



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

SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT WORKING WITH GLENWOOD TO PROPOSE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE TO DISTRICT CUSTOMERS

The need for high-speed internet service has become more apparent the last couple years. The pandemic has brought to light the lack of adequate broadband service in small towns and rural areas throughout Nebraska. Work from home, home schooling, and telehealth are a few examples of why high-speed internet service is not just a luxury, but a necessity.

Low customer density makes it difficult for broadband providers to make the investments needed to serve these areas. Wireless and satellite technologies can provide some measure of internet service, but generally fall well short of providing the minimum 100 Mbps speed required to be considered broadband. A build-out of fiber optic infrastructure is needed to truly provide the speeds needed now, and even more so in the future.

South Central PPD has been considering ways to help facilitate the build out of fiber optic internet service within our service area. Expanding broadband access to our small communities and rural customers will help encourage more local business, bring young adults back to live, allow people to work remotely, support technical agriculture, and generally improve economic conditions in this area.

As a public power district, Nebraska law does not allow us to provide internet services. However, in other states, rural electric cooperatives and public power utilities are already providing these services. As power suppliers,

we already have poles and wires to every home and business. Based on what other states have done, it looks to be fairly economical to add a fiber optic cable to our power lines and get it to every customer.

So, as a public power utility, we have the potential to offer infrastructure, but lack the legal and technical ability to provide broadband services. That's where the concept of a public-private partnership looks to be in everyone's best interest.

Glenwood Telecommunications Membership Cooperative has already provided fiber to every customer in their exchange, which covers most of Webster county and parts of southern Adams and western Nuckolls county. They also have fiber to many communities in Clay and Nuckolls counties. They have been proactive in the buildout of fiber, and have an interest in partnering with South Central PPD to get fiber throughout the rest of our service area.

With Glenwood as our lead, and with support from the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, NPPD's Pat Pope and Dave Webb, and others, we have come up with a proposal to serve as Phase 1. This phase would get broadband access to more than 1,000 customers who lack that service now, and lay the foundation to eventually bring service to everyone in our service territory.

There is currently \$20 million dollars in grant money available for qualifying broadband projects through the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program. Glenwood and South Central PPD have submitted our proposal in hopes of getting funding. If successful, and if we elect to move forward with the project, we would represent the first public-private partnership between a telecommunication company and a public power district in the state. There are still many challenges to figure out, and more grants will be needed to realize our goal, but if the funding is there, we think we have a chance of making it work.

Clothes Washers



Not all clothes washers are created alike. However, all will eventually face a catastrophic failure when used on a regular basis. If the warranty has long expired or the frequency of repairs is increasing, it may be time to go appliance shopping.

Statistics show the average American family washes about 300 loads of laundry each year, and though Consumer Reports® notes 10 years as being the average length of life, clothes washers should last anywhere from nine to 14 years. When replacement time comes, many shoppers start by focusing on purchase price. This causes some to shy away from high-efficiency machines in favor of conventional models. In doing so, they fail to recognize the savings a high-efficiency washer can bring after the initial investment.

First, these washers reduce utility costs through energy and water savings. When shopping, they are easily identified by looking for the ENERGY STAR® logo. To earn the ENERGY STAR® rating, products must meet strict energy efficiency criteria set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the U.S. Department of Energy. Available in either front-load or redesigned top-load styles, ENERGY STAR® clothes washers use improved technology to cut energy consumption by 25% and water consumption by 33% compared to conventional washers.

These savings are achieved through use of sensors that reduce the amount of water used to only the amount needed. During the rinse cycle, clothes are repeatedly sprayed instead of soaked in a full tub of water. In the final spin cycle, high-efficiency washers spin clothes two to three times faster to extract more water. Less moisture in the clothes means less energy used by the dryer.

Then consider wardrobe savings by extending clothing life. Instead of twisting and pulling clothes around a turning agitator, high-efficiency washers use sophisti-

cated wash systems to gently flip and spin clothes. This lengthens the life of often-washed items. Because they are so gentle, many models can safely clean silk, wool and other hand-washables.

Next consider detergent costs. While a container of high-efficiency detergent will often cost more than standard detergent, less is needed per load and re-washing clothes is often avoided. Note that regular detergents should not be used in a high-efficiency washer as they produce too many suds in lower water levels. High-efficiency detergents are easily identified by a small “HE” sticker on the product’s label.

Then there are time savings. Load capacities of high-efficiency washers are generally larger than with a traditional washer, partially because they do not contain an agitator that takes up space. This translates to fewer loads. And, remember – although a high-efficiency washer takes slightly longer to complete a load, the high-speed spin cycles remove more water, resulting in significantly shorter drying times – which, again, extend clothing life.

Finally, it is important to realize the useful life of a high-efficiency washer can be extended if installed on a flat surface, not overloaded, and when always using the correct detergent.

Source: NPPD

DID YOU KNOW?

One uranium fuel pellet
the size of a gummy bear
creates as much energy
as one ton of coal,
149 gallons of oil or
17,000 cubic feet of
natural gas.



#NuclearSciWeek

Nuclear Science Week™

Photos From
**South Central Public Power District's
 75th Anniversary Open House
 Sunday, September 12, 2021**



David Woods, SCPPD Board President, draws a lucky winner.

NPPD's all electric Mustang EV was on display.



Shirley Fryda and Alishia Ostdiek greet Darrell & Donna Jensen at the Registration table.

Samuel Walton runs the Plinko game.



Daltan Kinnaman, Preston Brinegar and Leon Fanning are ready to help with bucket rides.

Dale Endorf explains how we used transits to stake power lines before going to a GPS system.

Photos by Darrell Shunkwiler



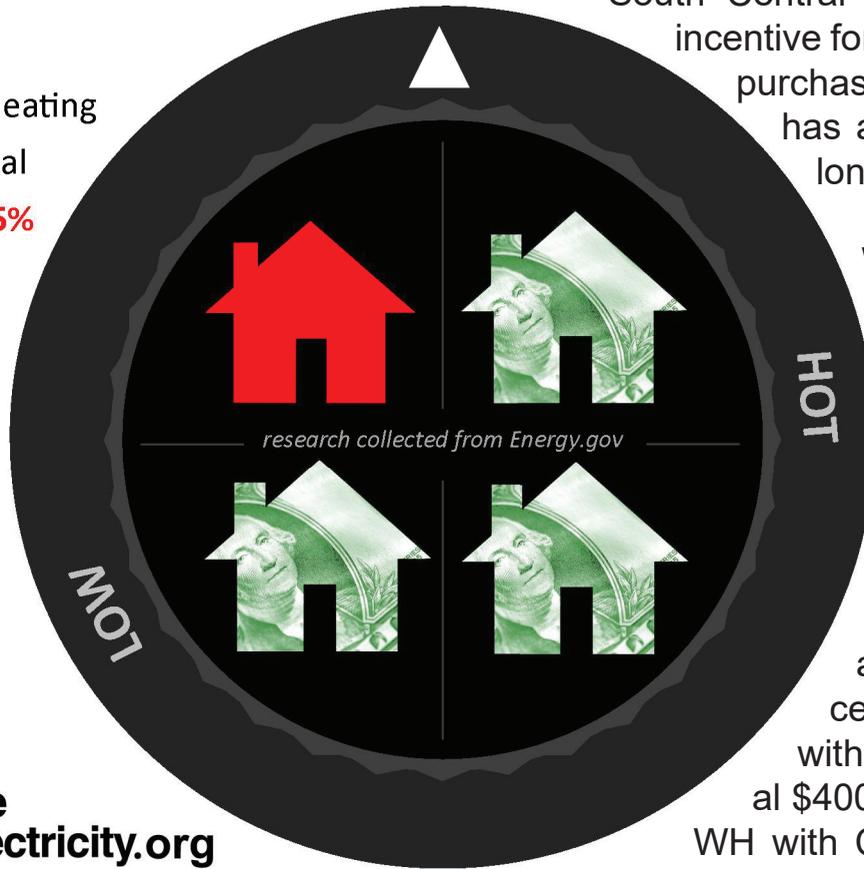
Heather Cox and Kelly Schiermeyer are up for some adventure.

Allen Schiermeyer operates the controls for the bucket truck.



Save \$.
Dial down to **120° F.**

Water heating can equal up to **25%** of your home's energy use.



Safe Electricity.org

WATER HEATER INCENTIVE

South Central Public Power District has an incentive for our residential customers who purchase a tank-type water heater that has a minimum capacity of 40 gallons. The incentive is \$200.

Whether you are converting from a gas water heater or replacing an existing electric water heater, you can qualify for this incentive. New construction also qualifies.

The purchase of an electric heat pump water heater adds an additional EnergyWise incentive. An Air Source HP WH with an EF >1.9 adds an additional \$400. A water or ground source HP WH with COP > 2.5 adds an additional \$650. **Call us today for more information.**

South Central Public Power District

Wishes You A



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

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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