaldecker is the son of Alan and Dawn Schaldecker of Grafton.

Grant Snyder, a senior at Fillmore Central High School in Geneva, will receive a \$1,000 per year scholarship to attend the utility line program at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. Snyder is the son of Mike and Sandi Snyder of Geneva.



Ethan Schaldecker

The annual utility line scholarship is available to a student living within Perennial's service area who plans to get a degree at a utility line college.



Grant Snyder

Due to our increasing workload and the fact that several of the members of our senior workforce will be reaching retirement age in the next ten years, we are anxious to continue our scholarship program to help prepare line technicians for possible future employment.



**Too close for
comfort!**

Always practice safety when operating machinery around power lines and electrical equipment.

Does this look familiar?



If you are looking for ways to lower your electric usage, start in your garage, basement, or wherever you stashed that old worn out refrigerator or freezer. These appliances are out there robbing energy and costing you extra money.

The good news is that we'll help you get rid of these energy hogs, and get you some extra cash too.

Starting March 1, 2009 and running through October, you will start seeing ads in the local newspapers from a company called JACO Environmental, advertising that they will come pickup your old (working, non primary) refrigerator or freezer. JACO Environmental will advise you to call a number to schedule your pickup, and they will even pay you \$35.

This is part of our new program called Energy Wise which offers assistance, and in most cases, pays incentives for customers to become as energy efficient as possible. This also offers customers an environmentally responsible way to dispose of their old appliances. JACO ships all of their appliances to a recycling center where they will be dismantled, and all of the environmentally toxic materials such as mercury from thermostats and PCBs from older capacitors will be destroyed. Most of the funding for this recycling program is available through a grant from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). If you have questions, feel free to contact us.



Recipe

Creamed Chicken & Biscuits

1/2 large onion chopped
 3 tsp butter
 3 stalks celery chopped
 Saute this along with some nature's seasoning & onion powder.

Mix the following together:
 4 cups chopped chicken
 1 can cream of chicken soup
 1/2 cup milk
 1 cup sour cream

Add the onion/celery mixture - pour into a greased 9x13 pan

Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees
 Top with 3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
 Place 6-8 biscuits on top of cheese then sprinkle with 1/4 cup additional cheese
 Bake an additional 15-20 minutes or until biscuits are golden brown.

Perennial Public Power District Board of Directors

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Regular Board Meetings held third Tuesday at 9:00 A.M. November thru March and 7:00 P.M. April thru October. A continuously revised agenda is available for public inspection at the York office headquarters.

STAFF

Jamey Pankoke.....General Manager
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 Ardean Richert.....Mgr. of Operations
 Jim Martindale.....Mgr. of Finance and Accounting
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