

January 2018



EnLIGHTening NEWS

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

Electric Rates 101

I hope you and your family had a great holiday season and hope for a great 2018. As we move into the New Year, I wanted to touch on electric rates and what we can expect moving forward.

Your electric rates are simply based on the cost of service for each rate class. It may be overstating it to say simply! We have several components that drive electric rates.



- Energy-Kilowatt-hours used by the customer
- Demand-The amount of energy used or demanded by a customer over a given time. This is the peak need required by the consumer.
- Transmission-Cost to move the energy from the generator to a localized delivery point
- Distribution-Cost to distribute the energy from a localized delivery point to the end user
- Planning and Engineering-Ensuring the system is adequately built to serve the load

- Transformation-Cost to raise and lower the voltage that allow for transmission
- Administrative-Administrative costs related to entire function

These are just a few of the major drivers in your electric rates, so let me tell you, it is easy to get lost in the maze of electric rate making. Our job is to collect enough money from our customers to pay our bills, maintain the system in place and be prepared in the event of an emergency or storm. We are also charged by state statute to be fair and equitable to all customers. Changing load patterns, fluctuating demands on the system, drastic weather events and even distributed generation facilities can all impact the cost of service for different rate classes.

If you listen to the mainstream news media, you might hear how the cost of electricity is going down. They are referring to the cost of energy or a kilowatt hour. They sometimes forget the remaining inputs that make up our power bills. We have recently seen major investment in transmission.

We are completing a comprehensive review at SCPPD of each individual



Chad Waldow
General Manager

rate class and the cost to serve that rate class. We are evaluating the rates and making sure that we do not subsidize one rate class with another. In order to keep each rate class fair and equitable, we sometime need to make small adjustment to individual classes. Those adjustments are based on the cost to serve the class. If it is necessary to adjust different classes we hope to have minimal impact to each customer.

At this point, I believe there will be no increase in rates for 2018. My goal and our Board of Directors goal is to be fiscally responsible with rate payer dollars while maintaining our system and ensuring reliability. Thank you for your business and we wish you a prosperous New Year!

Energy Efficiency Tip: Home Electronics

Going through Grandma's basement was like going through a museum and appreciating a simpler time. In the corner was a 1940s Zenith radio that hummed for 30 seconds when you plugged it in. Once it warmed up, you could adjust the amplitude and listen to at least one of five radio stations within 30 miles. Along another wall stood a 1960s Curtis Mathis console television that looked like a buffet table. Using a remote that ran on a nine-volt battery, you could turn it on and see the tubes in the back of the set glow and emit a black-and-white picture in the front. These were Grandma's connections to the outside world. A little trickle of electricity was all she needed.



According to the World Bank, in 1966, the average American household used about 5,590 kilowatt-hours every year. As of 2013, that number shot up to about 12,985 kilowatt-hours annually. While it seems we still only need a little tickle of electricity to keep us connected today, our "plug-ins" consume much more electricity each year than Grandma's radio and TV ever used in their lifetimes.

Today, the vast majority of home electronics energy use — up to 90 percent by some estimates — is consumed by home entertainment systems and home office equipment. The remaining 10 percent consists of many small energy users, including portable devices with battery chargers. Although each of these products uses a relatively small amount of electricity on an individual basis, they continue to proliferate rapidly and represent an opportunity to keep overall electronics energy use in check.

Did you know the Xbox 360 uses 187 watts of electricity? If you have active gamers in your home, this could add up to more than \$100 a year to operate. But, wait! You have a television connected to the Xbox, too. Add another 20 to 100 percent to the first total, and you start to appreciate the cost of connectivity.

While the most energy-efficient HDTV costs around \$30 a year to power, most power-hungry models can add more than \$160 to the electric bill each year. Then, consider you probably have a computer, laptop and/or notepad. Any cell phones? Other remotes? Security systems? A lot of little devices that keep us connected add up to significant energy use. Here are some ideas on how to manage them all:

* A cable box can draw 28 watts when it's recording a show, and 26 watts when off. Even if the TV is never on, the box will consume more than 225 kilowatt-hours annually. That potentially translates to more than \$25. Put your set (or entertainment center) on a power strip with a master switch if you don't use it much. Power everything down until the next time you need it.

* Unplug chargers and power supplies you typically leave plugged in. Leaving a laptop computer plugged in, even when it's fully charged, can use 4.5 kilowatt-hours of electricity in a week, or about 235 kilowatt-hours a year.



* Don't use a gaming console to stream movies. They can use 45 times more power than streaming consoles, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

* If your television is pre-2000, know that new set technology can be more than five times more efficient for the same size of screen. Many hours of use can add up!

* Power down computers and office equipment at the end of the day. Contrary to what some think, powering electronics "up" and "down" does not impact the overall life of today's electronics and does, indeed, save energy!

EnergyWiseSM 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

Pad mount Transformer Safety

Padmount transformers that service underground wiring for your home or business are not always the “prettiest” things to look at. I can understand why owners might want to “hide” them behind plants. However, SCPPD would like to remind owners that planting trees, bushes or shrubs in front of a pad mount transformer is breaking the National Electric Safety Code, as well as SCPPD safety rules.

The transformers operate at 7,200 volts of electricity. The linemen that are operating or troubleshooting them must maintain an 8 foot clearance due to arc flash, in case of a component failure that would lead to electro-

cution and/or severe flash burns. SCPPD personnel would be using an 8 foot fiberglass, insulated pole while working around the transformer, but will need an additional 4 foot range of motion to pull the switching components out on the transformer. This makes the minimum safe work zone 12 feet total.



Dates to Keep in Mind

January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR - SCPPD office closed

January 15 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January: National Blood Donor Month



Crew members must follow safety guidelines at all times, and this obstruction can lead to extended outage times if they have to cut or remove the trees or brush.

If you notice brush or trees growing up in front of your pad mount transformer, please notify SCPPD and we can schedule the removal.

SCPPD crews open, inspect and maintain the district underground facilities twice a year. Violations of safety code will be brought to the land-owners attention, and then removed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Stay Safe at Home in 2018

Top 10 Home Electrical Safety Tips

use a qualified electrician for repair work	repair loose outlets; replace cracked, worn electric cords	watch for hot or discolored switch plates, flickering lights, or buzzing sounds.
get regular check-ups for older homes	use bulbs with correct wattage for the fixtures	if children are present install tamper resistant outlets to protect against shock
use extension cords temporarily, not as permanent wiring	unplug electrics if you smell something burning	keep cords out of walkways and high traffic areas
	educate the household on electrical safety	

Learn more about home electrical safety at SafeElectricity.org

There are many ways to be efficient and safe with electricity in your home. Take some time this year to watch for these signs and make sure you and your family are safe!



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

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