

March 2010

Saving Energy Dollars

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

We've talked about energy efficiency often and customers are getting the message. It sounds like we have an opportunity for our customers to become more energy efficient. In a recent routine customer satisfaction survey of Custer's consumers, we found that over half of you are very interested in the following three programs.

Rebates on Attic Insulation:

This rebate or incentive is for existing dwellings only and the primary heating system must be electric or a heat pump or electric heat in the form of baseboard heating or radiant heating.

Existing attic insulation levels are assumed to be an average of 6 inches or less and you must install 6 inches or more or an R-19 value of new insulation. The proof of purchase must indicate type and quantity of the insulation installed.

The incentives are calculated by taking the area insulated (Square Feet) times (x) \$0.15 per square foot. This would equal the incentive you will receive. Incentives are limited to \$300 per dwelling that is individually metered.

Free Home Energy Audit:

A home energy audit will identify energy saving opportunities in your home. These audits are free



and are sponsored by Custer PPD and Nebraska Public Power District. The audit will look at the heating and cooling system, insulation, lighting, and building drafts, etc. You will receive a report listing energy efficiency opportunities identified during the audit. The report will also list EnergyWise energy efficiency incentives available from Custer PPD, along with low interest financing, appliance rebate and tax credit

information available on the Nebraska Energy Office web site www.neo.ne.gov

Prior to calling the office and scheduling one of these audits, please take a moment to look at the Home Energy Calculator at www.custerpower.com to see if there are things you can easily do to increase efficiency in your home without waiting for the energy experts to get you on their schedule.

Recycling Old Refrigerators:

Chances are that you have a second or even third refrigerator in the garage or basement, and it's also likely that the extra refrigerator is an old one. This recycling program is designed for you to work with Custer PPD in reducing your electric bill and also dispose of that old refrigerator in an environmentally friendly way.

The incentive for the recycling program is \$35 for each appliance (limited to two). Refrigerators or freezers are both accepted and must be in working order. The best thing to do is to call 1-866-444-9160 and set up an appointment for pickup.

- Low Flow shower heads.
- Budget Billing helps with the ups and downs of the weather and usage. It's a good way to even out your bill every month.

While those were the three most popular, there are a number of other rebates as well.

- High Efficiency Heat Pump incentives with a minimum 14 SEER and 8.2 HSPF of between \$200 and \$400.
- Cooling System Tune Up pays \$30 for a residential cooling system to be tuned up.
- \$30 Window Air Conditioner incentive
- CFL Give Away. You can bring in up to 10 incandescent light bulbs to exchange for 10 CFL's.

You can go to our website and find more ways to make your home more efficient by clicking on the Home Energy Calculator. If you have any questions, please call the office. We are committed to helping everybody keep their electric bill as low as possible.

House Energy EcoKit

What changes to your home would you like to consider? Need some ideas to get started? Call the office for an appointment to come in and take a look at our House Energy EcoKits. Each EcoKit comes complete with various effective, easy-to-install products that will help customers save money on utility bills. The kits also provide helpful, everyday-use tips for water and energy conservation. We think this is a good educational tool to get people started on doing their part to save resources.

Products included in the kit are: CFL light bulbs in 60, 75, and 100 watt equivalents; an air filter whistle that snaps onto air filters to hear a whistle when the air filter is full and needs to be changed; a refrigerator/freezer thermometer, with the recommended temperature settings; draft stoppers, to prevent drafts by insulating behind cover plates of switches and outlets; and a glow-in-the-dark nightlight. An energy wheel gives users helpful tips on ways to conserve energy every day.



**Want an Eco-Kit?
Make an appointment!**

Conserving (hot) water is EnergyWise

As a necessary component of life, water is undeniably a precious resource. As a primarily agricultural-based state, water is especially important to the quality of life in Nebraska, and all Nebraskans have a responsibility to use it wisely.

Whether heating it for domestic use or moving it to irrigate crops or water lawns, using water takes energy. Generally, these are three places Nebraskans have an opportunity to conserve water, use energy efficiently, and save money in the process: At home, in the yard and in the field.

At Home

Many opportunities to conserve water and energy (and save money) exist in the average home in Nebraska, especially if you require warm or hot water. Any water savings is beneficial, and after a look at the following data, a pair of water- and energy-saving devices will clearly benefit the home: low-flow showerheads and a high-efficiency clothes washer.

Activity	Gallons per Use		Activity	Gallons per Use
Clothes washing Conventional Washer	33 gallons		Automatic dishwashing	12 gallons
Clothes washing Front Loading	15 gallons		Preparing food	5 gallons
Conventional Shower Head	2.5 gallons per minute		Bathing	20 gallons
Low Flow Shower head	2.0 gallons per minute or less		Hand dishwashing	4 gallons

In the Yard

Overwatering lawns accounts for the waste of millions of gallons each year in Nebraska. Make sure water is applied efficiently to your lawn. Don't allow your automatic sprinkler system, if applicable, to operate immediately before, after or during rain. Be sure to water your lawn early in the morning before evaporation from the mid-day sun and increased wind makes your efforts to get water to your thirsty lawn less efficient.

In the field

Technological advances in agriculture in the last decade or so have taken great steps forward in water and energy conservation. It's a proven fact: Center pivot irrigation systems with low-pressure sprinklers lose less water to evaporation while precisely irrigating crops than out-dated high-pressure systems lose. Another advance – center pivots with drop sprinkler heads – only need to apply about half as much water as traditional gravity-flow irrigation systems to sufficiently irrigate crops.

For more information on steps you can take to conserve water and improve your energy efficiency, contact Custer Public Power.

Custer Public Power District wants you to get the most energy value for your money. It costs far less to save energy than it does to build a new power plant to generate additional power.

Prairie-Land Pot Roast

Prep Time: 20 min
Total Time: 2 hr 40 min
Makes: 8 servings,



What You Need

- 1 boneless beef shoulder pot roast (2 lb.)
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 bottle (8 oz.) KRAFT CATALINA Dressing, divided
- 2 large onions, sliced
- 2 lb. Yukon gold or all-purpose potatoes, peeled, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 lb. carrots, peeled, cut into 1-inch pieces

Water

- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley

Calories 400	Total fat 13 g	Saturated fat 3.5 g
Cholesterol 95 mg	Sodium 600 mg	Carbohydrate 37 g
Dietary fiber 4 g	Sugars 15 g	Protein 33 g
Vitamin A 120% DV	Vitamin C 30%DV	Calcium 4 %DV
Iron 25 %DV		

Make It

SEASON meat with salt and pepper. Brown in large heavy pot or Dutch oven on high heat in 1/4 cup dressing, turning to brown both sides. Add onions; cook until browned, stirring occasionally.

ADD remaining dressing, potatoes, carrots and enough water to come 3/4 the way up side of meat (about 1-1/2 to 2 cups). Bring to boil; cover. Simmer on low heat 2 hours or until meat and vegetables are tender.

REMOVE meat from pan; cut across the grain into thin slices. Serve meat and vegetables topped with pan gravy. Sprinkle with parsley.

Kraft Kitchens Tips

HOW TO THICKEN PAN GRAVY

If a thicker pan gravy is desired, mix 1/4 cup water with 2 to 3 Tbsp. flour. Remove meat and vegetables from pan to platter; cover to keep warm. Bring reserved liquid in pan to boil on medium-high heat. Gradually whisk in flour mixture; cook until thickened to desired consistency.

VARIATION

Prepare using 2-lb. beef rump roast and increasing the final cooking time to 2 to 2-1/2 hours or until meat is tender.

SUBSTITUTE

If only baking potatoes are available, add them to cooking liquid for the last hour of cooking time.

CUSTER CURRENTS

Newsletter of the CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451
www.custerpower.com

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, McPherson, Logan and parts of Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry, Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

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Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.