

February 2018



# EnLIGHTening NEWS

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

## Celebrating 30 Years of Service

The Stanton County Public Power District has seen many changes over the last 80 years. Employees, board member and customers have come and gone, and the industry continues to progress.

Weldon Marotz has seen many of those changes first hand in his 30 years of service to the Board of Directors. His family is among those who built the first lines and saw the lights come on, for the first time. Since that time, he has seen advancement in technology: Billing cards written by hand to computer systems that can calculate hundreds of bills at a time; mailing in your meter reading every month to new meters that can send the reading to the office for you; and driving pickup trucks up and down the line to find the issue to new mapping systems that will point out a disruption for you.

He remembers very clearly, the first winter storm as a Board member. The ice and snow had all linemen out and Board members

were asked to help. He patrolled line with Bruce Hoehne for 3-4 days until all customers had their power restored. He recalls pulling off icy tree limbs and trudging through the snow to find lines that had broken off the poles.

Weldon was good friends with Willis Hoehne, former superintendent of SPPD, and Stan Schellpeper, former SPPD board member, and appreciated what they had contributed to the growth of SPPD. When Stan resigned from the Board of Directors in 1986 to pursue a role in Nebraska Legislature, Weldon felt a duty to serve and continue that growth in Public Power. He was elected to the board in 1987.

As a lifetime member of the community, Weldon is proud to serve his

neighbors and help keep electricity affordable, reliable and efficient. He feels that the expansion of the SPPD headquarters in 2016 was a great accomplishment in his time on the Board. It was very important to him to have all equipment indoors, and a clean, comfortable, efficient workspace for our linemen.

On behalf of the SPPD staff, and members of the community he represents, we thank Weldon for his service, knowledge, and sense of responsibility to the District.



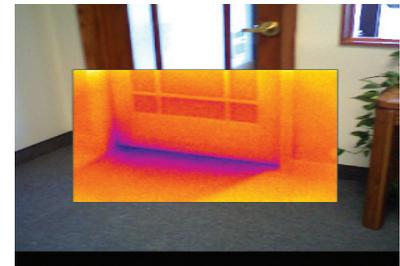
# Energy Efficiency Tip: Infiltration

When the thermometer dips below 20°F and there is more than a little breeze outside, you can find out a lot about how well your home seals out the cold. You might notice your curtains lightly swaying with each pulse of wind. You might go downstairs into your basement and wonder why it feels 10 degrees colder than the main floor. Perhaps you wonder why the snow has already melted off your roof while your neighbor's is still totally white. Worse yet, you might have opened your latest utility bill to find you used two or three times more energy than the prior month. All of these situations are often the result of one common problem: infiltration.

Infiltration is the unintentional or accidental introduction of outside air into a home, typically through cracks in the building envelope and through use of entryways. Some people refer to infiltration as air leakage. In most homes, about one-third of the energy used for space conditioning is due to infiltration. As such, reducing infiltration can yield significant energy savings, with rapid payback.

To gain an accurate estimation of how much infiltration your home is subject to, a blower door test can be conducted. What is a blower door? It is a powerful fan that attaches to an external doorway (typically the entrance to the home) and blows air into or out of the house to pressurize or depressurize the home. The house is depressurized to a pressure of 50 pascals less than outside, which is the equivalent of a steady 20 mile-per-hour wind blowing at all sides of the building. Once this pressure is achieved, the device measures airflow needed to produce this pressure, which of course is the same as the airflow leaking into the house through various cracks. The resulting value is measured in Air Changes per Hour, or ACH. This indicates how many times per hour the total volume of air inside a home is replaced by outside air due to infiltration.

The State of Nebraska currently requires new homes be built to meet the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code, which states air changes must be less than 7 ACH at 50 pascals. As Nebraska adopts newer versions of the code, that number will drop below 5 ACH.



If you live in an existing home, there are numerous things you can do to reduce infiltration. Here are a few:

- 1 - Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows that leak air.
- 2 - Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.
- 3 - Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on walls. Inspect dirty spots in your insulation for air leaks and mold. Seal leaks with low-expansion spray foam made for this purpose, and install house flashing if needed.
- 4 - Look for dirty spots on your ceiling paint and carpet, which may indicate air leaks at interior wall/ceiling joints and wall/floor joists, and caulk them.
- 5 - Cover single-pane windows with storm windows or replace them with more efficient options
- 6 - Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards, and other places where air may leak out. The sill plate or perimeter where a house sets on a foundation is often a major source of infiltration in existing homes.
- 7 - Ensure kitchen and clothes dryer exhaust ports outside of your home have flaps that seal when not in use.
- 8 - Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets.
- 9 - Keep the fireplace flue damper tightly closed when not in use.
- 10 - Seal air leaks around fireplace chimneys, furnaces, and gas-fired water heater vents with fire-resistant materials such as sheet metal, sheetrock and furnace cement caulk.

For additional ideas on how you can reduce the effects of infiltration and save energy while heating and cooling your home, contact your local electric utility or visit [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com). You may even find you are eligible for incentives for helping with the cost of other energy-saving home improvements.

# EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> Incentives

## RESIDENTIAL:

### 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 -

15-15.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$200
16-17.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$400
18+ SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$600
Water source heat pump	\$1,200
Variable capacity water source	\$1,700



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

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

New Commercial & Industrial Lighting Incentives - Ask for information

## Restructuring Rates in 2018

In the recent years, we have seen a change in the way we are being charged for electricity. Therefore, to be fair to each customer class, we must adjust the way we bill too.

The goal with electric rates is to simply recover the cost to serve the customer and maintain the system. We are to provide reliable electricity to our customers as economically as possible. Public Power Districts are directed by Nebraska State Statute to be fair and equitable toward all customers. We also have to be financially prepared for any disaster that may cause damage to the system.

SCPPD has recently completed an intensive look into the cost to serve the customer in all of the

various rate classes. Our goal is to treat each customer fairly and not to subsidize one particular rate class with revenue from another.

We look at many factors that affect rates including some of the traditional factors such as power costs, maintenance and capital project costs and workforce. There are also additional factors that affect electricity rates such as energy markets, renewables and regulations. One way or another, all these factors have an impact on the cost to deliver power to the customer. These factors also change from time to time. We evaluate this by doing a complete study of costs and how they are recovered from each rate class.

You will see a change in 2018 as we are going to restructure the

## Dates to Keep in Mind

February: American Heart Month

February 2 - National Wear Red day: Support women with heart disease, and raise awareness

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 19 - President's Day



way we will bill in many of our rate classes, but we will be collecting no additional revenue. We are not going to increase rates for the 3rd year in a row dating back to 2015. However, we are adjusting the customer charges slightly higher and reducing the energy costs. This means if you are an average customer within your rate class, you will see no change in your monthly bill if all other factors remain the same, such as weather patterns, etc. If you have any questions about your rate or would like an explanation based on your situation, please let us know!



## Replacing and old irrigation motor?



**Consider a new electric service!  
Contact the office to find out your options**

## Information about SCPPD

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

In the case of an outage:

- 1- Check your fuses and/or breakers to be sure they are working properly.
- 2 - If you have a double-throw switch, make sure it is in the correct position.
- 3 - Notice your neighbors; do they have power?

Checking these few things before you call SCPPD can help us determine the severity of the outage and therefore expedite the restoration.

Please be sure to give the name that is listed on the billing account and physical address of the outage when calling into the office.

### 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

Doug Oertwich .....President  
John Gall..... Vice President  
Robert Schellpeper.....Secretary  
Gary Koehlmoos.....Treasurer  
Weldon Marotz.....Director  
Jim Scherer.....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](http://www.scppd.com)**

**E-mail: [scppd@scppd.net](mailto: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](http://www.ne-diggers.com)**