

ENERGY INSIGHT

Fourth Quarter 2023

VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 4

Current news about Nebraska Public Power District

2024 RATES

hold steady p. 23

PLUS: Statewide public power activities; holiday giving and energy tips; building students' STEM skills; new Board member interviews; and more!



Sometimes the
hardest jobs
are the most
important.

Long hours. Busy days. Late nights. There are plenty of jobs that fit that description. And some days are harder than others. But when you know that what you're doing is making a difference in someone's life, that keeps you going. At NPPD, the pride we feel at the end of a long day, knowing we helped keep your lights on and your power reliable, that's what makes our job all the more worth it.

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**POWERING
OUR STATE
EMPOWERING
YOUR LIFE**



Nebraska Public Power District

Always there when you need us

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ENERGY INSIGHT

Energy Insight is published by the Nebraska Public Power District Corporate Communications Department as a service for employees, customers and friends of NPPD. Its purpose is to communicate NPPD news and information and to recognize achievements of employees, retirees and their families.

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Wholesale and retail customers will enjoy no increase to their base rates in 2024.



About the Cover: October was Public Power Month, and NPPD and its wholesale utility partners were proud to promote the value public power affords customers at the Oct. 28 Nebraska Cornhuskers game against the Purdue Boilermakers. Just as the Huskers won that day, utilities showed their commitment to keeping energy affordable, reliable, resilient and sustainable – a winning combination, indeed!



TOM KENT

PUBLIC POWER: *Powering* NEBRASKANS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



Every football player knows that to win a game, they must first learn basic blocking and tackling. Then, they must execute it successfully, again and again.

The same concept applies to public power. Our blocking and tackling is providing customers with electricity that is affordable, reliable, resilient and sustainable. We had the privilege to celebrate our industry in October during Public Power Month, and we do so with the knowledge that NPPD and our entirely public power state are excelling, thanks largely to our predecessors and the standards they set for our business. In fact, just this spring in the *U.S. News and World Report's* 2023 Best States rankings, Nebraska was named first in power grid reliability, fifth in lowest electricity price, and our state's overall energy sector was ranked sixth.

Our teammates are skilled and well-qualified to tackle any challenges that lie ahead in our industry. They know how to keep the lights on, control costs, and operate our power plants safely and efficiently. Their unwavering focus on

providing outstanding customer service is unparalleled.

Being part of the NPPD team brings me immense satisfaction. It's not just because of my colleagues' capable hands, but also their willingness to respect our past while exploring new ways to achieve more for our customers in the future. We work to provide Nebraskans with a better quality of life so their days are easier, more comfortable and more fulfilling. That's the true power we provide, and that's why we are so engaged with the communities we serve, because in them live the friends, neighbors and families we know and cherish.

Public power has been for the people since its inception and while it's humbling to see the extent of what was accomplished back then, it's also inspiring because that same intention and purpose remain in our present-day work. What we do matters, and how we do it matters even more.

Teammates' ability to expertly block and tackle gives us room now to make the hard plays as we develop exciting solutions to

meet evolving customer needs in the future. Without compromising our fundamentals, we're committed to remaining on the leading edge as we explore the latest advances in energy generation while maintaining the diversity of our generation mix. We are actively exploring opportunities to partner with some of the state's largest industries – agriculture and manufacturing – as well as our customer communities, to bring innovative generation solutions to the state that can lower carbon emissions while maintaining reliability and affordability.

Though the decisions we are making are complex, our standing as industry leaders in both public and private energy sectors will help us successfully meet our strategic goals as we focus on supporting the rapidly growing energy and economic development needs of our customer communities.

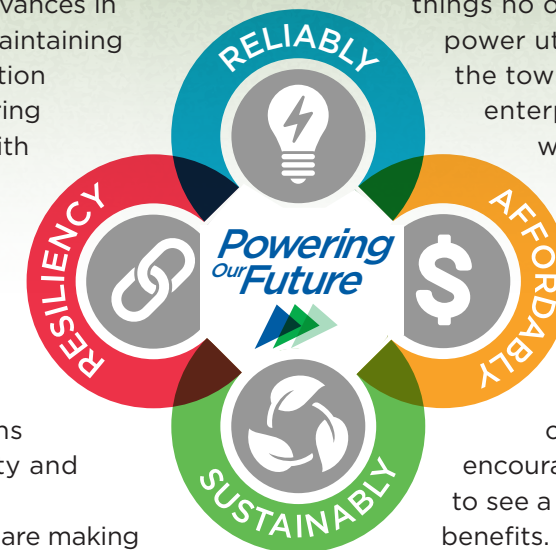
While there are 2,000 other public power systems in the nation who serve 49 million

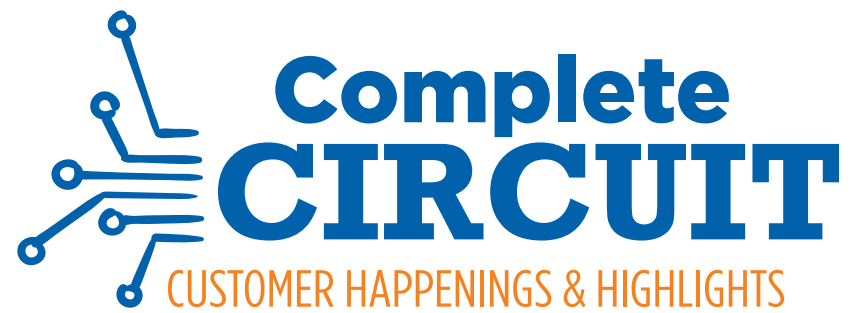
customers and who share these values, Nebraska is the only 100% public power state in the country. I believe our state has a few things no one else does. We have public power utilities that deeply care about the towns, businesses and personal enterprises they energize. We have workers who support our vision and mission with integrity and transparency. And, we have Nebraskans who recognize the value of our work and our best path forward.

I could speak at length of all the benefits public power affords customers in the state, but instead, I encourage you to visit publicpowered.com to see a great visual breakdown of these benefits. From local control and having a voice in the decisions we make to bolstering economic development and being good stewards of the environment, public power is solely focused on putting our customers first.

This is what will continue to set NPPD and public power in the state apart, and we will continue to draw from this proven playbook on behalf of all Nebraskans. 🏈

**Nebraska is the only
100% public power
state in the country**





Memorial Stadium celebrates Public Power Day



In late October, the Nebraska Cornhuskers faced Purdue at Memorial Stadium. If you happened to be in attendance in the Sea of Red, you may have noticed some special messaging that hit close to home. In honor of Public Power Month, screens in the stadium featured graphics related to the utilities industry and the benefits of not-for-profit power.

NPPD and other members of the Nebraska Power Association (NPA) teamed up on this marketing campaign aimed at educating and engaging customers. The hope is that, amongst the excitement of the game, the public power

content generated some positive conversations between fans. After all, two of the things Nebraska is known for are an unwavering passion for football and being the only state entirely served by public power.

Leading up to the match-up against the Boilermakers, a month-long push on social media encouraged customers and teammates of participating utilities to comment to score one of three sets of tickets and free T-shirts. Randomly chosen winners of the giveaway were able to cheer on UNL in person on Oct. 28. If you don't already follow NPPD and NPA (Public Power: Powering



Above are some of the banners NPPD and its public power partners promoted throughout October to show the many benefits public power affords the entire state.

Nebraska) on Facebook, this is your sign to start so you don't miss out on future promotions!

Thank you to all teammates who were active ambassadors of public power in October. Whether you shared posts, handed out swag at community volleyball games, or simply talked with your friends and family about public power, your efforts were noticed and appreciated!

UNL LEAD class receives public power education

Each year, the University of Nebraska – Lincoln's Nebraska LEAD Program (which stands for Leadership Education Action Development) selects men and women in agriculture to participate in a leadership building series. The program's purpose is to identify advocates for Nebraska's farmers and ranchers today and in the future, giving them opportunities to grow in their knowledge and skills. Now on their 42nd class, one ongoing program feature is national and international visits to sites and businesses of interest.

LEAD Class 42 took the first of its trips in early October, with NPPD making the must-stop-at list. The group hit the road, traveling to the North Platte Hydro and Gerald Gentleman Station for facility tours and overviews of the electrical industry, emerging technologies, nuclear energy, energy efficiency and economic development initiatives.

Community Engagement and Public Relations Lead **Tannon Asche**, who helped organize the multi-day seminar, said, "This is a great opportunity to educate Nebraskans on present-day conditions and the future of public power. I am thankful to all teammates who took time to provide this experience and cultivate these important connections with the agricultural community."

LEAD Class 42 also plans to tour Cooper Nuclear Station in February.



LEAD Program participants tour NPPD's North Platte Hydro facility.

Look Up and Look Out for Power Lines



Meals with 'Look Up and Look Out' messaging were given to farmers.

Every year, harvest brings a long list of to-dos for farmers. Hours in the field, combined with dwindling light, can make for packed days for our agricultural producers. Despite the conditions working for or against them on any given day, safety must remain a top priority as crops are gathered.

As in years past, NPPD, together with local power utilities, took the opportunity to show this community we care greatly about them arriving home in the same condition in which they left for work. Safety around electricity and overhead power lines is an important consideration when operating large farming equipment, thus spreading the word about how to avoid contact and/or mitigate the risk of electrocution is a recurring District initiative.

For this year's campaign, NPPD once again teamed up with News Channel Nebraska and local public power utilities to share the "Look Up and Look Out for Powerlines" message via radio segments and at special events.

This year's events supported farmers in 16 on-location events in service territories of Cedar-Knox Public Power District, Cornhusker Public Power District, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, Loup Power District, Norris Public Power District, NPPD, Perennial Public Power District, Stanton County Public Power District and South Central Public Power District.

Conference 'renews' knowledge on wind and solar

More than 350 attendees gathered for the Nebraska Wind & Solar Conference in late October, which brought together representatives from state agencies, farmer/rancher organizations, utilities, the renewable energy industry, and academia to discuss all things pertaining to wind and solar development.

In addition to being a sponsor and exhibitor at the event, NPPD lent several of its talented teammates to round out the agenda. Economic Development Manager **Nicole Sedlacek** served on the "Challenges to Meet Record Electrical Growth" panel, Sustainable Energy Manager **Dave Rich** moderated a breakout session on cost-share programs for renewable energy in agriculture,



The future of renewable energy brought organizations together.

and Executive Vice President of External Affairs & General Counsel **John McClure** was a keynote speaker at the Nebraska Public Power Utilities CEO Luncheon.



NPPD teammates and sponsors golf to support a good cause.

Nebraska Open raises funds for students statewide

The 32nd annual Nebraska Open golf tournament wrapped up on Sunday, Sept. 17, raising more than \$150,000 in 2023. Each year, this 54-hole event draws great golfers from around the country and strengthens local community college systems.

As in the past, NPPD coordinated the Pro-Am competition, which was held on Thursday, Sept. 14. Then, the professional tournament, endorsed and sponsored by the Nebraska Section of the PGA, kicked off Friday and lasted through the weekend. Professional Andrew McCain shot 17 under to nab a two-stroke victory, while Omaha Creighton Prep's Connor Steichen claimed the low-amateur championship at five under.

A significant portion of the tournament's sponsorship money is used to help community college students start their education, continue their studies, or complete their degrees. In total, \$1.9 million has been distributed via scholarships since the Nebraska Open's inception in 1992, and \$75,000 from 2023 will be split between the 11 campuses at Central, Mid-Plains, Southeast, Northeast, and Western Community Colleges. NPPD is proud to support this endeavor and to empower scholars across its service territory.

Power Summit proves beneficial for collaboration



Annual Power Summit updates attendees on the industry and environment.

In early October, more than 65 attendees participated in the 2023 Power Summit, a conference sponsored by a partnership agreement between the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and NPPD. This was the 18th Power Summit held during the past 20 years.

The event provides great opportunities for teammates in the Nebraska electric generating industry and those agency personnel responsible for regulatory oversight of the industry to exchange information and build positive working relationships.

Stay connected
with NPPD's
Retiree Website

NPPD's Retiree Website, located at <http://retirees.nppd.com>, gives retirees access to various items of interest, including retiree club notices and a retiree directory, monthly NPPD Board videos and daily District news, benefits information, the NPPD online store, and digital publications like this magazine! Retiree should log on regularly if interested to stay abreast on the latest District happenings! Trouble signing in? Contact benefitslist@nppd.com.

Rocket Mobility’s All-Terrain Wheelchair named “Coolest Thing”



The all-terrain tracked wheelchair, manufactured by Rocket Mobility in Columbus, has been named 2023’s “Coolest Thing Made in Nebraska.” Columbus is served locally by Loup Power District.

Manufacturers, students, and all Nebraskans were invited to vote in a head-to-head, bracket-style match-up of 16 finalists through the month of September to determine this year’s winner.

“This contest really puts the creativity, ingenuity, inventions, and entrepreneurship of Nebraska manufacturers on display,” said Mike Johnson, chief operating officer and executive vice president of manufacturing for the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce. “In addition to recognizing skilled Nebraskans driving the manufacturing industry today, our goal is to illuminate these high-tech, problem-solving careers to the next generation.”

“The contest is a great way to highlight our state’s manufacturing industry by showcasing the resourcefulness and craftsmanship of products made right here in Nebraska,” said Economic Development Manager **Nicole Sedlacek**. “It’s always so exciting to see what products compete because it shows how diverse Nebraska’s manufacturing industry is and all of the incredible options it offers.”

The contest – hosted by the Nebraska Manufacturing Alliance and powered by the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and NPPD together with your local utility – celebrates the state’s thriving manufacturing industry with Nebraska residents, students, educators, community leaders, manufacturers and especially, the vast number of Nebraskans working in manufacturing every day. The popular contest leads the state into Nebraska Manufacturing Month celebrated annually in October.

Above, Senior Economic Development Consultant Rick Nelsen (far left) stands with Rocket Mobility winners and a Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry representative.



Preparing for Storm Season?

DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:

	Snowbrush Shovel Windshield washer fluid Cat litter for traction		Reflective triangles Reflective vest Brightly colored cloth (to tie on side mirror)
	Warm clothing Blankets Drinking water Nonperishable foods		First-aid kit Flashlight and batteries Compass Car charger for cell phone
	Properly inflated spare tire Wheel wrench & tripod jack Jumper cables Fire extinguisher		



Source: NSC

NPPD'S Energy Education Team

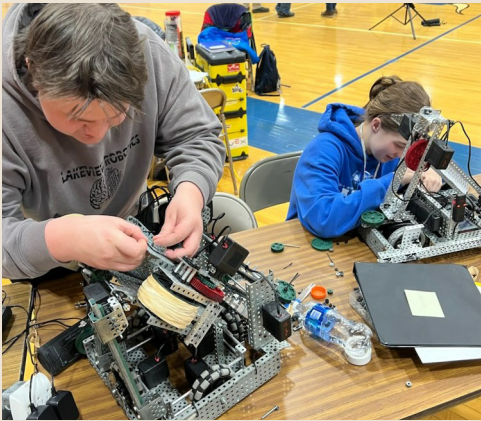
Empowers Students to Embrace Robotics

For decades, humans have been speculating about the role robots will play in the future. The 1960s saw Rosie, a maid for the Jetsons, while the 1970s introduced audiences to C-3PO, the talkative liaison of the Star Wars group. The '80s then gave us would-be assassin T-800 and crime-stopping RoboCop, followed up by the kinder Iron Giant of the '90s and Wall-E of the 2000s. It's clear no matter their specific purpose – cleaning, translating, fighting, befriending, etc. – these fictional robots have always been synonymous with advancement of time and technology.

As life begins to imitate art, the average person is now interacting with robots outside of Hollywood films and science fiction books. The rapid growth in this field is expected to continue, meaning more and more capable workers will be needed to design and develop droids. NPPD's Energy Education department, which looks to engage Nebraska's students in STEM-related curriculum and activities, recognizes the importance the next generation will play in the rise of robots and has partnered with schools to promote robotics programs statewide for nearly 15 years.

In 2009, Columbus Outreach Programs Specialist **Kim Liebig** began researching ways to get involved in this subject area, and eventually connected with the CREATE Foundation in Omaha to donate robotics kits. Each year since then, up to three VEX robotics kits are given to out-state middle and high schools, and the District doesn't stop there. NPPD also hosts robotics tournaments alongside schools that have been recipients of donated kits, with employees volunteering at the local events.

Several years ago, Energy Education wanted to challenge competitors to be even more innovative at the tournaments, so they helped create the Open Robotics Program, where students start with the standard VEX kit, but can then add whatever they want. With endless possibilities, items like cutting boards, scrap metal and 3-D printed parts take the kit's basic robot to the next level. These teams also go through an interview process with judges to explain the journey of how they built their robot, what issues they encountered along the way, and how they overcame those hurdles, which cultivates public speaking skills.



Students engage in robotics tournaments and learn skills they can use in utility industry careers.

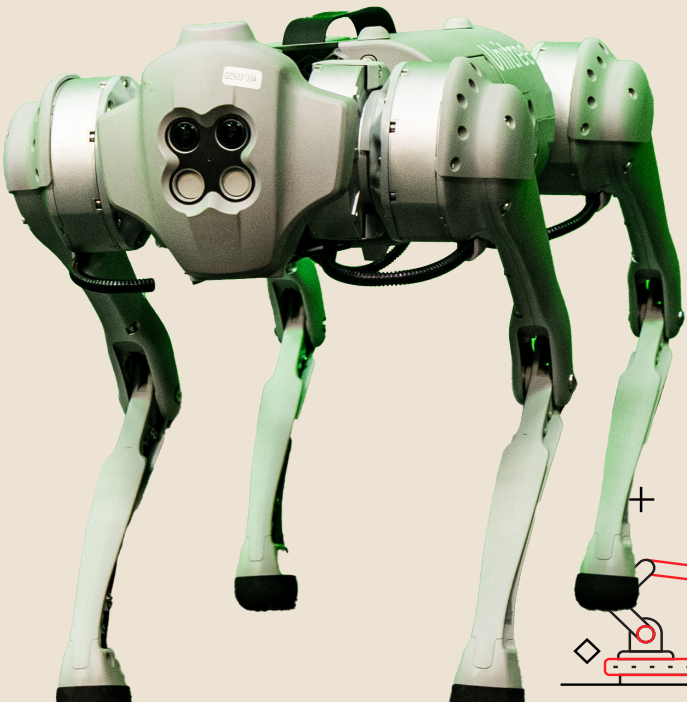
"After participating in robotics, kids are going into engineering, computer, and technology fields, as well as the technical trades," Liebig said. "We consider that a great success!"

To pique the interest of even more students, Energy Education added a new team member this past summer focused solely on robotics. He can't help but be "all-in" – he's a robotic dog! Purchased with a portion of grant money, this computerized canine will be

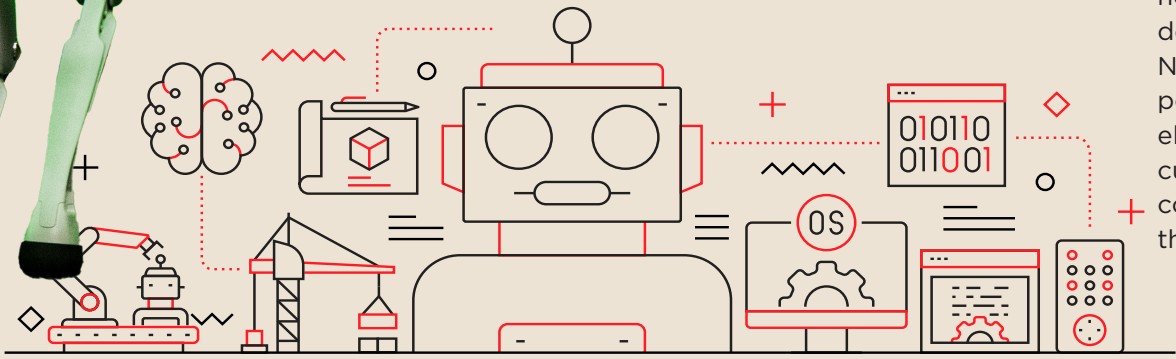
used for classroom visits and community events. Additionally, schools that host tournaments can "check out" the dog so their pupils can try out pre-coded or bespoke programming.

"In the real world, these robodogs are used to perform inspections, do security checks, and ensure public safety," Energy Education Lead **Jon Schulte** explained. "Simply by interacting with it, young adults are exposed to previously unknown professional paths they may find exciting."

Ultimately the goal always comes back to how NPPD can prepare today's children for the world of tomorrow. Planting seeds of knowledge and fostering beginning robotics skills in the here and now may be key to solving utility-wide problems down the road and to keeping top talent in Nebraska's workforce. After all, for teammates, powering the state isn't just about the literal electricity they supply; it's also about empowering customers to embrace change, improve their communities, and lead Nebraska confidently into the future.




NPPD's robotic dog is named F.R.E.D., which stands for Friendly Robotic Educational Dog.



Robot server fills void in Aurora

Customers who stop for a tasty treat at JoJo's Gelato and Grill in Aurora (served electrically at retail by NPPD) often receive their food delivery via a robot named Giada. For the small family-owned restaurant, located on Highway 34, Giada has fulfilled a need, says JoJo's owner Jim Danhauer. "Along with delivering orders, Giada helps take the pressure off servers after the restaurant experienced staffing issues during and after COVID," Danhauer said.

"First-time visitors are normally pretty surprised to be served by a robot, but it brings a smile to their face once they realize what Giada is," he added. "It's important for us to always have that personal touch, and while Giada certainly doesn't replace a real person, she does take the load off our staff."

While robots are not new to many industries, adding Giada to JoJo's staff is just one example of technological advancements and how they play a vital part in today's world and into the future. 



Positively CHARGED

PLUGGING INTO STATEWIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

NPPD joins trade mission trip to Asia, Columbus

In September, President and CEO **Tom Kent** and Vice President of Customer Service and External Affairs and Chief Customer Officer **Courtney Dentlinger** traveled with Gov. Pillen and his chief of staff to South Korea and Japan on a trade mission trip.

Both countries are major importers of Nebraska ag products and are interested in our state's commitment to developing its hydrogen economy. Kent sat on a Nebraska Hydrogen Roundtable in Seoul to discuss hydrogen opportunities alongside Monolith Materials cofounder and CEO Rob Hanson.

The group then attended the 53rd Annual Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference, where Gov. Pillen delivered a keynote address, and Kent had the opportunity to speak on a panel about digital transformation and decarbonization.

Public power is a major supporter of agriculture – Nebraska's largest industry. The trip allowed the group to learn more about the industry, the role the state's power providers play in helping Nebraska ag products be more marketable overseas, and how NPPD can help ag producers stay competitive as the District



The Japanese artwork behind President and CEO Tom Kent portrays a shared commitment to Boy Scouts.

continues to transform its business.

Gov. Pillen expressed his appreciation of NPPD's time spent with him, which allowed him to better understand the many vital connections between the energy and ag sectors.

A 'Coolest Content' creator, Columbus

Everyone loves being part of a winning team, and Senior Drafter **Shawn Hilger** is proud to say his daughter Brittany-Jo Hilger works for 3D Designs as a drafter/designer, which is the parent company for the 'Coolest Thing Made in Nebraska' winner, Rocket Mobility (see page 10 for more details.)

Ken Curry honored, Columbus



NPPD Leadership Coach Ken Curry (right)

award at the RMEL Fall Executive Leadership and Management Convention held in Arizona in mid-September.

The Rocky Mountain Electric League (RMEL) recently honored NPPD's former Vice President of Customer Service/Chief Customer Officer and current Leadership Coach **Ken Curry** with its 2023 Honorary Life Member Award. This is one of RMEL's most prestigious accolades, which recognizes dedication and leadership within the electrical industry, as well as outstanding service to the RMEL member community. Curry was presented his

SAP for Utilities Award, Columbus

On Oct. 10, NPPD and counterparts at Lincoln Electric System (LES) and Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) were presented an Excellence in Collaboration Award at the SAP for Utilities Conference in Chicago.

This unique honor identifies innovative collaboration within and amongst SAP utilities for the purpose of addressing significant needs – in this case, safe, reliable and affordable utilities for Nebraskans.

Some of the examples cited as incredible instances of partnership between NPPD, LES and MUD were cross-functional teams, involvement in communities, commitment to exchange knowledge, and participation in the wider SAP network.



Just 30 minutes of charging with the DC fast charger provides most cars with approximately 70-75 miles of range. Pictured from top to bottom: Chadron, Ainsworth and O'Neill ribbon cuttings.

New electric vehicle charging stations, Chadron, O'Neill & Ainsworth

This fall, three NPPD communities added electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to support the growing use of electric vehicles. These chargers are a convenient option for charging an EV in a short amount of time for those traveling long distances.

CHADRON: Big Bat's, NPPD, Northwest Rural Public Power District (NWRPPD) and the Chadron Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting Oct. 17 to unveil two new ChargePoint DC fast chargers. "These chargers are a great addition to the Chadron area and aim to help ease range anxiety for EV owners living in or passing through the area, as well as provide more charging options for customers thinking about purchasing an EV," said Account Manager **Melody Baily**.

O'NEILL: NPPD partnered with Cubby's Convenience Stores on Oct. 19 to introduce O'Neill's first ChargePoint DC fast charger. "This is an important step forward and a great addition for O'Neill-area residents and visitors," said Account Manager **Brittney Koenig**. "We are excited to partner with Cubby's through the addition of the charging station so we can help grow EV interest, satisfy user demand, and alleviate hesitation to purchase EVs."

AINSWORTH: SpeedeeMart in Ainsworth followed with a ribbon cutting event on Nov. 2 to unveil the community's first ChargePoint DC fast chargers.

OPEN HEARTS *and* GIVING SPIRITS

Have you ever seen the movie starring Jim Carrey called “The Yes Man?” In it, Carrey is challenged to say “yes” to any opportunity that comes his way, thus creating for himself a rich life full of meaning, love and depth.

Now picture NPPD’s teammates, who passionately say “yes” as faithfully as Carrey when it comes to a chance to support members of their communities during times of need and create a better place or circumstance than previously existed. Their willingness to spread goodwill and generosity knows no bounds, and they are purposeful in the ways they build up their communities, inspire hope and bring joy to others, not just during the holidays, but throughout the year.

Should you learn about an organization below that speaks to you as well, please consider reaching out to them to explore how you can support their needs and share in the giving spirit of this beautiful season!

North Platte Office/Water Systems Renewable Energy Department

- **Organization:** The Connection (local homeless shelter)
- **Years of Giving:** Five-plus
- **Who it Helps:** Children and families living at the shelter
- **What They Need:** Monetary donations, gas money, food, personal necessities and toys

Amber Meyer, administrative assistant: “We are blessed to have teammates who regularly check in to ensure funds and gifts are available to meet the needs of these children and their families. We give because we all have, and they don’t.”



Columbus General Office

- **Organization:** Columbus Area Holiday Spirit Co-op “Angel Tree”
- **Years of Giving:** 20-plus (50-60 tags a year, plus monetary donations)
- **Who it Helps:** Children and the elderly
- **What They Need:** Clothing, shoes, personal care products and other necessities, food/gas gift cards, and toys

Joy Meister, administrative assistant:

“It warms my heart to know we are helping so many children and the elderly and putting a smile on their face at Christmastime. Many teammates take their grandchildren or children with them to buy the gifts and love showing them how we can give back to this world and to those who need it most.”



Columbus General Office

- **Organization:** Habitat for Humanity
- **Years of Giving:** 14-plus years and nine build teams consisting of 10-12 teammates (one Saturday each year)
- **Who it Helps:** Columbus residents
- **What They Need:** Local home construction

Chuck Keep, corporate accounting supervisor:

“As president of Habitat, I find this work a way to make a real and lasting difference in my community by helping those less fortunate achieve their goal of homeownership in an affordable and well-built home, where their children can feel safe, secure, and loved, and where a lifetime of memories can be made.”



NPPD-wide: United Way

- **Organization:** United Way
- **Years of Giving:** 53-plus, with eight NPPD facilities participating in 2023
- **Who it Helps:** Local Nebraskans
- **What They Need:** Monetary donations to diverse charities supporting health, education and economic mobility

Laurie Lueck, Doniphan Control Center settlement analyst:

“United Way makes it so easy to get involved, with Heartland United Way (HUW) in the Grand Island area providing kickoff breakfasts or luncheons. HUW has a presence at the Nebraska State Fair, and the social events help folks get to know the agencies they work with so they can make informed choices. Living in a small, rural area, there is a huge need to support these agencies – if you can’t contribute financially, there are always volunteer opportunities!”



Norfolk Operations Center

- **Organization:** Norfolk City Mission’s Christmas Donate Drive
- **Years of Giving:** Four-plus
- **Who it Helps:** Norfolk residents, especially women and children
- **What They Need:** Monetary donations, food and other essentials, and clothing

Kelsey Aude, custodian:

“This drive holds a special place in my heart, and I am very passionate about it. It takes a village to fully support one another, and I want to show our community there is always hope and encourage those in need to never give up! Each year, teammates show their generosity, and I challenge everyone from NPPD, including readers of this publication, to find their own meaningful cause to lean into. Together, we can make an incredible difference.”



Cooper Nuclear Station

- **Organization(s):** Tags on Trees (Southeast District Health Department (SEDHD) Growing Great Kids, Atchison County Angel Tree Program, Southeast Nebraska Community Action Network (SENCA) of Richardson County, First Lutheran Church of Nebraska City, SENCA in Auburn, and SENCA of Johnson County
- **Years of Giving:** Six-plus
- **Who it Helps:** Children (total of 240 tags this year; 200 each previous year)
- **What They Need:** Clothing and other necessities; Christmas gifts

Lacey Karpinski, radiological protection/chemistry shift technician:

“There are a lot of very big hearts walking around Cooper Nuclear Station, and we literally get to be Santa for these little ones when times are tough for them. Delivering gifts to these agencies is emotional for them and us. The drive home is quiet as I reflect on what we accomplished in the months leading up to delivery day, how we can improve the process, and how we can help more! But, mostly, it’s a time of remembering what is important in life and how grateful I am.”





REMEMBRANCES

HONORING LIGHTS THAT SHINE IN OUR HEARTS & MEMORIES



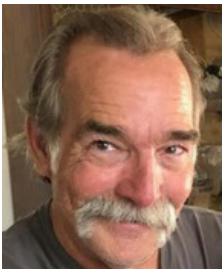
BERNICE
BUSTEED

Retired Columbus General Office Word Processing Supervisor **Bernice Busteded**, 84, passed away July 18. Bernice began her NPPD career in 1977 and retired in 1997. Bernice is the mother of ET Planner/Scheduler **Lynn Sjuts** and the mother-in-law of retired Operations Contract Coordinator – Projects **Bob Sjuts**.



DEAN JENSEN

Retired Gerald Gentleman Station Unit Operator **Dean Jensen**, 81, passed away Oct. 3. Dean began his NPPD career in 1977 and retired in 2005.



RONALD THOMAS

Retired Sheldon Station Operations Leader **Ronald Thomas**, 71, passed away Aug. 18. Ron began his NPPD career in 1977 and retired in 2003.



MIKE STEWART

Retired Gerald Gentleman Station Electrical/HVAC Technician **Harry “Mike” Stewart**, 73, passed away Oct. 26, 2023. Mike began his NPPD career in 1981 and retired in 2013.



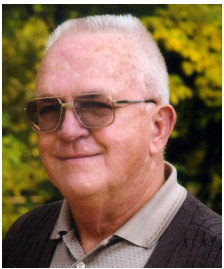
DELMON PECK

Retired Plattsmouth Retail Account Executive **Delmon Peck**, 78, passed away Aug. 22. Del began his NPPD career in 1973 and retired in 2000.



TERI FOX-
MCCLOSKEY

Retired Cooper Nuclear Station Cyber Security Supervisor **Teri Fox-McCloskey**, 62, passed away Oct. 31. Teri began her NPPD career in 1984 and retired in 2014.



JERRY LAVIGNE

Retired Cooper Nuclear Station Radwaste Operations Specialist **Paul “Jerry” LaVigne**, 82, passed away Sept. 3. Jerry began his NPPD career in 1973 and retired in 2004.

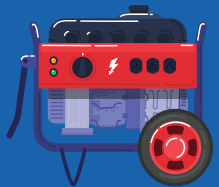


BE WINTER READY

As winter temperatures start to drop, work on your livestock operation goes up. Now is the time to prepare. Have a winter emergency plan in place to protect your livestock and your family in case of an unexpected power outage.

Backup generators can help protect against the unexpected and help maintain day-to-day operations.

STAY SAFE AND FOLLOW THESE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS:



PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY

- Before starting your generator, thoroughly read and follow all the manufacturer’s instructions.
- NEVER plug a generator directly into a power outlet. This can electrocute you and the utility workers attempting to restore power.
- Only operate the generator outdoors, in dry areas, and at least 30 feet away from buildings and any openings.
- Be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms.



PERMANENT GENERATOR SAFETY

- Installation requires a licensed electrical contractor, must follow local codes, and be inspected.
- Generators not correctly installed can backfeed the power lines and pose a threat of electrical shock to the utility workers attempting to restore power
- Notify your local electric utility about your backup system. This allows crews to be alert for possible generators in service if they work to restore power in your area.



Scan for more
winter safety tips.

 | nppd.com | (877) ASK-NPPD



Nebraska Public Power District
Always there when you need us

Together with your local public power utility.

NPPD WELCOMES new BOARD MEMBERS



DAVID GALE
2023 Board Member
Elected in November 2022 | Subdivision 4

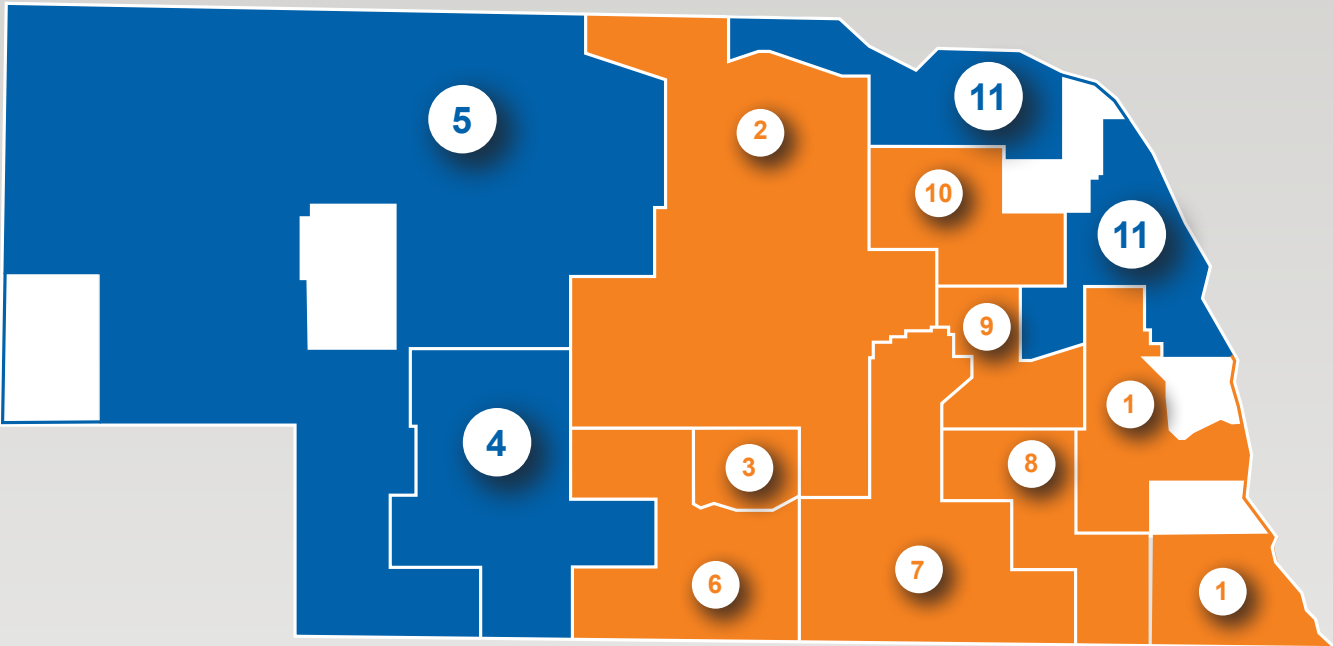


RUSTY KEMP
2023 Board Member
Governor-appointed in May 2023 | Subdivision 5



CHRIS LANGEMEIER
2023 Board Member
Governor-appointed in July 2023 | Subdivision 11

NPPD BOARD OF DIRECTOR SUBDIVISIONS



DAVID GALE, Subdivision 4

How will you help lead NPPD forward to achieve its future goals and strategic priorities?

I'm committed to prioritizing Gerald Gentleman Station's (GGS) cornerstone role within our overall generation mix to keep power affordable, reliable and resilient.

How do you feel NPPD ensures its customers affordable, reliable, sustainable and resilient power?

While long-term reliance on GGS is an essential component of NPPD's current and future generating capacity, it also takes the amazing contributions of all NPPD's hardworking, conscientious teammates who have pride in the value they provide for our customers and communities.

What is something about you hardly anyone knows?

I love birdwatching, or "birding." I keep a "life list" and try to add onto it wherever I travel as I experience new sightings — I'm up to nearly 300 species. My favorite birds are the northern cardinal and the trumpeter swans that nest in the Nebraska Sandhills.

The coolest bird I've seen is the indigo bunting, a solitary bird which actually lacks blue pigment. Their bright, jewel-like color instead comes from microscopic structures in their feathers that refract and reflect blue light — I saw one several years ago in Brown County, Nebraska.

RUSTY KEMP, Subdivision 5

Which of NPPD’s five strategic priorities strikes a particular chord for you, and why?

The competitive ranking of NPPD’s wholesale rates against hundreds of other utilities within the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation benchmark, and teammates’ overall focus on cost control, is at the forefront for me. Nebraska has been good to my family. I love this state, I want to see it grow, and we are poised for that growth with ample opportunities in agriculture as ancillary ag-related companies seek to locate here. If we want to keep Nebraska competitive, our biggest advantage is to keep electric costs, and costs in general, low – it’s how we increase our tax base, lower property tax, and grow in ways that improve the lives of those living here.

What excites you most about the future of ag in the state, and how can NPPD support this important industry?

First, we’ve got to get our young people involved. I grew up in the ‘80s and was told there was no future in agriculture here. It was better to get a college degree and find a job. Now, we’re seeing a lot of younger people and plenty of value-added ag enterprises coming to Nebraska. It’s giving our younger people a pathway to build a future here. Finally, as an ag producer myself, I recognize how dedicated NPPD has been in improving relationships with farmers and ranchers and providing services we need and want. I’ve been absolutely happy with our electric service as a customer of Custer Public Power District. If we have an outage, Custer’s line technicians are there even in the worst inclement weather. They are on it, and they understand how important reliable, affordable electricity is to our operation.

What is something about you that hardly anyone knows?

I’ve been on four continents (North America, Africa, Europe and Asia) and to 13 countries

over the span of my adult life. The past 15 years have blessed me with an opportunity to travel for both business and recreation, participating in networking opportunities within the ag industry like mule deer outfitting, which puts us in the tourism business for two weeks out of the year. My favorite country so far has been Cuba. Though beautiful and full of rich culture, there is so much potential for economic development in the country, and I’m excited to see where this leads them.

CHRIS LANGEMEIER, Subdivision 11

What must NPPD continue to do to remain our customers’ utility of choice and to stay competitive within the industry?

NPPD must continue to produce and deliver reliable, low-cost energy today and in the future, in a responsible way that considers all available opportunities.

How will your past experience serving within the Nebraska Legislature and on another utility board help you to best serve on NPPD’s board?

My experience serving on the Lower Platte North Natural Resources Board, Nebraska Legislature and, most recently, the Loup Power District Board, has given me a unique background in water, regulatory, and customer interactions. All combined, I can put that knowledge together to further the goals and mission of NPPD and its customers.

What is something about you that hardly anyone knows?

In my spare time, I like to do a lot of things with my family, such as golfing, fishing, ATV riding, hunting and shooting blue rocks. The one thing that is probably least known about me is I like horseback riding. I grew up on a farm and have had a number of different horses. Most recently, my wife’s family has a ranch in western Nebraska, and visiting has given me the opportunity to ride again. 🐾

NPPD Board approves steady rates for 2024

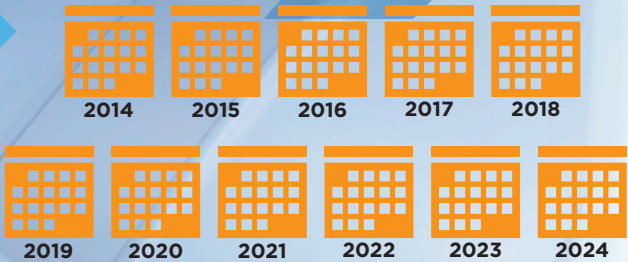
NPPD’s retail and wholesale customers will see steady rates in 2024 following a Board of Directors vote at the November meeting.

NPPD retail customers will experience 11 consecutive years of stable rates, while wholesale customers who purchase electricity from NPPD will also see no overall rate increase for the seventh straight year. NPPD will make adjustments within different customer rate classes and schedules, but overall, NPPD base rates will remain steady.

In addition, the Board voted to provide approximately \$57 million to wholesale customers in the form of a Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) credit. This is the sixth consecutive year that NPPD’s wholesale customers will receive a PCA credit.

“We’re excited to announce another year of stable rates, which comes thanks to the hard work of our entire team who constantly strives to provide low-cost, reliable, and sustainable energy to our customers, during a time when supply chain issues and rising costs remain a constant challenge” says President and CEO **Tom Kent**. “The public power model continues to be a strength for Nebraska, and NPPD’s diverse generation mix continues to be highly competitive and regularly dispatched in the Southwest Power Pool’s Integrated Market. This provides direct benefits to our wholesale and retail customers through continued low rates and reinvestments in our infrastructure and equipment.”

NPPD benchmarks its wholesale rate with roughly 800 members of the National Rural



2024 MARKS THE 11TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR WITH NO OVERALL RETAIL RATE INCREASE.

Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation on a yearly basis. Several years ago, NPPD set a goal to be in the first quartile – which is at or below the 25th percentile for power cost. In 2020, NPPD met the goal for the first time since implementing the benchmark by finishing at the 23.2 percentile, then in 2021, improved to the 12.4 percentile. NPPD’s rank improved further in 2022, finishing at the 11.7 percentile.

As a not-for-profit public corporation, NPPD is able to share surpluses with customers in the form of credits which have been applied to the wholesale power bills and have effectively lowered the cost of power.

NPPD also benchmarks its retail rate using data from U.S. Energy Information

Administration, who collected data from more than 2,600 utilities across the nation. NPPD’s goal is to maintain a total retail base rate position among the lowest 15% of providers, and our most recent ranking improved from 7.7% in 2021 to 3.1% in 2022. Overall, the state of Nebraska ranks amongst the lowest residential rates in the nation.

NPPD serves 79 communities at the retail level, which includes residential, commercial, and industrial customers in communities such as Kearney, Norfolk, Plattsmouth, Scottsbluff, and York. 📍

NPPD’s wholesale rates remain competitive nationally



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