

CUSTER

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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

Currents

EnergyWiseSM Tip: Wind Washing
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A Quick Guide To Generators
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© Celeste Rogers

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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Broken Bow, NE 68822

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P.O. Box 10
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Comments or Questions:

Tarin Burrows
Executive Assistant



From the GENERAL MANAGER'S desk

happy new year

It is hard to believe that we are in a new year already. Custer Public Power District continues to focus on reliability and affordability.

In 2024, Custer Public Power District has been able to stay revenue neutral and is forwarding the Nebraska Public Power District's Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) credit onto our customers. There is some concern about increasing costs of material that Custer PPD uses daily, currently these cost increases have been absorbed. We are not sure this will continue to be the case in the future, but in 2024 the increases are manageable. Custer PPD continues to operate as efficiently as possible.

Custer PPD started discussing power factor and capacitors for irrigation accounts in 2022 and has continued those discussions since then. We will implement a rate change with irrigation in 2024 that will not affect the cost of electricity on average. There will be some who see an increase and some who will see a decrease. There are many reasons for both of those scenarios, but it better reflects the cost signals Custer PPD

gets from our wholesale power supplier - NPPD.

Look for more communication on those rate schedule changes and updates in 2024. These moves will help reduce revenue impacts and our affordability moving forward.

Custer PPD continues to build projects across the District for customers and reinforce our infrastructure to provide the reliability Custer PPD has become accustomed to and that you expect from Custer PPD.

I would also like to thank all of you for participating in the customer survey that Custer PPD performed in December. The survey helps us see the needs of our customers and what we need to focus on moving forward.

Custer Public Power District looks forward to 2024 and providing affordable and reliable power to our customers. ♦

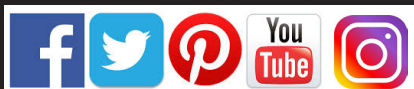
Board Meetings

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.(CT) 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 Theadford, Nebraska.

Follow us on:



HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Custer Public Power District is Seeking Applicants for the CUSTER PPD UTILITY LINE SCHOLARSHIP

The Custer PPD Scholarship Fund is administered by the Board of Directors and the Staff of Custer PPD.



Requirements for the Scholarship:

- * High School Graduate
- * Parents or Guardians are **Customers of Custer Public Power District**

Applications for the Utility Line Scholarship are available on Custer PPD's website at www.custerpower.com or by contacting Tarin Burrows at 308.872.2451 and can be picked up at the Custer PPD office in Broken Bow.

The deadline for submitting your application is March 1, 2024.



Custer Public Power District would like to say **"Thank You"** to those who submitted pictures for the 2024 calendar. Our service territory has some of the most beautiful country in Nebraska. It is also home to some very talented photographers.

This year, there were over 175 pictures submitted. There were several new photographers added to the submission list.

There were 4200 calendars printed for 2024. If you did not receive or would like an additional calendar, please call the office and we will gladly mail one to you.

Custer Public Power wishes our customers a Happy New Year!

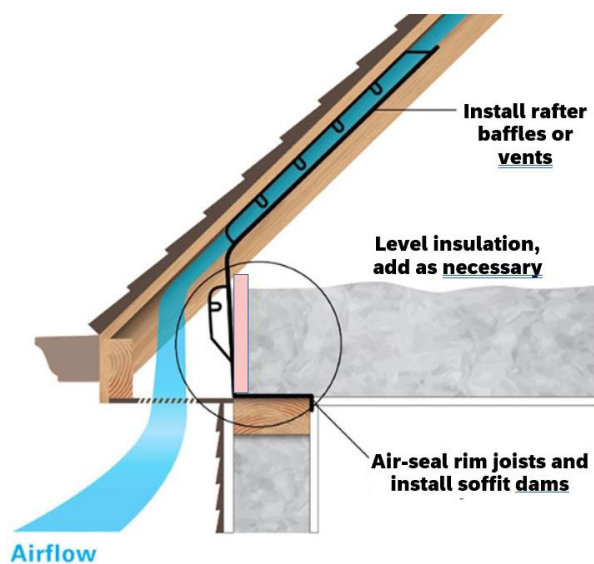


EnergyWiseSM Tip: Wind Washing

By: Energy Efficiency Program Manager Cory Fuehrer, NPPD

Wind washing: It's not a new, evolutionary way of laundering clothes. It's not a water-conserving approach to personal hygiene. It's not even a technique for cleaning dirty windows. Rather, wind washing is the movement of unconditioned air around or through buildings in such a way that diminishes or nullifies the intended thermal performance. More simply put, wind washing may be eroding the benefits of your home's insulation, especially in the attic. Therefore, it could be causing your home to use more energy during heating and cooling seasons.

Most often, wind washing is caused by airflow coming through the soffits or roof vents into unconditioned attic spaces. While air movement is necessary for proper ventilation, it shouldn't move through insulation. When it does, gusts can push loose-fill insulation out of place, causing bare spots and uneven insulation. Blown-in fiberglass and rockwool insulation are most vulnerable to its effects. Typically the problem starts in open, vented soffit areas where roof trusses set on the top plate of exterior walls.



Source: Over the Top Roofing

The solution is to direct air flow within the attic while eliminating its opportunity to pass through insulation as illustrated below. Start by raking loose-fill insulation away or pulling blanket insulation back from vented soffit areas. Air seal rim joists and drywall seams with spray foam insulation. Also seal floor cavities below attic knee walls and cantilevered floors, if necessary. Install rafter baffles or vents at each rafter bay to direct air flow above rather than through attic insulation. Cut foam board to snugly fit between ceiling joists and install them to serve as soffit dams. These should extend four inches above the final level of insulation where possible. Remember, the US Department of Energy recommends insulating attics in Nebraska to an R-value of 49. This will likely require an insulation depth of 16 to 18-inches. Redistribute existing insulation back evenly into affected areas and add new insulation as necessary. If wind washing continues in problem areas, consider installing a roll of batt insulation over the top to confine loose-fill insulation. As part of home maintenance, remember to inspect attic spaces annually for the effects of wind washing and settling insulation.

Your local utility in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District wants to help you gain the most value from the energy required to heat and cool your home. Qualified customers may be eligible for EnergyWiseSM attic insulation incentives to help with improvement costs.

For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, contact Custer Public Power District at 1-308-872-4251 and ask for Customer Service Manager April Gross, or visit www.energywisenebraska.com for more information. ♦

ENERGYWISESM

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

IT PAYS



to make energy-efficient choices

Financial incentives are available

to qualified customers that help cover costs related to a variety of energy-efficient upgrades.

Residential

- High Efficiency Heat Pump
- Cooling System Tune-up
- Attic Insulation
- Heat Pump Water Heater

Commercial

- Prescriptive & Custom Lighting
- Variable Frequency Drives
- HVAC Systems
- Industrial Process Incentives

Agricultural

- Corner Pivot Variable Frequency Drive
- Irrigation Pump Efficiency
- Hog Heat Mats

Contact us for more information.

Custer Public Power District at 1-888-749-2453 or 308-872-2451 and ask for Customer Service Manager April Gross. You can also visit www.custerpower.com and look for the Rebate Program link.

In partnership with our supplier, Nebraska Public Power District, we deliver energy to you.

NEBRASKA

Magazine

Nebraska Rural Electric Association

NEBRASKA MAGAZINE IS ONLINE NOW.

READ EACH MONTH'S ARTICLES ONLINE ON
YOUR PHONE, TABLET, LAPTOP, OR DESKTOP.



WWW.NEBRASKAMAGAZINE.ORG

A QUICK GUIDE TO GENERATORS

With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before you purchase a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.



RECOMMENDED IF YOU...

... **rarely** lose power.

Recreational Inverter

Up to 2,000 watts

Lightweight, about 60 pounds

Quiet, easy to store

Power: fridge and a few smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger and home security system)

Midsized Inverter

Up to 3,500 watts

Weights up to 150 pounds

Power: fridge, laptop, five to 10 lights, phone charger, home security system and 10K BTU air conditioner

... **occasionally** lose power.
Transfer switch required.

Portable Generators and Large Inverters

Up to 7,500 watts

Weights about 300 pounds

Power: fridge, gas furnace, 10K BTU air conditioner, dishwasher, multiple lights, TV, laptop and more

Ability to connect to home's breaker panel

... **frequently** lose power.
Transfer switch required.

Home Standby

Up to 20,000 watts

Must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage

Power: nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously)

Can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane

Recommended if you frequently lose power.

SAFETY FIRST!

- Let us know if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electric panel.
- Improperly installed generators can create back feed, which is dangerous to our crews and the community.
Before using the generator, disconnect the normal source of power coming into your home/business.
- Never operate a generator indoors or in an enclosed space.

Disclaimer: Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

Source: Consumer Reports

RECIPES

Dorito Casserole

Courtesy of All Recipes @www.allrecipes.com

INGREDIENTS:

FOR THE CASSEROLE:

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 cup chopped yellow onion
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 (1-ounce) packet taco seasoning
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes and green chiles (such as RO*TEL®), drained
- 1 (15-ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup sour cream, plus more for serving
- 1 (9 1/4-ounce) bag nacho cheese or cool ranch Doritos®, lightly crushed (about 5 cups)
- 3 cups shredded Cheddar-Jack cheese

For Serving:

- 1 tomato, chopped, or to taste
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro, or to taste
- 1/2 cup salsa, or to taste

DIRECTIONS:

Gather all ingredients. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 3-quart baking dish with nonstick spray.

Cook ground beef in a very large skillet over medium heat until browned; drain any excess grease. Add onion and pepper and continue cooking until tender, about 5 minutes. Add taco seasoning and water. Simmer mixture until thickened, about 5 minutes.

Stir in diced tomatoes, sour cream, and black beans. Sprinkle 1 1/2 cups crushed chips in the bottom of the prepared dish. Evenly spoon about half of the meat mixture over the chips. Top with 1 1/2 cups crushed chips and 1 1/2 cups cheese.

Repeat with remaining meat, chips, and cheese.

Bake in the preheated oven until melted and bubbly, about 25 minutes. Top with diced tomato, green onion, and cilantro and serve with salsa and additional sour cream.



© DOTDASH MEREDITH FOOD STUDIOS

Share your
favorite recipe and
earn a gift when
it is published.



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

Giant Buckeye Cookie

Courtesy of Taste of Home @www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/giant-buckeye-cookie

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package chocolate cake mix (regular size)
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar

Optional toppings: Hot fudge ice cream topping, vanilla ice cream, whipped cream and melted creamy peanut butter

DIRECTIONS:

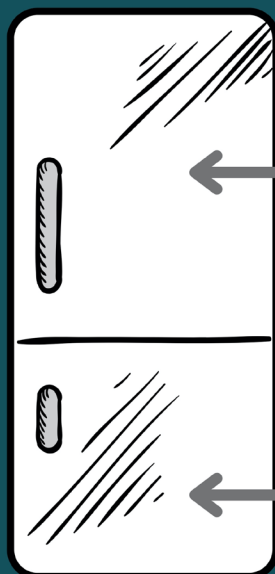
1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, eggs and oil until blended. Stir in chocolate chips. Press half the dough into a 10-in. cast-iron or other ovenproof skillet. Combine peanut butter and confectioners' sugar; spread over dough in skillet.
2. Press remaining dough between sheets of parchment into a 10-in. circle; place dough over filling.
3. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out with moist crumbs, 20-25 minutes. Serve warm, with toppings as desired.



© Taste of Home

Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



4

Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

24 OR 48

Food in a **half-full** freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a **full** freezer will last 48 hours.

Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!



OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT.
The office and area service centers
will be closed:
January 1, 2024

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



P.O. Box 10
Broken Bow, NE 68822

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOURBON IN
PERMIT NO 29

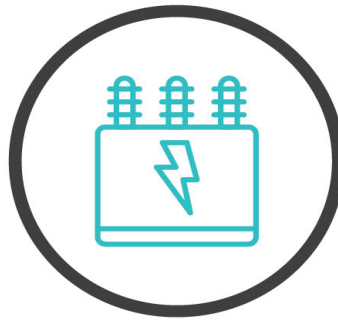
The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible – until everyone has power.



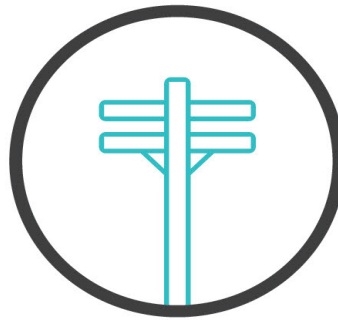
1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



2. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



3. Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



4. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

Information needed when reporting an outage in the Custer Public Power service territory:

Account or meter number.
Updated contact information.

Custer Power customers can report outages by calling 1-888-749-2453 or 308-872-2451.

Please do not report outages on Facebook or by Messenger.

You will be directed to call the above phone numbers.