

WATT'S HAPPENING

KEEPING YOU PLUGGED IN TO WHAT'S HAPPENING!



New Service Center to be Built in Clay Center

South Central PPD plans to break ground on a new service center in Clay Center this year. The new building will be used to house supplies and equipment. It will provide much needed space for the district. It will also provide additional office space and a meeting room.

The new service center will allow South Central PPD to discontinue use of the downtown warehouse and will be a way to consolidate multiple sites into one efficient building. It will be built just south of the current South Central PPD office building along Highway 14.

There will be no public office hours at the new Clay Center location. The main office in Nelson will continue with regular office hours for customer requests and bill payments.

As the project progresses, we will share photos and information in this magazine and via our Facebook page.



Updated Information

South Central PPD needs updated customer account information to ensure that we are able to effectively communicate any issues in regard to billing, payments or service.

If your contact information has changed, please contact our office at 402-225-2351 to update your account.

You can also provide basic updates by logging in to your Smart Hub account via the Smart Hub account link on our website.

Potential Changes

- Name Change
- Address Change
- Phone Number Change
- New Credit Card or Debit Card information
- Add a new person to your account.
- Change account holder name due to death or property transfer.

EnergyWise **Lawn & Garden**

Incentives are available on any new electric chainsaw, tiller, snow blower, or lawn mower (includes riding, walk behind and robotic.)



- Must be brand new and purchased on or after January 1, 2023.
- Incentive amount is based on purchase price (installation, taxes, delivery/shipping and setup costs are NOT eligible.)
- Chargers and additional battery purchases are available for the incentive at time of initial mower purchase.

Incentives

- 20% Incentive

Heating Equipment is Leading Cause of Fires in Homes

Heating equipment, such as space heaters, kerosene heaters, fireplaces and wood-burning stoves, is a leading cause of fires in U.S. homes, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The term “homes” includes one-and two-family homes (including manufactured homes), apartments, townhouses and other multi-family dwellings.

During a recent four-year period, fire departments responded to an estimated average of 48,530 fires involving heating equipment each year. The fires resulted in 500 civilian (non-first-responder) deaths, 1,350 civilian injuries and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage, according to NFPA’s Home Heating Fires report published in 2021.

In addition:

- Heating equipment caused one in seven home fires and 19% of home fire deaths.
- Most home heating fire deaths (81%) included stationary or portable space heaters.
- More than half of the home heating fire deaths were caused by placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.
- Nearly half (48%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.
- Failure to clean equipment, such as chimney flues, accounted for a quarter of all heating equipment fires.

In addition, approximately two in five home heating equipment fires involved items that ran on what is considered solid fuel, such as wood-burning or pellet stoves or wood-burning fireplaces. However, electric-powered heating devices were responsible for the largest share of losses, accounting for more than half of the fatalities, three in five injuries and two-fifths of the property damage.

feeling chilled?
HEAT YOUR SPACE SAFELY

1. Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away

2. Place on a flat, level surface

3. Make sure the cord is not frayed or cracked

4. Plug it directly into an outlet

5. Follow all instructions and use models endorsed by a reputable testing lab

6. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat

7. Do not use around small children or pets

8. Do not use one with a damaged plug or prongs

Safe Electricity.org®

Beat the Peak

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, South Central PPD must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply—regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family’s habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. South Central PPD must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or “peak hours.” These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including South Central PPD typically pay more for electricity—either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power—during those morning and evening “energy rush hours.” In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it’s especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the “peak times” concept is a bit puzzling, here’s an easy way to think about it, and it’s similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it’s more expensive. When they don’t, it’s cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an “early bird” special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics

and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak rate periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts of the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.





YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP

July 9 - 13, 2023
High school students, grades 9 - 11
Camp Comeca, Cozad, Neb.

←—————→

If you are interested in applying for this all-expense paid camp or would like more information, visit our website or contact South Central PPD.



Win a Free Trip to Washington, D.C.

Three campers will be selected to serve as Nebraska's Ambassadors to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Youth Tour in 2024.

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Craig Cox

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The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South Central Public Power District is held the third Tuesday of each month at 9AM at the District's office in Nelson, Nebraska.

Nelson Office

275 S Main St | Nelson, NE 68961

 402.225.2351 or 800.557.5254

 Monday - Friday
8 AM - 5 PM

 www.southcentralppd.com

Power Outages

 402.225.2351 or 800.557.5254

 Visit the current outage map on our website.

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