

CUSTER

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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

Currents



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Photo Credits Tim Lewis

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:

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From the GENERAL MANAGER'S desk



Back in the day when my kids were younger, I would look at their report cards for "Exceeding Expectation" or "EE" grades on classes that couldn't be assigned a regular letter grade. The expectation was that these would turn into A's and B's when they got older. I hope they don't lose that desire to exceed expectations.

At Custer Public Power, we strive for EE's every day. We don't want to do merely what you expect us to do, namely, to provide you with reliable power at the lowest cost possible. We want to go further and do better by providing exceptional customer service and offering programs that help you save time and money.

Custer Public Power linemen are a prime example of Custer Public Power's ability to exceed expectations. They routinely work in rough weather and put in long hours. They do it gladly because they want to do an exceptional job for you.

You are less likely to see in action many of the people who work behind the scenes to make your public power district the best it can be.

Our Engineering group and Operations group are always exploring new technologies and techniques for building and maintaining our system to improve its reliability. Our Customer

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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 9:00 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.

continued

Solutions Representatives work to make bill paying easier and more convenient, using programs like budget billing. Our Customer Service team wants you to have a positive and satisfying experience when you call or stop by the office.

Because we are a Public Power District, we have a special responsibility to support the communities we serve and to exceed expectations in that as well. That means we aim to improve the quality of life by supporting events and by volunteering our time in the communities we serve.

Whether it's a power outage or energy audit, a billing question or a community event, we're working hard to achieve those "Exceeding Expectation" grades from you every day.

Although we recognize our lineman in April for Lineman's Appreciation Day, this appreciation lasts all year long. I can't say enough how much I appreciate them and the work they do every day. This appreciation also extends to all the employees at your Public Power District, because without their effort to exceed expectations, a lineman's job is just that much harder in the field.

It's a team that makes things happen, which includes every body at Custer Public Power District. ♦



In April, Custer Public Power District recognizes Lineman Appreciation Day and Administrative Professionals Day.

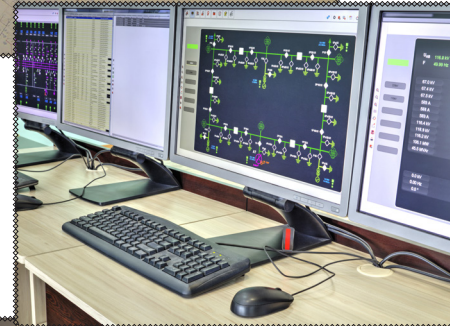
There are two recognized days for Linemen Appreciation. The first, April 18 which is National Lineman Appreciation Day. Senator Johnny Isakson of Georgia introduced Senate Resolution 95 on April 10, 2013, to set April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. This resolution has never been amended since it was introduced. The second day, the second Monday of April, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) decided they would pass a resolution that would set aside this day as Lineman Appreciation Day. This resolution was passed December 2014.

Custer Public Power District follows the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA)'s direction along with other Public Power Districts by celebrating on the second Monday in April.

Custer PPD also recognizes the Administrative employees, the behind-the-scenes people; the office staff, accounting, metering, engineering, and administrative employees. There are several days throughout the year that recognizes these people.

Without a team effort, Custer Public Power District could not provide the electricity needed to service the district. For simplicity, Custer PPD recognizes all our employees on the second Monday of April.

If you see a Custer PPD employee, please tell them "Thank You" for their dedication to keeping your lights shining bright. ♦



Repairing vs. Replacing Your Appliances



Here is the typical life span of major appliances:

- Range – 18 years
- Furnace – 17 years
- Washer/Dryer – 16 years
- Refrigerator – 15 years
- Microwave – 15 years
- Air conditioner – 15 years
- Dishwasher – 13 years

As a result of the constant technological improvements made by appliance manufacturers, newer machines not only use less electricity, but they have more operational features and are made to last longer than counterparts produced within even the last decade. The efficiency will influence both your lifestyle and your checkbook.

As homeowners with many bills to pay, our tendency is to buy an appliance and keep it running as long as humanly possible. Repairing an old, faulty appliance may seem like the cheaper option, but this may not be the greatest strategy when we think about energy efficiency.

A key reason electric bills are so high is because old, inefficient appliances are eating up more energy than they are worth. For example, refrigerator models predating 1993 could be costing you up to \$140 per year in electricity alone. If some of your major appliances fall into this category, you may be losing over hundreds of dollars a year.

“Knowing how much energy your appliances use annually can be a great money saver,” says Erin Hollinshead, Executive Director of the Energy Education Council. “You can then make smart decisions on whether it would cost less to keep an old appliance running or buy a newer, more efficient one.”

To figure out how much energy your appliances use, check for an energy efficiency label. The amount of energy typically used per year is listed in kilowatt hours. If a label is not available, a

home inspector can estimate energy use by determining the age of the appliances in the house and assessing their operation by checking for signs of wear and damage.

To translate this energy use into electric bills, check your utility bill to find out the kilowatt hour rate. You can then multiply this rate by the number of kilowatt hours your appliance uses per year to figure out the annual cost it takes to operate the appliance. By adding this figure to the initial price it cost to purchase the appliance and the cost of any repairs, you then have a comparison level to decide whether your appliance would cost you more or less to run than a new one.

“People often forget that over the life span of most appliances, the cost to operate them is far more than the initial purchase price,” says Hollinshead. “Therefore, using more energy-efficient appliances is almost always the wisest choice, even if the initial prices seem daunting.”

If your appliance is nearing the end of its life span, it is time to calculate whether repairing it or replacing it will cost more.

Consider improvements made on some of the biggest energy-using appliances in the household. For example, a new refrigerator uses about 50 percent less energy than older models. Newer refrigerators feature CFC-free sealed systems, more storage, and easier cleaning.

A new washer and dryer unit uses 30 percent less energy than older models. Newer units feature larger capacity, better cleaning performance, quieter operation, preprogrammed cycle selections, reduced water usage, and automatic dryness sensors to avoid over drying and save energy.

A new air conditioner is 20 percent more efficient than units 10 years older and can save you roughly \$930 in operation costs over its life span. Newer air conditioners feature automatic temperature adjustments, different air speed options, and increased circulation efficiency for consistent, even cooling. “You’ll want to take these factors into consideration when you decide whether your old appliance is worth the trouble and expense of repairs,” says Hollinshead. ♦

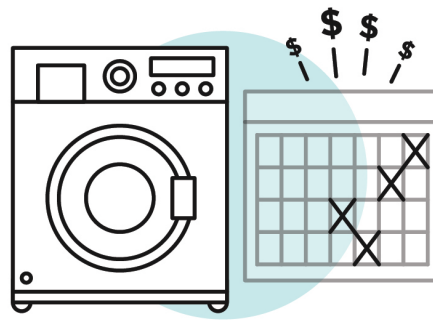
TIPS FOR PURCHASING NEW APPLIANCES

When shopping for new appliances, there are two price tags you should consider:

1. Purchase price of the appliance (think of this as a down payment)

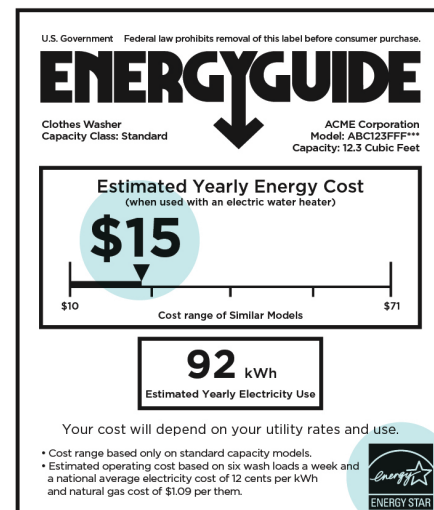


2. Cost to operate the appliance over its lifetime (how much energy the appliance uses)



That second price is important because you'll be paying for the appliance's energy use for the next 10 to 20 years.

- **Look for the ENERGY STAR® label.** ENERGY STAR-qualified products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality.
- **Carefully review the EnergyGuide label on the appliance.** The label provides information about how much energy an appliance uses compared to similar models.
- **Once you choose your make and model, compare prices.** Keep in mind, many retailers will match a lower price offered by competitors.
- **Recycle or sell your old appliance.** Ask the retailer if they'll pick up your old appliance, or you can sell it yourself. Either option is better than the landfill!



Source: Department of Energy

RECIPES

Slow Cooker Dublin Coddle

Courtesy of Sarah with Curious Cuisiniere at www.curiouscuisiniere.com

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb pork sausages
- 1 lb thick cut bacon, chopped
- 3 onions, halved and quartered
- 2 lb waxy potatoes (like red potatoes), peeled and quartered
- 1 ½ Tbsp parsley, dry
- 4 c warm water
- Salt and pepper (to taste)



DIRECTIONS:

- In a large skillet, grill the sausages and bacon over medium heat until golden. Remove from the heat and cut each sausage into 3-4 pieces.
- In the bowl of your slow cooker layer (in this order) onions, bacon, sausage pieces, and potatoes, sprinkling a little parsley between each layer.
- Pour the water over top of the ingredients.
- Cover the slow cooker and cook on low for 5-6 hours or on high for 3-4 hours.
- Taste the broth before serving and add salt and pepper as desired.

Note: If you would like to prepare the coddle in the traditional, oven fashion, layer the ingredients into a Dutch oven as directed. Bring the mixture to a boil. Then, place the, covered, coddle into a preheated 300F oven and cook for 3-5 hours.

Traditional Irish Coddle usually has an Irish Stout, such as Guinness added to the broth at the very end of the cooking. Approximately 1/4 cup. Irish soda bread is served with the coddle.

Another option for a little more flavor is to substitute chicken broth for equal parts of the water.

Lemon Bark

Courtesy of tasteofhome.com

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 packages (10 to 12 ounces each) white baking chips
- 1 cup crushed hard lemon candies, divided

DIRECTIONS:

Line a 15x10x1-in. pan with foil; set aside. In top of a double boiler or a metal bowl over barely simmering water, melt baking chips; stir until smooth. Stir in 2/3 cup crushed candies; spread into prepared pan. Sprinkle with remaining candies.

Cool. Refrigerate until set, about 1 hour.

Break into pieces. Store in an airtight container.



Photo by Taste of Home



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

Nebraska Rural Electric Leadership Camp at Camp Comeca, Cozad, Nebraska

July 9-13, 2023

High School students who receive their electrical services from Custer Public Power District and are in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades are eligible for the all-expense paid camp.

It's free, you are going to make life-long friends, and learn about the electric industry through interesting workshops, fascinating demonstrations and presentations by regional experts addressing the many issues affecting the rural electric program. There's also swimming, sports, a banquet and a dance. A tour to the Gerald Gentleman Power Station and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plant provide for a first-hand look at the process of generating electricity.



So don't delay...apply today!

With attending the NREA Leadership Camp at Camp Comeca, there are several opportunities for an all-expense paid trip to the NRECA Youth Tour at Washington D.C. in 2024.

Now that you know this isn't just another camp, you may be asking yourself, "*should I go?*"

You should if you have:

- Leadership potential
- An awesome personality
- A strong academic record
- An interest in meeting new people



For more information call Tarin Burrows at 308-872-2451.

A camp application can be found at custerpower.com or picked up at the office in Broken Bow.

OFFICE HOURS

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

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



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For more information, contact
April Gross, Customer Service Manager
Custer Public Power District
PO Box 10
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We offer a wide range of EnergyWiseSM incentives designed to help you save energy, money and contribute to a more sustainable future for all Nebraskans.

Together with our power provider, Nebraska Public Power District.

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