



Nelson, Nebraska

Watt's Happening

Keeping you plugged in to what's happening!



OBJECTIVE: To make electricity available at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.



Manager's Column
by
Craig Cox

Royce Schott Retires as Key Accounts Manager

February was Royce's last month with the District, as he has decided it's time to retire. Many of you have known Royce over the years as our lead customer service person. He's been an important asset to us for communicating with and assisting our customers, businesses, and city councils. Most of our customer outreach has gone through Royce since he assumed the role of Key Accounts Manager upon Merrill Duntz's retirement in April of 2014.

Royce began working for South Central Public Power in September of 2003. His primary job when hired was to install and troubleshoot satellite television systems for us. As time went on, we kept adding more and more responsibilities to his list of things to do. At retirement, Royce was also responsible for administering our Energy Efficiency Program, writing the monthly magazine articles and outreach newsletters, dispatching for after-hours outage calls, energy audits, and many other things. He provided support in some way to everyone at South Central. He also gave up a lot of his evenings to represent the District at City Council meetings in all of our leased towns.

Royce is a life-long resident of Nelson. After graduating from Nelson High School in 1974, he enrolled in Automotive Technology at Southeast Community College in Milford. He graduated in 1976 and returned home to work as a mechanic at Schott Oil Company, the family business. He could fix about anything, including the 1996 Ford Ranger I'm still driving. After 27 years in the business, he accepted our offer for employment and started a new career with South Central Public Power.

Shortly after graduating from Milford, Royce began playing music for dances and other events. He soon made a part-time job of it, and has put together a large collection of music over the years. I'm sure many of you have been to a dance where Royce was providing the music and acting as MC for the event. He's also a talented singer as well.



Royce has been very active in the Nelson community all his life. He served on the volunteer fire department for 37 years. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge for over 24 years. He is President of the Nelson Community Club, a position he's held many times since 1983. He also serves as a board member for the Nelson Community United Church of Christ. Royce has always been quick to volunteer whenever there's a fundraising event or other need in the community.

Royce's wife, Brenda, is currently the Deputy Clerk in the Nuckolls County Clerk's Office, a position she's held since 2016. Prior to this, she worked for the Good Samaritan Society in both Nelson and Superior. Their son, Rollan, currently resides in Auckland, New Zealand. He holds the position of Content Marketing Team Lead at a digital marketing company called PureSEO. Rollan's wife, Lauren, is employed as an Interior Designer for Catalyst Group there in Auckland. Although Royce and Brenda don't get to see Rollan in person as much as they would like, they still see each other and talk almost every weekend through videoconferencing.

Royce has more time now to enjoy his hobbies, which include music, golf, oil painting, photography and travel. He and Brenda enjoy going to wineries across the state, and weekend trips as time allows. Royce will also be working part-time, mowing the parks for the City of Nelson, something he started doing last year. He will be greatly missed by the employees, directors, and customers of South Central. We wish him the best in retirement.



IS SOLAR RIGHT FOR YOU?

INVESTING IN SOLAR

While most people know what solar panels are, many aren't aware of the complexity of setting up a complete solar power system or understanding the actual return on investment. In reality, there's no one-size-fits-all approach when determining the value of installing solar. Varying laws, regulations and different property conditions require a unique approach to each project. These tips can help you make a good decision when evaluating your solar options.

» Partnering with your public power electric utility

Discuss your energy history, how rates are structured, available grants/rebates/tax credits and how installing rooftop solar may impact your bill. Your utility's energy specialists will go over all the details you need to know to make an informed decision.

» Energy usage and efficiency

Evaluate how your home uses energy and determine if there are ways to reduce your usage. Because solar is typically sized to generate all or a portion of your home's energy use, a good first step is to ensure your home is well sealed and insulated.

» Location, location, location

Before purchasing solar panels, determine if your home is positioned for optimal solar performance. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 22% to 27% of residential rooftop space is suitable for PV solar — with an unobstructed southern view. Visit pvwatts.nrel.gov to start this estimate. In addition, the roof of your home may require repairs, modifications or replacement before it can support solar panels.

» Vendor due diligence

Solar panels are a long-term investment, which is why it's important to thoroughly vet vendors to find the right one that fits your needs. Spending time NOW can save you a lot of stress and money LATER. Check credentials, local offerings and be sure to gather multiple bids. Don't fall prey to slick sales pitches — know your facts!

OTHER OPTIONS TO CONSIDER



There are many solar options offered by Nebraska's public power utilities. Give your local utility a call to see which one best fits you.

Contact South Central Public Power District 402-225-2351 or 800-557-5254 if you are interested in installing solar before you begin your project.

BUYER BEWARE

Question misleading claims about cost savings and benefits. Protect your solar purchase by doing the following before making a commitment:



Contact your local electric utility to discuss rates, estimated costs, return on investment and best practices.



Determine if your rooftop is ideal for solar performance.



Find reputable installers.



Gather multiple bids.

Lack Of Transformers Becoming A Problem For Adding New Services

I am sure you have read about or experienced shortages of goods over the past two years. Three major issues have contributed to the chaos. The Covid pandemic has created a shortage of workers that has reduced production capacity around the world. In many instances, there has been a drastic change in demand as customers have changed their purchasing behavior. Also coming into play is the fact that manufacturing and logistics systems are often run at or near maximum capacity.

In some instances, retailers are waiting on shipments of finished products from China and other foreign countries. Another cause is that U.S. producers are sitting idle, waiting on imported raw materials or components like chips that are needed to manufacture finished goods.

Toyota pioneered “Just in time” manufacturing several years ago. “Just in time” manufacturing means simply, that parts are delivered to factories right as they are required, minimizing the need to stockpile them. However, when those goods are not delivered in a timely fashion, the whole process can be thrown into a bind.

South Central Public Power District is currently experiencing difficulty in securing transformers and other material necessary in adding new services for our customers who are looking to expand or convert their farming operations or build new homes and businesses.

It seems we are constantly hearing about natural disasters that have resulted in power outages across our nation and around the world. There is a constant demand for materials needed to restore power to those customers.

We need to keep a supply of components in reserve in order to respond to extreme weather or other unexpected events. Customers wanting to add new well services or other expansions may have to be put on hold to insure we have enough of the materials needed to keep our operations running smoothly. Simply put, we are one ice storm away from running short of necessary material to keep things operating smoothly.

Here are some of the wait times we have been given on material:

Transformers:

- Pole top – 60 weeks
- 3 Phase padmount – 43 weeks
- Single phase padmount – 130 weeks

Meter Panels – 52 weeks

Other supplies including wire – 20 weeks to 1 year

We work with many suppliers nationwide to keep our inventory up to date. We are continually exploring all available options to procure material. Other Districts have been in contact looking for material we can spare. In the event of an emergency, we will work with surrounding Districts to supply or procure material necessary for the event.

Royce Schott



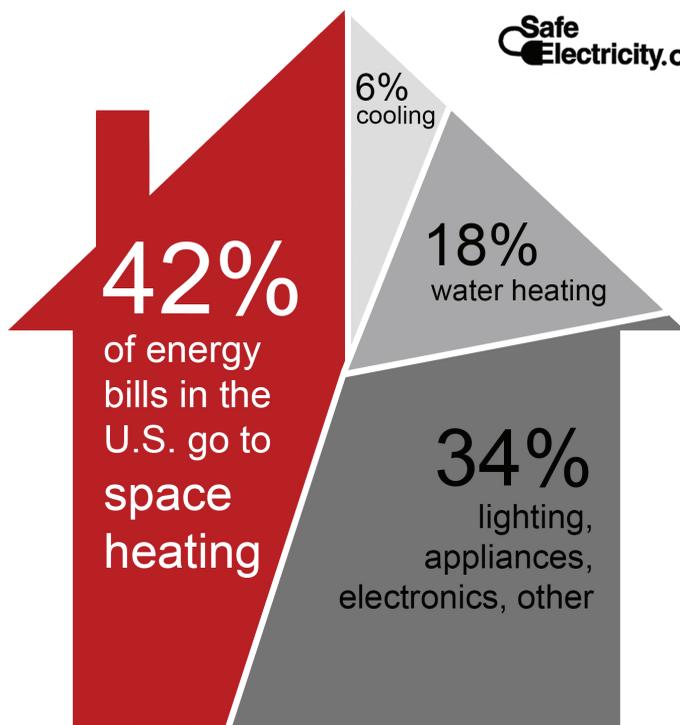
Pole Mount CSP Transformers



Single-Phase Padmount Transformers



3-Phase Padmount Transformers



research collected from the U.S. Energy Information Administration

Thank You!!

I would like to take up a small amount of space in this newsletter to express my appreciation to South Central Public Power District for the opportunity to serve you, our customers, for the past 18 years. I have learned so much about the electric industry and the public power model. I have witnessed first-hand the dedication of the employees and Directors in doing whatever is necessary to keeping power flowing throughout the District.

From my start in the DirecTV department and continuing through to my tenure as Key Accounts Manager, I have had the opportunity to come into your homes, businesses and communities and meet some of the nicest people in the world.

One of my favorite jobs here has been putting together this newsletter on a monthly basis since November of 2006. This will be my last newsletter but you will be in good hands as I'm sure a qualified replacement will take my place. Once again, I say a heartfelt and grateful "Thank you" to all of you. **Royce Schott**

Alishia Ostdiek 10 Years



Alishia Ostdiek began work at South Central Public Power District in March of 2012. She is a lifelong resident of Nuckolls county. Following her graduation from Superior High School in 2000, Alishia graduated from Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis, Nebraska with an Associates Degree in Animal Science in 2002.

Alishia is a Receptionist in our Nelson office. Her duties include; answering the phone, mailing out contracts, helping with payments and answering customer's questions.

Alishia and her husband, Chad, live in Nelson. Chad owns Double O Tree & Lawn Care. they have two children; Hadley, age 13, is in the 7th grade at Lawrence Nelson Middle School/High School. Tripp, age 10, is in the 4th grade at LN Elementary.

We thank Alishia for her 10 years of service at South Central Public Power District.



WATT'S HAPPENING

Newsletter of the South Central Public Power District
Nelson, Nebraska

NOTICE

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

Current Comments Editor: Royce Schott

Board of Directors

David Woods	-----	President
Neal Carpenter	-----	Vice President
David Hamburger	-----	Secretary
Philip Wehrman	-----	Treasurer
John Greer	-----	Director
James Hoffman	-----	Director
Mark Zalman	-----	Director
John Hodge	-----	Attorney
Craig Cox	-----	General Manager

Nelson Office Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
402-225-2351 or 1-800-557-5254

For **Billing Questions**, please call:
(M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

402-225-2351 or 1-800-557-5254

For **Power Outages**, please call:
(Any time of day or night)

402-225-2351 or 1-800-557-5254