

July 2010

Understanding Your Energy Use

Was your reaction like most people this past winter after they received their utility bills? How can my bill be this high? There must be something wrong!! Was it really that cold?

The weather did play a significant factor in utility bills as the month of December alone was 27% colder than a normal December. January and February were not normal either. No matter what energy source you used to heat your home, you used more of it this winter.

As a utility that supplies energy to you, Cuming County Public Power District (CCPPD) is concerned and wants to help you lower your total energy use and costs. Many times electricity makes the most sense if a change in your energy source for heating or irrigation can provide a savings to you.

Learning to be more efficient with the energy you are using also provides you with savings. This may be as simple as setting the thermostat lower during the winter months or sealing the air leaks around your home. CCPPD is your partner, helping you make the best energy decisions for you and your family.

To access a great tool to help you better understand your energy use and how to be more efficient go to our website www.ccppd.com. Scroll down on the bottom right until you see...

HomeEnergySuite™
CCPPD Home Energy Calculator

The Apogee Home *Energy Suite* has well over 5000 pages of information and tools built in to help you. This is one of the components of the **EnergyWisesm** program.

Realizing that energy costs are rising, energy efficiency is an area that each of us has some control over in an attempt to keep our energy bills down to a manageable level. There are many opportunities to reduce our energy consumption. Our biggest challenge however is to know what we can do that is cost effective. The Apogee Home *Energy Suite* is a tool that can help you.

There are four main areas of the Apogee Home *Energy Suite* - an interactive house, a calculator, a library, and a fun area. Each of these areas provide you with many tips related to energy and how to be more efficient or make smart decisions when you need to replace something around your home.

The calculator section is the most used and provides seven different calculators to help you better understand your energy use and how you can be more efficient. These seven calculators include home energy, appliances, lighting, heat pumps, tv's, irrigation, and heat comparison. Each of these calculators can provide you very valuable information, from the cost of your energy use habits to the changes in energy costs by making energy efficient purchases.

The Home Energy Calculator will provide you with some very valuable information on your current energy

consumption and what happens when you make changes. You start by entering the information from your current home and the energy use patterns you follow. This will calculate your energy use based on the past 13 months of weather data.

Now you can begin to play and change things to create new options and see how much of a difference you can make. For instance, maybe you have had your heat setting at 74 degrees during the heating season in the past. You may have wondered how much you can actually save by turning the thermostat to 68 degrees.

Maybe you need a new furnace. You can pick from a variety of different kinds of heating systems to find out what the energy use differences will be. You can create a different scenario with each type of heating unit to find out what is best. This will allow you to make a more informed decision before you spend your hard earned money.

The appliance calculator allows you to find estimated energy use for a number of products located in 10 different categories. This can be an eye-opening experience. Learning more about the amount of energy used by many of the items we have around our homes helps us understand where all of our energy dollars go.

The lighting calculator will allow you to estimate the amount of money you can save over a 10 year time

continued on page 2



Monthly Newsletter of
**Cuming County
Public Power District**

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**EMPLOYEES
MANAGEMENT**

Elwood Moore General Manager
Randy Dickerson Mgr. of Operations
Kari Haase Mgr. of Finance & Admin

OFFICE SERVICES

Donna Feldhaus Exec Sec/Cashier
Craig Hanneman Office Services
Mary Troyer Accountant
Nicki Peters Customer Service

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Monte Draper IT Administrator

OPERATIONS

Tim Martens General Foreman
Scott Haber Working Foreman
Willy Anderson Journeyman Lineman
Scott Case Journeyman Lineman
Gene Cihacek Journeyman Lineman
Josh Hunzeker Journeyman Lineman
Brian Throener Journeyman Lineman
Jess Hunke Apprentice Lineman
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Jim Yosten Engineering Technician
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Continued from page 1

period by making the switch from incandescent light bulbs that we have used for years to the new compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's). You can change the cost of replacement bulbs and energy costs to get different scenarios.



If you have thought about changing your current heating system to a heat pump, the heat pump calculator will be a very valuable tool to use. This calculator allows you to change the SEER efficiency rating of a heat pump and temperature settings so you can see the savings to expect. The results are shown in a graph form, allowing you to get an idea of what the monthly cost would be.

The TV calculator shows you how much energy different sizes and types of TV's use. This includes DVD/DVR units and game consoles. You can enter the number of TV's you have and how much they are on to get an idea of energy they use. Many times this is more than most people realize.

The irrigation calculator is new in the past few months and is a good approximation of the amount of energy, whether it is propane, natural gas, diesel, or electricity that will be used. The only information that you need to have available is the acres irrigated, PSI, pump lift, and inches of water applied. This calculator lets you adjust the cost of the different fuels to create different scenarios. The payback period can also be calculated if you have project costs to work with.

Also new to the calculator section is the heating comparison calculator. This allows you to compare the cost of different energy sources for heating your home. There are many variables that can be changed as you play with this calculator. From the price of the different energy sources to thermostat settings to efficiency of the HVAC equipment, you can create many different options to help you decide what is best for you. This is your chance to find out how much can be saved with a more efficient heating system, or how much you can save by installing a 16 SEER heat pump rather than a 14 SEER.

The other three sections of the Home Energy Suite can also provide you with very good information. The interactive house allows you to check out different areas of your home and the energy uses of many of the appliances, lighting, heating & A/C, electronics, water heating, etc. The Library provides a wealth of information through two different areas - Home Energy Systems and Fundamentals of Electricity. The information available in these two sections range from energy efficiency to safety to planning and more. The third section is the Fun Section. It is a great area for kids to learn about many different topics relating to energy.

If you have any questions please call the CCPPD office 402-372-2463 or stop in.



(Photo in background on front page was drawn by Donna Feldhaus, Executive Secretary/Cashier.)



- Meet Your Board - Clarence Heimann

Each month we will introduce one of the CCPPD's board members and get to know them outside of the work they do for the District.

Clarence Heimann has been on the Cuming County Public Power District Board since 1987. He will be retiring this year as a board member. He has been a vital part of decision making over the years and has been a great asset to the District.

Clarence lives on a farm Southwest of West Point. He enjoys feeding cattle & hogs and tinkering on machinery around the place. He and his late wife Dorothy have two daughters that stop by often. His two grandchildren are currently pursuing their careers in college and he enjoys spending time with them when they can find time to come visit.



Being a board member takes time and effort. Reading up on current events affecting the electric industry is a job in itself. Aside from attending the monthly meetings, directors often take part in regular meetings of associations to which the cooperative belongs or is affiliated with including the Nebraska Rural Electric Association. Please let Clarence know that you appreciate him taking time out of his daily routine to serve on the Cuming County Public Power District board. And wish him well as he retires from the board.

Vandalism Strikes Power District

Vandalism struck Cuming County Public Power District over the weekend of May 22nd. Someone used a chainsaw to cut a power pole down to take the attached transformer. The pole was on a vacant farm place with no power, but the service had not yet been removed. It is located just east of the Stanton/Cuming County line South of Highway 32. The thieves most likely wanted the transformer due to the copper inside, however a transformer has only about \$10 worth of copper in it.

This vandalism to District property will cost our customers over \$1500: this type of transformer was worth around \$750, the pole around \$200 plus wiring. CCPPD has seen a few other incidents and other utilities, such as Nebraska Public Power District, have had problems with this in the Columbus, Norfolk and Stanton areas. This has also been an issue across the entire nation. Nebraska utilities are working with state legislation on a copper theft law to try to deter criminals.

This kind of stealing is obviously very dangerous. People have been fatally electrocuted while trying to take items from electrical poles. Police are still investigating this situation and hope to have more information soon. The District wants our customers and general public to be aware and informed so please give us a call if you have any questions or information 402-372-2463.



The Operation Round-Up® program, that began at Cuming County Public Power District in 1999, has awarded a total of \$117,516.82 to local schools, rescue squads, state patrol, senior citizen programs, childrens organizations, hospitals, betterment groups, libraries, individuals and many other miscellaneous programs. These funds are gathered from customers rounding their bill to the next dollar. It's an average of \$6 per customer per year. Five people volunteer their time to be on the Operation Round-Up® board that meets twice a year in March and September. A big Thank You to the 62% of eligible CCPPD customers that do participate in the program. You have been a big part of a special program that helps so many people in our communities. If anyone would be interested in signing up or has any questions, please contact the CCPPD office 402-372-2463 or stop in.

Students Enjoy Tour

Sixty 6th graders from West Point Elementary and their teachers toured Cuming County Public Power District's facility Tuesday, May 25th. They enjoyed a tour and had a lot of questions, especially after the "hot dog" presentation. Kari Haase, Manager of Finance/Administration, Tisha Alfson, Technology Services Supervisor and Nicki Peters, Customer Service Representative had the students break into three groups and led the students on the tours. The 6th graders were excited to see the boom trucks, pick ups, breakers, wiring and all the parts of what make the District run smoothly. All the kids were very attentive considering it was the day before the final day of school.



Photo by Sarah McGill, Technical Services.

Kari Haase, Manager of Finance/Administration, lead one of the tours.



Photo by Sarah McGill, Technical Services.

Tisha Alfson, Technology Services Supervisor, also showed students around.

Beemer Substation Upgrade

Work is in the final stages at the NPPD's Beemer 115kV substation. Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) has reconnected service to the rebuilt substation from the temporary one. NPPD did their final walk through Monday, June 7th so CCPPD linemen could be shown some of the breakers that are changed and other essential parts within the substation.



Before work began
January 20,
2010.

After work was
completed June 7,
2010.



CCPPD linemen and
employees on the
walk through June 7,
2010 with the NPPD
project manager.

Spring Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms June 1, 2010 brought many inches of rain and flooded the streets of West Point. A few tornadoes were reported touching down in the area. Around 3:30pm the sirens went off in West Point causing some to go to basements and take cover. Reports came in that a tornado had touched near Wisner and later South of West Point. Here are some pictures of the action that day...



The street just outside the CCPPD front door.

Tornado near Wisner.

Picture taken by Adam Rutar.



Board Meetings

Regular meetings of the CCPPD Board are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at the office. Notice of times and date changes are published monthly.

Board Of Directors

Dennis Weiler, President 372-2713
 Danny Kluthe, Vice Pres 693-2833
 Rollin Bremerman, Sec 528-3521
 Ed Kaup, Treasurer 372-2966
 Clarence Heiman 372-2604
 Doug Throener 372-5562
 Leroy Mostek 528-3872