



EnLIGHTening NEWS

Serving Stanton County and parts of Madison, Wayne, Cuming, and Colfax counties

February 2016

New Projects for SCPPD in 2016

**By Chad Waldow,
General Manager**

The 2016 Operating and Capital Budget for Stanton County Public Power District has been approved by the Board of Directors. There are several projects included in the budget that will continue to improve our service and reliability to the end-use customer. The range of projects includes completion of a new substation, powerline upgrades, enhanced communications with our customers and additional truck warehouse and office space.

The new substation that serves Stanton will be completed in 2016. Many of you may have watched this substation progress in the later part of 2015. We are nearing the end of this project, with some of the more tedious work ahead, such as installing the new transformer, regulators, OCRs (breakers) and associated technology. There is some work

to be done to connect the substation to the existing system. This project will increase capacity and improve reliability to the customers living in Stanton.

We strive to provide reliable power to our customers; therefore, we must constantly improve our system. We identify areas within the system that may be weak spots or some areas that need upgraded for capacity issues. These projects are then prioritized by reliability, value to the end-use customer and cost to the rate payers. We have identified several projects system wide that meet this criteria. We will be upgrading several lines across the system over the next year.

We have been looking for ways to improve communication to our customers. Local control is one of many benefits of Public Power in Nebraska, therefore, we want to be able to communicate with our customers.

Headquarters Facility Timeline

80 Years: 1936 to 2016

**1936 -Organizational meeting
at Courthouse Extension Office**

**1938 - Original Office & Shop
at 1005 Hickory Street, Stanton**

**1957 - Current Headquarters
building at 807 Douglas St,
Stanton**

**1969 - South Warehouse added
at 207 9th Street, Stanton**

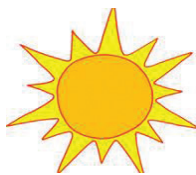
**1976 - Pole Yard added at 205
9th Street, Stanton**

**1980 - Rear Truck Bays added
to 807 Douglas St**

**2016 - Add east truck barn and
office space remodel**

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February 2016 EnergyWiseSM Tip: Go Solar?



Undoubtedly, you've heard commercials about making your own electricity with solar panels also known as a photovoltaic system. Some TV and radio commercials for solar even tout they have "the secret that power companies don't want you to know about!" Really? When it comes to electricity, you live in Nebraska, the only 100 percent public power state in the nation. That means, contrary to what the advertisers would have you believe, Nebraska's electric utilities are dedicated to delivering reliable, low-cost, sustainable energy to all customers now and in the future. It also means your electric utility company doesn't have any secrets and would enjoy the opportunity to visit with you about going solar!

Before you commit to installing a new photovoltaic (solar) system, here are some points you might want to consider:

Energy Efficiency – While investing in energy efficiency such as upgrading to LED lighting, adding insulation, or weatherizing your home may not be as exciting as adding solar panels, it provides a better return on your investment. By reducing the amount of total electricity needed to run your home, you also reduce the amount of solar energy needed.

Incentives – Federal tax credits are available for installing solar. In addition, the Nebraska Energy Office offers low interest rate financing on qualifying projects.

Community Solar or Home Rooftop – If your community offers the opportunity, it may be cheaper to buy into a community solar project than to install your own rooftop solar. Often, this is more cost-effective since investment costs are shared with others.

Buy or Lease – Be sure to understand all costs, risks, advantages and disadvantages of buying vs. leasing a photovoltaic system. This includes warranties, ownership transfers of the system or your home, maintenance, etc.

Tracking vs. Fixed – Understand the difference in production levels between tracking and fixed-mounted systems. While tracking systems usually produce more electricity than fixed systems, they also come with a higher price tag.

Maintenance – While there is little maintenance to a photovoltaic system, note that all should receive an annual inspection and some may need periodic panel washing.

Local Public Power Utility – Make sure you understand your utility company's rates, interconnection policies and how you can still receive power from the traditional electric grid when the sun isn't shining.

Excess Power – In the event your solar system produces more electricity than your home uses, you will need to understand your utility's net metering policies and rates. Compensation for energy put back on the electrical grid is usually at a rate lower than your retail cost since your local public power utility must install and maintain the infrastructure necessary to bring you electricity when your solar system can't meet your energy needs.

While many of these points may be difficult to ascertain, note that your local electric utility and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of your energy dollar. That includes helping with weighing the benefits and costs of going solar! Additional information on solar options and opportunities can be found at <http://www.nppd.com/innovation/solar>. For more ideas on saving or producing energy in your home, along with possible EnergyWiseSM energy efficiency financial incentives, contact your local utility or visit www.nppd.com.



EnergyWiseSM Incentives

NEW PROGRAMS IN 2016:

EnergyWiseSM programs available for the benefit of SCPPD customers:

RESIDENTIAL:



NEW PROGRAM:

Heat Pump Water Heater -

- \$200 incentive for air source heat pump water heaters, with efficiency factor greater than 1.9.
- \$500 incentive for ground source heat pump water heaters, with efficiency factor greater than 2.8.
- No incentive for desuperheaters.

High Efficiency Heat Pumps -

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| 15 SEER | \$200 |
| 16 SEER | \$400 |
| 17+ SEER, | \$600 |
| Water source heat pump | \$1,200 |

New category:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Variable capacity water source | \$1,700 |
|--------------------------------|---------|

Cooling System Tune-Up **\$30**

Residential Attic Insulation **up to \$300**

Residential LED Lighting **\$3 credit/bulb**

Receive a \$3 credit to your SCPPD light bill for each LED bulb purchased. (minimum 800 lumens)

Up to 15 bulbs may be purchased per year. Other stipulations may apply, see application for more details.

COMMERCIAL:

*Area/Directional Lighting -

Replacement of old HID or incandescent fixtures and lamps to a more energy efficient fixture or lamp -

**Incentive dollars differ to the fixture/lamp*

For applications or additional information on these programs contact the SCPPD office or visit www.scppd.com.

Save Time! - Pay On-Line

SmartHub can also be used to review your usage, and find ways to save energy and save money! You can find a link on our website:

www.scppd.net. To set up an account you just need your account number and the name listed on your bill. If you do not want a *Smart-Hub* account but want to take advantage of the on-line payments, you can click on the "Pay Now" link on the SCPPD website. You will need your account number for this process as well.



Projects

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We will be enhancing our newsletter, implementing social media and improving our website. You may have noticed that we now will be printing this newsletter in color.

The planning has begun to add additional truck warehouse space and office/lineman space. This project has been in the plans since the purchase of two lots adjacent to the existing facility several years ago. Our business has rapidly changed over the last 80 years and so have the requirements of our facility.

We are also looking to solve several issues within our operations by adding some new space and better utilizing what we currently have. There are many factors that triggered this decision. We have tools, equipment and materials that sit outside because of the lack of warehouse space. The size of our fleet is much different than it was when our building was constructed. Our operation now includes an Information Technology (IT) Department and this was never planned for in the original design of the facility. This addition of the technology includes smart grid technology, computer servers and many electronics that are now used in the daily operations. This has changed our facility requirements drastically. It has been over 35 years since any new additions to our facility. (as shown on the timeline on page 1) We are looking to add some additional space to provide an adequate working environment at the most reasonable cost.

It takes the effort of all employees here to complete these projects. As a team, we will work toward our goal of providing safe and reliable electricity to our customers at a reasonable cost. We will highlight some of these projects throughout the year in our newsletters. I wish everyone a Safe and Prosperous New Year!

Plan Ahead for Summer Construction Projects

Stanton County Public Power linemen spend the spring and summer months updating existing utility lines and building new lines in our service area. As the weather warms up, we begin to plan our summer projects. If you are planning to add to your existing service or build a new service, please contact the Stanton County Public Power District office and ask for Bruce Hoehne. Any new pasture pump wells, or grain drying bins or irrigation services that you may be considering this year will need to be planned into this construction schedule. The sooner you call, the better your chances of getting things done in a timely manner. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this planning.

Irrigation Contracts:

The 2016 Irrigation service contracts will be mailed out March 1, 2016. Please review the information sent to you. Once you have selected the rate you want, please mark the appropriate box on the Irrigation Rate Agreement, sign and date each form for each electric irrigation system you operate and then return the contract to the SCPPD office by the due date listed in the letter.

INFORMATION ABOUT SCPPD

When you have an emergency, SCPPD people are standing by!

In the case of an outage, first check to see if the fuses below the meter are good. If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out. If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position. Check with your neighbors to see if they have electricity. By doing this before calling, we can determine if it is a line or an individual outage. This can cut down on the outage time. Please give the name that is listed on the billing, plus the physical address and/or the legal description of the location, to ensure the crew will find the correct place.

Questions about your bill?

Please call SCPPD, 402-439-2228, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you have your meter serial number or customer account number. All account payments should be mailed to:

Stanton County Public Power District
807 Douglas Street, P.O. Box 319
Stanton, NE 68779-0319

Board of Directors with Board position

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Jim Scherer..... | President |
| Doug Oertwich..... | Vice President |
| Weldon Marotz..... | Secretary |
| John Gall..... | Treasurer |
| Robert Schellpeper..... | Director |
| Gary Koehlmoos..... | Director |

Manager
Chad Waldow

For Outage Reporting or Emergency service

Call 1-877-439-2228.

Before 8 a.m. or after 4:30 p.m.

Call 1-877-439-2300.

Communicate Electronically
With SCPPD

Internet: www.scppd.com

E-mail: scppd@scppd.net



It's the law!

Call 811
Before You Dig!

Or 1-800-331-5666

"Diggers Hotline of Nebraska"
Also www.ne-diggers.com