

CUSTER

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

With Area Service Centers in Sargent,
Callaway, Stapleton and Thedford

Currents

Reliable Power Empowers Progress

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photo credits
Torey McMullen-Custer County

Newsletter of the

Custer Public Power District

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

Custer Public Power District Newsletter is published bimonthly by:

Custer Public Power District
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From the GENERAL MANAGER'S desk

Reliable Power Empowers Progress

This is the time of year everyone wants to sit back and think about all the good things that have been done in the past. I, personally, like to take time to reflect on accomplishments and I'm sure you do as well. Custer Public Power District thought a little recap of our accomplishments might be in order for the district.

The one accomplishment that has recently been on everybody's mind is the completion of the 69kv line between Dunning and Mullen. The line has been converted to 69kv in order to handle the load. It's also built to stand the test of time, along with the 100 or so miles of new transmission lines, Custer Public Power District has rebuilt or maintained in the last 25 years. All of this line has been built to Rural Utility Service standards and meets, or exceeds, the National Electric Safety Code. The 69kv line has also included a static wire to better handle lightning and a twisted pair conductor to better handle the icing and wind that we sometimes get.

Another accomplishment is in the major three phase lines that are using the same conductor and heavier poles to

reinforce those ties between substations. Custer PPD continues to focus on main three phase lines to help with reliability. Again, 100 miles of lines fit this description with hundreds of miles of lines to go.

Custer PPD has changed the minimum standards over the years to include heavier poles and bigger wire to stand for the next 100 years for both the three lines and the single-phase lines.

Beginning with the Ortello substation back in the late 90's to early 2000's to today, Custer PPD has built four new substations to better handle loading and rebuilt over ten existing substations to provide safer working clearances and increased reliability.

Custer PPD has fiber into every substation and tower in our service territory to provide real-time communications with devices in substations which increases reliability and shortens outage durations. Along with being able to decrease outage time, this will allow Custer PPD the ability to operate the system more efficiently. This increase in efficiency directly relates to decreasing our costs

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.(CST) in the main office in Broken Bow at 625 E South E 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.

Attention High School Seniors Custer Public Power District Area

Custer Public Power District is Seeking Applicants for the

CPPD Utility Line Scholarship

Requirements for the Scholarship:

- * High School Graduate
- * Parents or Guardians are Customers of Custer PPD

Applications for the Utility Line Scholarship are available on CPPD's website at www.custerpower.com or contact Tarin Burrows at 308.872.2451 or tburrows@custerpower.com

The Custer Public Power District Scholarship Fund is administered by:
Directors and Staff of CPPD

Deadline for submitting your application is March 4, 2022.



to deliver you reliable power.

Along with operating the system, Custer PPD is using real time data more efficiently. We have included software that helps us deliver power when it's needed. Custer PPD has gone through a period of upgrading our internal software that allows for more information at our - and your - fingertips. New mapping software allows for more efficient use of our time while improving the service you need to get new services built.

The last of the software upgrades is in our automated metering system and the way we get metering data and control load. This state-of-the-art software uses signals over the air to get more detailed metering data with less errors. The combination for all of these software solutions provides Custer PPD and you

more information and better access to metering data.

While some of this work over the last 20 years has been done with the help of rate increases, the most recent work has not been done with rate increase dollars. With planning and doing work over a period of time, Custer PPD has minimized the rate impact and increased reliability. That's the part I'm most proud of, not having a rate increase in the last 3 years and being able to give over a \$1,000,000 back in the form of a PCA from our wholesale supplier.

The long range 20-year plan also includes many more upgrades to the Custer PPD electrical system and includes transmission improvements, substations, and main three phase lines. That long range plan does not include

the need to adjust rates upwards to pay for these improvements.

All of this information, planning, and direction can be attributed to being Public Power. Custer PPD invests back into its system and creates long term plans to better the electrical system and provide the quality of life we as Nebraskans deserve and expect. All of this is done under the direction of a locally elected Board of Directors who live in the rural areas that Custer PPD serves and are your friends and neighbors.

Only with Public Power do you get that kind of commitment to every customer in our service territory and across Nebraska.♦

RELIABILITY'S MOST WANTED

Public power utilities work hard to prevent and reduce outages. Yet, these five types of foes often prove to be vigilant adversaries in the quest for increased reliability, according to data submitted to the eReliability Tracker in 2017. But fear not, reliability renegades: each foe can be countered.



OUT OF CONTROL TREES & VINES

RELIABILITY SUPER VILLAIN

OUT OF CONTROL TREES & VINES

2017 Offenses:
More than 4,494 outages

Most active:
Spring and summer

Known allies: Weather, which can make trees grow gnarly; Storms, which help trees take out equipment

If spotted: Use qualified trimmer to take down rogue limbs with appropriate trimming



RELIABILITY SUPER VILLAIN



SQUIRRELS AND OTHER WILDLIFE

RELIABILITY SUPER VILLAIN



EQUIPMENT

RELIABILITY SUPER VILLAIN

EQUIPMENT

2017 Offenses:
More than 3,859 outages

Most active: Summer

Known allies: Weather, especially extreme heat

If spotted: Repair and replace as soon as possible.



RELIABILITY SUPER VILLAIN



EXTREME WEATHER

RELIABILITY SUPER VILLAIN



TOP CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES



SQUIRRELS
AND OTHER WILDLIFE

2017 offenses:
More than 6,013 outages

Most active: Summer and fall

Posse includes: Raccoons, birds, and other rodents and small mammals; Also known to associate with trees as accomplices.

If spotted: Install guards and other protective devices, consider creating alternative habitats

WILDLIFE

RELIABILITY SUPER VILLAIN

UNKNOWN

RELIABILITY

UNKNOWN

2017 offenses:
More than 4,062 outages

Most active: Year-round

Nemesis: Data policy

If spotted: Train staff on reducing this scourge

UNKNOWN

RELIABILITY SUPER VILLAIN

EXTREME WEATHER

2017 offenses:
More than 2,590 outages

Most active:
Spring and summer

M.O.: To destroy equipment by any means possible

Nemesis: Mutual aid

WEATHER

RELIABILITY SUPER VILLAIN

Region	Top Sustained Outage Cause
1	Equipment Problems
2	Squirrels
3	Various Weather Conditions
4	Equipment Problems
5	Trees
6	Storm
7	Trees
8	Scheduled Equipment Replacement
9	Equipment Problems
10	No Data

#PublicPower

RECIPES

Classic Beef and Barley Soup

Courtesy of BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 beef Arm Chuck Roast, Boneless, cut into 3/4-inch pieces (about 2 pounds)
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups chopped onions
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 cup diced carrots
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme leaves
- 6 cups reduced-sodium beef broth
- 3/4 cup uncooked medium pearled barley
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar



Heat oil in stock pot over medium heat until hot. Brown half of beef Arm Chuck Roast Boneless; remove from stockpot. Repeat with remaining beef; remove from stock pot, pour off drippings. Season beef with pepper and salt.

Cook's Tip: Beef Stew Meat may be substituted for beef Arm Chuck Roast.

Add onions, celery, carrots, garlic and thyme to stock pot; cook 5 to 8 minutes or until vegetables are lightly browned, stirring occasionally. Stir in broth and barley. Return beef to stock pot; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover tightly and simmer 1 hour or until beef is fork-tender. Stir in balsamic vinegar.

Cook's Tip: You may add additional vegetables for a heartier soup such as green beans, snap peas, broccoli and cauliflower. Add to stock pot with onions, celery and carrots.

Cream Corn Cornbread Muffins

Courtesy of CountrySideCravings.com

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 (14.75oz) can creamed corn
- 2 large eggs
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted



Preheat oven to 400°F. Grease a muffin pan or line with liners; set aside.

In a large bowl combine the flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Add the remaining ingredients and stir just until almost fully combined. Leave a few dry spots.

Divide batter evenly among the 12 muffin cups. Bake for 15-18 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the middle of a muffin comes out clean. If greased the pan leave in pan for 5 minutes before removing. If you used liners remove immediately.

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

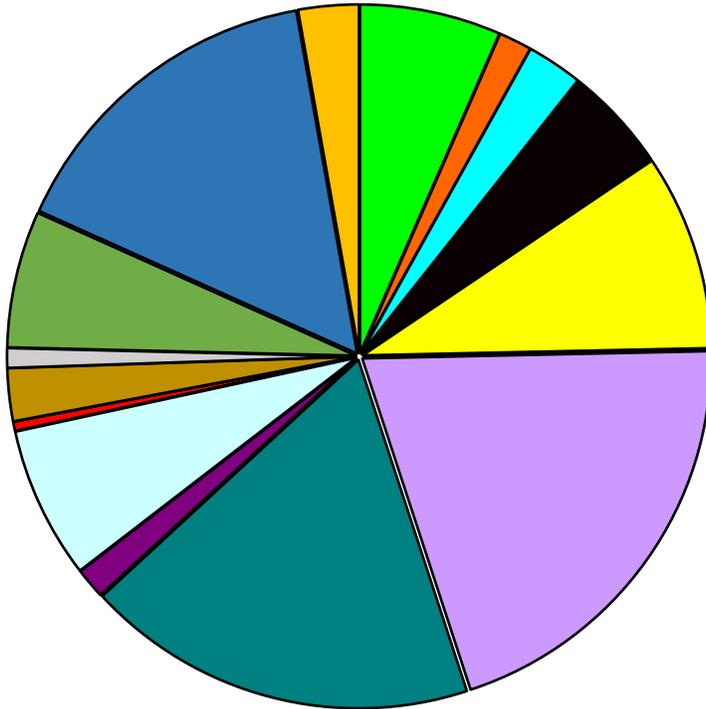
Mail to:
Custer Public Power District
Att. Tarin Burrows
P.O. Box 10
Broken Bow, NE
68822



Custer Public Power District Outages

2021 Outages YTD

The graphs shows the number of outage events.



- Prearranged 579
- Trees 135
- Animals 230
- Hot Line Clamps 434
- Equipment Failure 806
- Broken Insulator 0
- Sub-Bus Insulator Failure 0
- Miscellaneous - Uncorrectable 1797
- URD 1608
- Tie Wire Broke (Floaters) 126
- Conductor Failure 625
- Line - Arrester Caused Outage 38
- Line - Insulator Failure (Flashover) 0
- Rotten Pole 0
- OCR Failure 216.3
- High Wind & Ice 80.2
- High Wind & Lightning 560.7
- Lightning 1370.5
- Switch Failure 248

Year to date, Custer Public Power District has had 8253 customer outage hours affecting 10,793 customers.

The average outage per customer is .76 hours for the year.

Custer Public Power District and General Manager Rick Nelson are bringing leadership to the Nebraska Rural Electric Association. General Manager Rick Nelson is serving as the Interim General Manager for the next year at the NREA. The interim tenure allows the NREA time to evaluate the organization's Strategic Plan and leadership needs for the state in the continued struggle of providing reliable and affordable electricity that Nebraskan's expect.

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association is a private non-profit statewide trade association for 34 rural electric systems that provide electric service to consumers in most of the rural areas and many small towns in the great state of Nebraska. Together, the more than 1,000 dedicated employees of NREA members systems serve 249,000 meters across more than 87,700 miles of line to impact the lives of rural Nebraskans and improve the Nebraska Economy.

General Manager Rick Nelson looks forward to providing leadership for the NREA and focusing on the core values of the statewide organization. While he serves at Custer PPD, he is able to stay connected to the industry which brings the needed insight to his interim role at the NREA and helps further the public power relationships with industry partners both at the statewide level and at the federal level. His dual role helps assure that the NREA stays focused on providing support services and legislative representation that reflects the needs of rural Nebraska and the customer/owners who rely on reliable and affordable power. ♦

OFFICE HOURS

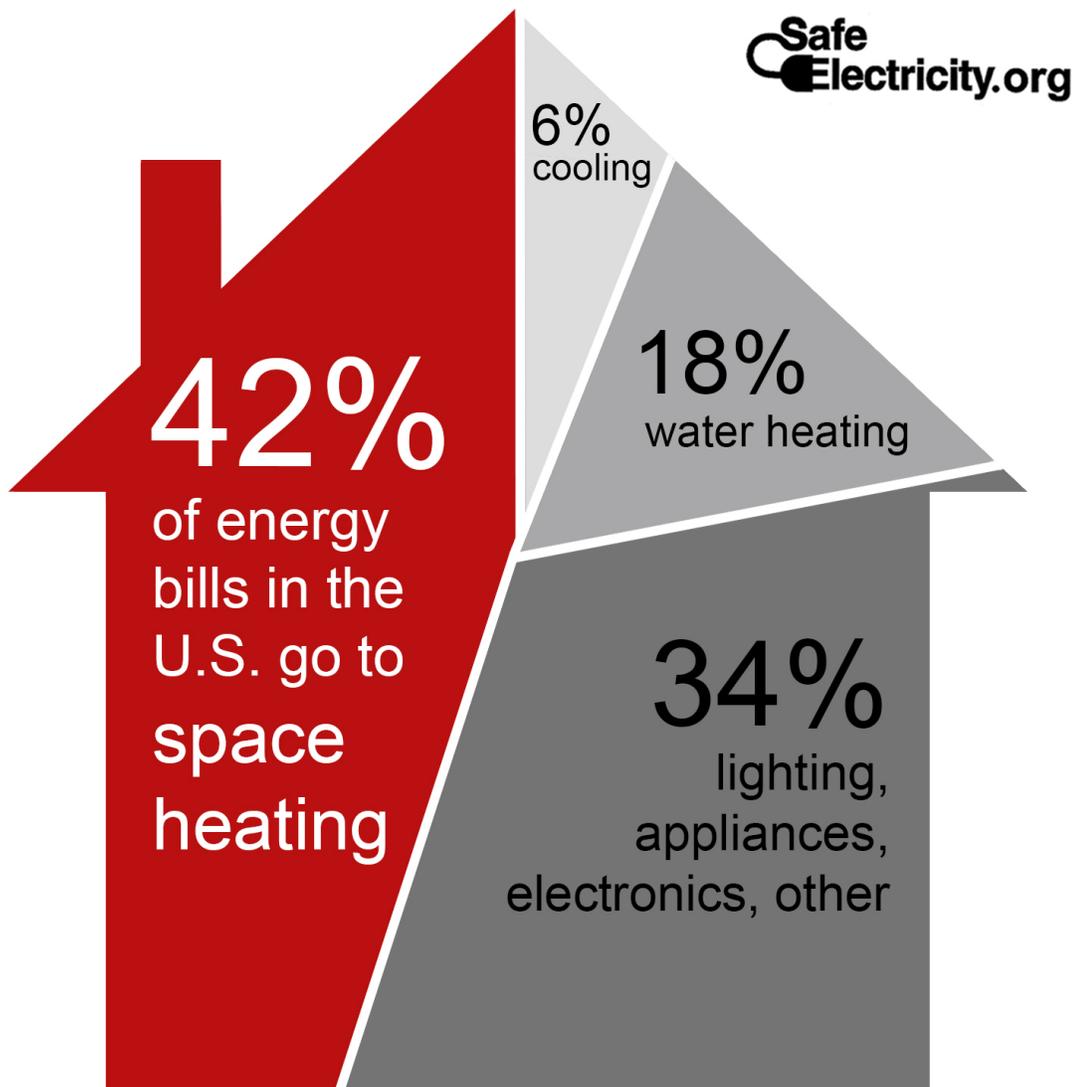
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST

For after hour emergencies,
call 1-888-749-2453.



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