

SOUTH CENTRAL SOURCE

OCTOBER 2025

South Central PPD Implements New Automated Calling System

South Central Public Power District has implemented a new automated calling system to better notify customers of planned outages. This system will allow us to quickly and efficiently share important information with affected customers before scheduled maintenance or upgrades take place.

By using this technology, we can reach more customers in less time and ensure they have the details they need to prepare for service interruptions. This new system is another step toward improving the service experience for our customers.

In the near future, the system will also be used to notify customers when they have delinquent accounts and will provide convenient options to make bill payments by phone outside of regular office hours.

We encourage customers to make sure their contact information is up to date so they receive these notifications. If you have recently changed your phone number, please reach out to our office to update your information.



TATEN UDEN JOINS SOUTH CENTRAL



Taten Uden joined the South Central Public Power District team in July as an Apprentice Lineman. He is a member of the Clay County Line Crew based in Clay Center.

Originally from Kenesaw, NE, Taten is a 2023 graduate of Kenesaw High School. He went on to earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Utility Line from Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE, in 2025. Before joining South Central PPD, Taten gained experience as an intern with Southern Public Power District.

Taten currently lives in Kenesaw but plans to move to the Clay Center area in the near future. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, riding side-by-sides, and working on tractors.

We are excited to welcome Taten to the South Central PPD team!



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GOING GEOTHERMAL

Solar gets a lot of attention, but have you considered going geothermal? This lesser-known renewable energy source can reduce your energy bills while delivering reliable, efficient heating and cooling year-round.

What is geothermal energy?

Geothermal systems use the steady heat stored beneath the Earth's surface to warm your home in winter and cool it in summer. Also known as ground-source or water-source heat pumps—they can even help heat your water.

Because the ground stays at a consistent temperature year-round, geothermal systems are highly energy-efficient and renewable.

How does it work?

A geothermal system uses underground pipes, called loops, to move heat between your home and the ground. These loops can be installed horizontally across a large area or drilled vertically into the ground, depending on your yard size and soil type.

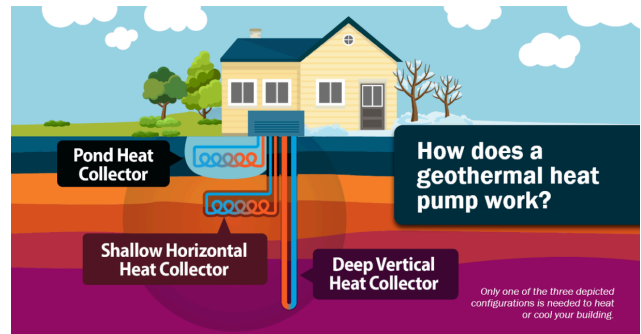
Most systems are closed-loop, meaning a water and antifreeze solution circulates through the pipes. In winter, the system pulls heat from the ground and sends it indoors. In summer, it does the opposite—removing heat from your home and releasing it into the ground.

Since geothermal systems move heat rather than generate it, they're far more efficient than traditional heating and cooling methods.

Why choose geothermal?

Geothermal offers a range of long-term benefits:

- **Energy savings:** It can cut energy bills by up to 50%. Savings grow over time to offset higher upfront installation costs.
- **Reliable:** It provides heating and cooling 24/7, in any weather.



- **Long lifespan:** Indoor components last 20-25 years; underground loops can last 50 years or more.
- **Low maintenance:** Once installed, systems require minimal upkeep.
- **Quiet and safe:** It uses no combustion, no outdoor units and fewer emissions make it a clean, quiet choice for your home.

What should I consider before installation?

Geothermal heat pumps are a long-term investment, with installation ranging from \$10,000 to \$40,000 depending on location, soil, system type, and home size. Check with your utility and government programs for rebates or tax credits.

Though upfront costs are high, geothermal systems are cheaper to run than traditional HVAC. Most homeowners recoup the cost in 4-15 years through energy savings, especially if staying in the home long-term. Installation is often more cost-effective when building a new home.

Choosing the right system

Geothermal systems aren't one-size-fits-all. The type of system that works best for your home will depend on the climate, soil type, available land and local regulations. An experienced, certified contractor can help evaluate your property and recommend the most suitable system.

Closed-loop systems

There are three main kinds:

- **Horizontal loops:** Pipes are buried in long, shallow trenches (6-10 feet deep). These are best for homes with plenty of yard space.

- Vertical loops: Pipes go straight down 200-500 feet. These are a good choice for smaller yards and cause less damage to landscaping.
- Pond/lake loops: If you have access to a large pond or lake, loops can be placed underwater. This option is often the cheapest but only works if site conditions are right.

Open-loop systems

Open-loop systems use water from a well, pond, or other source for heat exchange, then return it to the ground or source, based on local codes. They're less common and depend on environmental conditions and regulations. Unlike closed-loop pond/lake systems—where water surrounds but doesn't enter the pipes—open-loop systems draw water directly into the system.

A geothermal heating and cooling system offers energy savings, reliability and environmental benefits. Carefully weigh the upfront cost against your long-term home plans to determine if it's right for you.

Is Nebraska really the only all-public power state?

YES!

Nebraska is the only U.S. state where every electric utility is publicly owned — either by municipalities, public power districts, or rural electric cooperatives. There are no investor-owned utilities in the state.

SOUTH CENTRAL HELPS PROMOTE SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY

South Central Public Power District recently had the opportunity to connect with fairgoers at both the Nebraska State Fair and Husker Harvest Days.

At the Nebraska State Fair, the Public Power booth offered a variety of interactive activities, including a mini lineworker rodeo, virtual reality goggles, snap circuits, and even an electric vehicle. Students and visitors also observed a tabletop demonstration with props such as a kite, backhoe, tractor, and firetruck, illustrating how everyday items can pose risks when in contact with power lines.

At Husker Harvest Days, attendees viewed the Live Line Demonstration featuring South Central PPD linemen Jim Piper, Allen Schiermeyer, and Taten Uden. Using props such as hot dogs, pickles, tree branches, and tires, the crew demonstrated the dangers of electricity while sharing essential safety tips that could help save lives. South Central employees also helped staff the Public Power booth, where they provided information on EnergyWiseSM incentives, electrical safety, and energy efficiency.



Together, these demonstrations and activities created an educational experience for attendees of all ages, while reinforcing South Central's commitment to safety, energy efficiency, and community engagement.

Decorate Safely!

- Check all outdoor decorations and cords before using them.
- Keep ladders away from overhead power lines.
- Ensure all extension cords are rated for outdoor use.

HAPPY Halloween

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs.

If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking.

Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.



SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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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 - 4:30 PM
- www.southcentralppd.com

Power Outages

- 24/7 402.225.2351 or 800.557.5254
- Visit the current outage map on our website.

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