Custer Public Power District Currents

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



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© Torey McMullen

CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT Currents

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*

The First Year & Looking Forward

As Custer Public Power District approaches the end of another year, I find myself reflecting on my first year as General Manager of Custer PPD. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to learn more about our electric system, work alongside our employees, and meet many of the customers and communities that Custer PPD serves. I am proud of what Custer PPD has accomplished and look forward to building on that progress in 2027.

As Custer PPD looks ahead to the new year, I also want to address an important change that will affect our customers. Due to increasing costs, Custer PPD will be making a rate adjustment effective January 1. The final amount has not yet been determined as Custer PPD continues to look for ways to keep the increase as small as possible. Rate increases are never taken lightly. The Board of Directors and I continue to carefully evaluate the final adjustment.

The largest expense that Custer PPD has as your local electric utility is the cost of the power purchased to serve our customers, and that expense will increase significantly in 2027. While those costs are outside of our control, Custer PPD continues to manage expenses and rising costs. Throughout the budgeting process, management and the Board of Directors have carefully reviewed operating expenses, capital projects, and other areas of the organization to identify opportunities to reduce spending.

That work has made a difference. The rate adjustment our customers will see should be considerably less than the increase Custer PPD will experience in the cost of purchasing power. I recognize that any increase impacts our customers, and management and the Board of Directors will work carefully to limit the increase as much as possible.

As I close out my first year at Custer PPD, I want to thank our employees and the Board of Directors for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. I also want to thank our customers for the conversations, questions, and support I have received since arriving at Custer PPD. I have learned a great deal about the district and the customers, communities, and territory that Custer PPD serves.

From everyone at Custer PPD, we wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a Happy New Year.

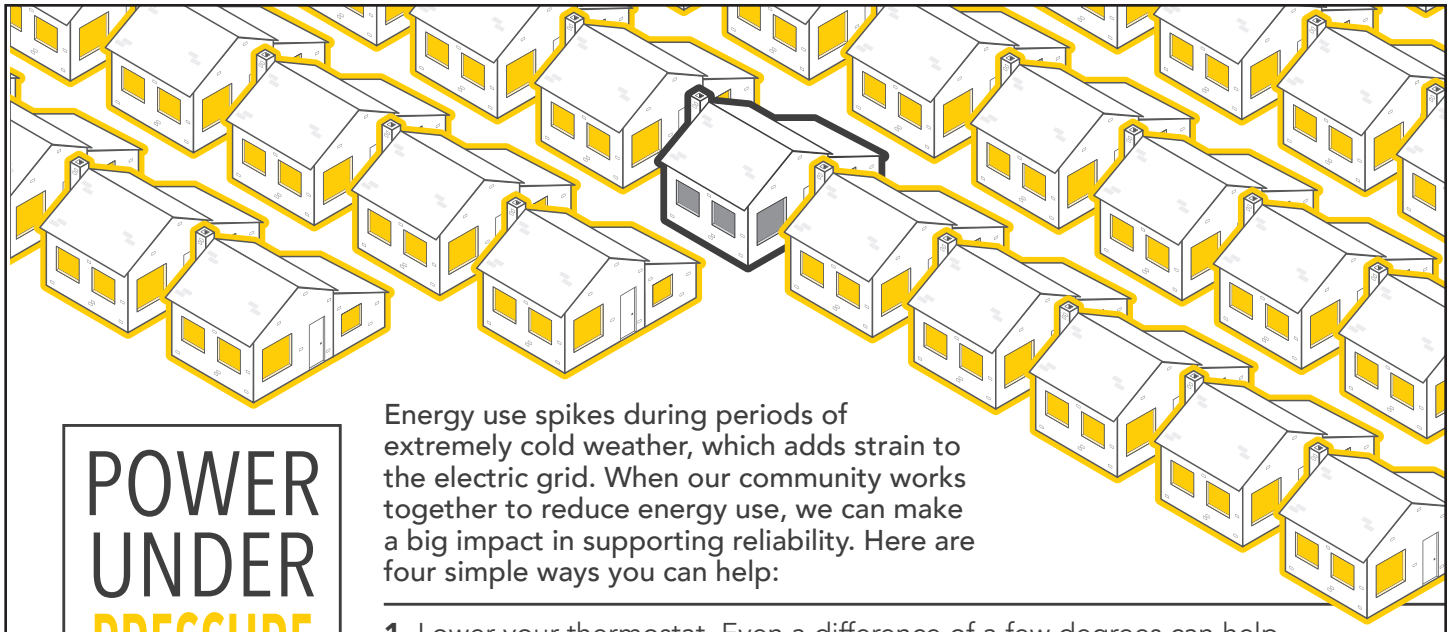
Brad Noack
General Manager

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 March at 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.



POWER UNDER PRESSURE

Four Ways to Ease Grid Strain This Winter

Energy use spikes during periods of extremely cold weather, which adds strain to the electric grid. When our community works together to reduce energy use, we can make a big impact in supporting reliability. Here are four simple ways you can help:

1. Lower your thermostat. Even a difference of a few degrees can help.
2. Delay using large appliances. Run them in the evenings or midday when demand is lower.
3. Lower your water heater to 120 degrees and avoid back-to-back showers.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Electronics and lighting add up. Unplug any unused items.

Beat the Peak

By Anne Prince

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Custer Public Power District must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply––regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Custer Public Power District must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all customer/owners during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including Custer Public Power District typically pay more for electricity––either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power––during those morning and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper––like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use of large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community. Visit Custerpower.com and go to the Energy Advisor link at the bottom of the web page to learn more about energy saving tips.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

Empowering Progress

Preparedness

BE PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE

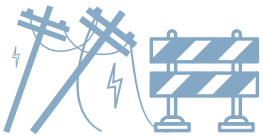
Power outages are more likely to occur during severe weather events, such as strong thunderstorms, hurricanes and winter storms, or other natural disasters, such as wildfires.

FEMA

FEMA V-1008/December 2023

A power outage is when the electrical power is lost unexpectedly.

Power outages . . .



may disrupt communications, water utilities, and transportation for a long time.



may cause businesses, stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks, schools and other services to close.



may cause food spoilage and water contamination.



may cause injuries, disease or death, or prevent use of medical devices.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM A POWER OUTAGE



Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.



Unplug appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.



Use generators outdoors and at least 20 feet away from building openings.



Make a plan for refrigerating medicines and powering medical devices.



Stay fire safe. Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.



If safe, go to an alternate location for heat or cooling.



Keep mobile phones and electronic equipment charged before a power outage.



New Deadline for 2027 Irrigation Service Requests

Beginning with the 2027 irrigation season, Custer Public Power District (CPPD) will implement a deadline for new irrigation service requests.

Customers considering a new irrigation service for the 2027 season should contact Custer Public Power District and submit a service inquiry no later than December 30, 2026. Requests received by this deadline will be considered for the 2027 construction schedule, with the goal of completing eligible services prior to June 1, 2027.

Submitting an inquiry by the deadline does not guarantee that service will be available for the 2027 irrigation season. Construction schedules may be affected by weather, material availability, system requirements, and other unforeseen circumstances.

Customers must also promptly confirm their service and provide all required information and documentation to meet Custer PPD requirements. This includes providing the confirmed horsepower for all motors that will be connected to the new service. Having accurate motor horsepower information is important for Custer PPD to properly evaluate the electrical load and design the service.

Custer PPD has developed an Irrigation Service Information Form to help customers gather the information needed for their new service. Customers are encouraged to work with their well provider, pivot provider, and electrician when completing the form to ensure motor sizes and other service information are accurate and finalized.

Confirmed services will generally be prioritized based on when all necessary information and documentation are received. Actual construction scheduling may vary as Custer PPD coordinates projects based on location, crew availability, system needs, and other operational considerations.

Service inquiries received after December 30, 2026, will still be accepted; however, they will be scheduled only after eligible services requested by the deadline have been completed. As a result, services requested after the deadline may not be available for use during the 2027 irrigation season.

Tips for planning a "NEW" irrigation service for 2027?

- Contact Custer PPD early
- Coordinate with your equipment providers and electrician
- Submit your inquiry by **December 30, 2026**

RECIPES

Cranberry Brie Pull Apart Bread

Courtesy of Erin Jensen @ www.thewoodenskillet.com



© Erin Jensen

INGREDIENTS:
1 loaf of sourdough bread
1/2 cup cranberry jam,
8 oz brie cheese, remove rind and cut into small pieces
1 tablespoon butter, melted
garnish: fresh rosemary

DIRECTIONS:
1. **Prep:** Preheat oven to 350.
2. ***Cut Bread:*** Use a serrated bread knife to make horizontal cuts across 1 loaf of sourdough bread, lengthwise. Do NOT cut all the way through the loaf. Turn the bread and make the same type of cuts going across the bread the other direction, creating a checkerboard pattern.
3. **Add Jam:** Use a spoon to evenly distribute a 1/2 cup cranberry jam into all of the cuts in the bread.
4. **Add Cheese:** Now, evenly place the pieces of brie cheese in all the bread crevices.
5. **Butter:** Use a basting brush to lightly brush the top of the bread with melted butter.
6. **Bake:** Place the bread on a baking sheet, loosely cover with aluminum foil, and bake for 10 minutes. Remove the foil and continue baking for another 10 minutes or until cheese is melted.
7. **Serve:** Put bread on a serving platter and garnish with fresh rosemary. Enjoy!

Notes any variety of jam will work here.

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

Soft Molasses Cookies

Courtesy of Serious Eats - Caroline Russock @ www.seriouseats.com



© ADOBE AI

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup (2 sticks, 8 ounces) unsalted butter
1 cup (7 ounces) sugar, plus more for coating the dough
1/2 cup (4 ounces) molasses
2 1/4 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 1/4 teaspoons cinnamon
1 1/4 teaspoons ground cloves
3/4 teaspoon ground ginger
2 large eggs
3 1/2 cups (15 3/4 ounces) unbleached all-purpose flour

DIRECTIONS:
1. In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add molasses while mixing at a slow speed, then baking soda, salt, and spices. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Scrape down the sides of the bowl to make sure everything is incorporated. Stir in flour. Cover the bowl and refrigerate the dough for one hour.
2. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Lightly grease (or line with parchment) two baking sheets.
3. Shape or scoop the dough into 1 1/2-inch balls; a tablespoon cookie scoop works well here. Roll them in granulated sugar and put them on the prepared baking sheets, leaving about 2 inches between them.
4. Bake cookies for 10 minutes. After taking them out of the oven, allow cookies to cool on the pan for 10 minutes before transferring them to a rack to finish cooling.

DECK THE HALLS SAFELY

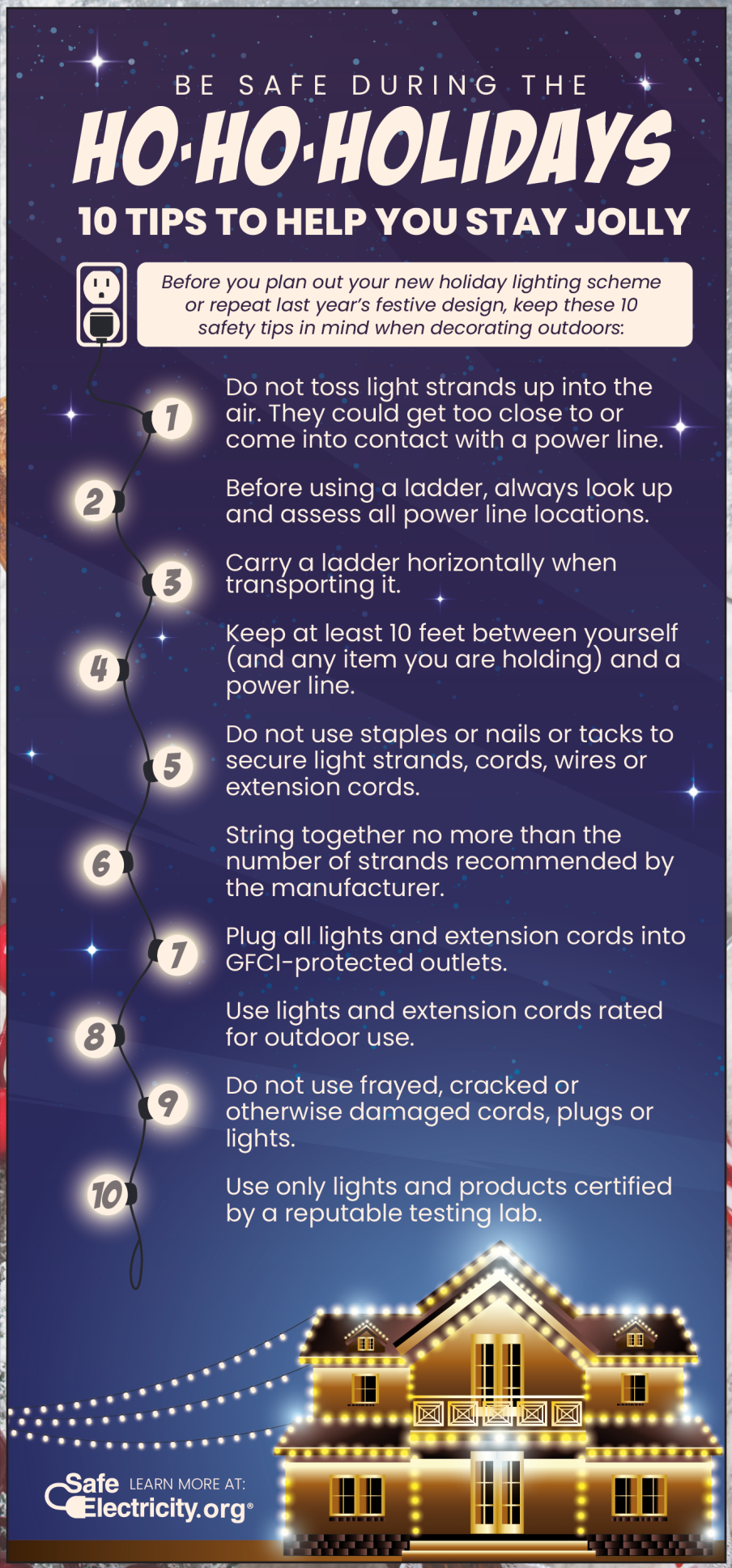
There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do each and every year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents.

Safe Electricity offer several tips as you deck the halls this season:

♦ When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw light or other decorations into trees near power lines.
♦ Keep ladders, equipment and yourself at least ten feet from power lines.
♦ Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.
♦ Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).
♦ Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the number of strands you can string together.
♦ Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
♦ Do not attach cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place to use caution. Use care when placing and decorating trees inside your home. Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces and radiators. Water fresh-cut trees frequently. Turn off lights before you go to sleep. Use a timer to help.

Safe Electricity wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on holiday safety tips visit: SafeElectricty.org



OFFICE HOURS



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

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

The Broken Bow Office & Service Centers will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th to observe Veteran's Day, November 26 & 27 to observe Thanksgiving, December 25 to observe Chrismtas, & January 1 to observe New Years.

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
CUSTER
Empowering Progress

P.O. Box 10
Broken Bow, NE 68822

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