

ENTERTAINING NEWS



Fixins in the Field is back!

Know a hardworking farmer who deserves FREE lunch? Nominate them for a chance to have the 106KIX and WJAG crew deliver lunch.



ENLIGHTENING NEWS

Published bi-monthly by Stanton County
Public Power District

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REPORT AN OUTAGE:
After Hours: (877) 439-2300

Office Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Oertwich: *President*

John R Gall: *Vice President*

Robert Schellpeper: *Secretary*

Darin Petersen: *Treasurer*

Tim Reese: *Director*

Gary Koehlmoos: *Director*

MEETING INFORMATION:

Unless otherwise notified, regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month. The Directors shall hold their meetings at the general office of the District or at such other place or places determined by the Board.

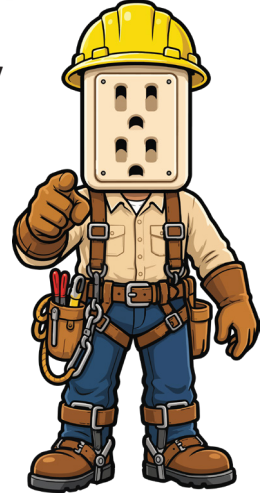
October is Public Power month!

Follow us on Facebook for giveaways and energy-saving tips about the value of public power.



1 in 7 ELECTRICITY CUSTOMERS
IN THE U.S. ARE SERVED BY
PUBLIC POWER

This Public Power Month, we celebrate the importance of public power and the value of keeping it local. From the lights in our homes to the critical infrastructure that drives our local economy, public power is the steady and reliable source for our communities. Thank you for trusting us to power what matters most to you.



EnergyWise Incentive Rebates

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

RESIDENTIAL HEAT PUMP/ WATER HEATER

\$400 for Air Source

UEF > 1.9

\$650 for Water or Ground Source COP > 2.8

HIGH EFFICIENCY HEAT PUMP

\$400 – \$3300 Incentive

Minimum SEER 16, EER 12.5 & HSPF 8.5

Includes Air-to-Air, and Water/Ground source

SMART THERMOSTAT: \$25 – \$100

COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP: \$30

ATTIC INSULATION: \$0.30 PER SQUARE FOOT – \$600 MAX

PUBLIC POWER:

Local Service, Shared Responsibility

October is Public Power Month, a time to recognize something that can be easy to overlook: your electric utility exists to serve you.

Nebraska has a proud and unique public power tradition. Our state is the only one in the nation served entirely by publicly owned electric utilities. At Stanton County Public Power District, we are locally governed and operate on a not-for-profit basis. There are no outside shareholders; our focus is on providing safe, reliable electricity at a reasonable cost while serving the long-term interests of the people and communities within our District.

That local responsibility is one of the greatest strengths of public power, but it also requires us to look ahead continually. The electric industry is changing, and the cost of providing reliable service

continues to increase. Purchased power, materials, equipment, system maintenance, and necessary infrastructure improvements all contribute to the cost of keeping electricity available when you need it.

As we begin planning for 2027, these increasing costs are creating rate pressure that we cannot ignore. No decisions are taken lightly, and we understand that affordability matters to every home, farm, and business we serve. Our responsibility is to carefully manage expenses, make sound long-term investments, and balance affordability today with the reliability and financial strength our electric system will need tomorrow.

While the challenges facing our industry continue to evolve, the public power model keeps decision-making close to home.

Our Board of Directors is locally elected, our employees live and work in the communities we serve, and the decisions we make are based on what is best for our District and its customers.

Public power is ultimately about more than poles, wires, and electricity. It is about local people serving their neighbors, local accountability, and a shared investment in the communities we call home.

This Public Power Month, we thank you for the trust you place in SCPPD. As we prepare for the opportunities and challenges ahead, our commitment remains the same: to serve you safely, reliably, responsibly, and with your best interests in mind.

Trever A. Turner
General Manager & CEO

MYTH

Data centers comprise the greatest share of electricity use in the U.S.

FACT

Data centers currently use less electricity than residential air conditioning and commercial lighting. Though anticipated growth could increase the proportion of electricity consumed by data centers to 10% or more of the U.S. total by 2030



PRICE INCREASE COMPARISON

one dozen
EGGS

1940: \$0.26 2025: \$4.71

1,711.54%
increase



ELECTRICITY

price per kwh in the U.S.

1940: \$0.05 2025: \$0.17

SCPPD residential price per kwh 2025: \$0.09

240%
increase

PRICE INCREASE COMPARISON

one gallon
MILK

1940: \$0.52 2025: \$4.42

750.0%
increase



ELECTRICITY

price per kwh in the U.S.

1940: \$0.05 2025: \$0.17

SCPPD residential price per kwh 2025: \$0.09

240%
increase

FALL HARVEST SAFETY

TAKE TIME TO WORK SAFELY

As the fall harvest season approaches, SCPPD reminds farmers to make safety a top priority. Harvest brings long hours, large equipment, changing weather, and increased traffic on rural roads. One of the most serious hazards is contact with overhead power lines. Combines, grain carts, augers, semis, and other tall equipment can come dangerously close to power lines, especially when equipment is raised or grain is being unloaded. Always look up, identify overhead lines, maintain a safe distance, and lower raised equipment before transporting. Never attempt to move, repair, or adjust a power line, utility pole, guy wire, or other electrical equipment. If equipment

contacts a power line, stay inside the cab, keep others away, and call 911 and the utility company. Harvest equipment also presents mechanical, grain-handling, and fire hazards. Shut off equipment and wait for all moving parts to stop before making adjustments or clearing plugs. Keep guards and shields in place, use three points of contact when climbing on equipment, and keep children and bystanders away from operating machinery and grain bins. Never enter a grain bin while grain is moving, and always shut down and lock out equipment before entering. Keep equipment clean of chaff, dust, and debris to help prevent fires, and carry a properly rated fire extinguisher.

Safety is also important when traveling on rural roads. Use lights, warning signs, and reflective markings, and give other motorists plenty of room. Harvest can mean long hours, so take breaks and get adequate rest to avoid fatigue-related accidents. Before moving equipment, check for people, animals, and obstacles that may be difficult to see.

Slow down, stay alert, look up, and plan ahead. A few extra minutes of caution can help make this harvest season safe and successful.



CURRENT Pa55WORD STANDARDS

Disclaimer: *All passwords given in this article are used as examples. Do not use them as your password as they are now compromised.*

With advancements in technology and artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity standards are rapidly changing. The standard for creating passwords used to require complex passwords containing uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. In late 2024, the National Institution of Standards and Technology (NIST) relaxed password requirements to state that complexity is no longer required, and length is more important.

Why did they relax the requirements?

The longer the password, the longer it takes to crack, regardless of its complexity. New technology accounts for predictable patterns that people were using to satisfy complexity requirements. To make them easier to remember, people were creating passwords such as 'CyberSecurity123!' or 'Cyb3r\$3curity'. New brute force technology can guess billions of passwords per second and is programmed to try these predictable patterns first. It was also discovered that most attacks were carried out using other methods that circumvent password requirements, such as installing key loggers and phishing attacks.

Does this mean that complexity is bad?

When complexity is applied correctly, you are adding thousands or millions more possible combinations. It is only bad when used in predictable patterns. So, feel free to add that \$ to your password; just avoid using it in a predictable position such as at the start, end, or replacing an S.

How will this affect the systems that we use?

Companies are moving towards requirements such as using 15 characters or more, using multi-factor authentication, using passkeys, scanning for login breaches, and checking your passwords against known list of data breaches. Password expiration and complexity requirements will also go away as these encouraged people to create predictable passwords. The new standard suggests using phrases with the goal of making passwords more memorable while also increasing the possible number of combinations. Adding just one or two more characters can add hundreds of years of time to the cracking algorithm to try all possible combinations.

What are some tips for creating passwords?

- X** Use passwords at least 15 characters or longer. To make it easier to remember, use a phrase, such as 'ihaveoneappleinmybasket'.
- X** Still use complexity if you can but try not to be predictable. Avoid capitalizing the first letter and using special characters in place of letter, \$ for S or @ for a.
- X** If the system allows, always use multi-factor authentication.
- X** Use a password manager to store and protect your passwords. Storing them in a spreadsheet on a device is not secure.
- X** Do not reuse passwords on different systems.
- X** If the system allows, enable login notifications to alert you when someone is accessing your account.
- X** Change your password immediately if you receive any notifications that the system was compromised.

Passwords are still an important layer of security. Following these tips will give you great protection against attackers and hopefully keep your accounts safe.

EMPLOYEE *NEWS*

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MATT HOFERER – ASSISTANT OPERATIONS MANAGER

Matt has spent 22 years at SPPD, starting as a lineman and, through hard work, earning the assistant operation manager position. He now oversees purchasing materials, safety management, and more.

Where did you grow up?
Creighton, Nebraska

What is working at SPPD like?
Always a challenge, but it's something different every day.

What is your favorite way to spend a free weekend?
Whatever the kids have for me is where I go.

If you could make one rule that everyone had to follow, what rule would you make?
No texting while walking and no talking on speakerphone in public.

What is one thing you are really bad at?
Golf

What has been your favorite project at SPPD?
We've had a lot of big projects that have benefited Stanton County and gathering materials to get these projects done.

Tell us about your family.
I have been married to Mandy for 21 years and have 3 kids together. Sophia (17), Liam (14), Elijah (11), and a golden retriever named Gus.

What advice would you give your younger self?
Save more money and invest more.



If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?
Fly a helicopter

Describe SPPD in 3 words.
Rural – Electric – Association

What else would you like people to know about you?
Don't got much, just keep to myself.

POLE-TOP & BUCKET TRUCK RESCUE

NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

CONDUCTED BY: RAY BOSTON



On September 3rd our crew held their annual pole-top and bucket rescue training. Whether climbing high or operating a boom, safety means knowing exactly how to bring a teammate down quickly, safely, and efficiently in an emergency. Safety is our top priority here at SPPD. Not only do we keep the lines safe for customers, but our crews also practice keeping each other safe.



NREA – YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

ALESSA GALL – JUNIOR COUNSELOR

HAZEL SCHELLPEPER – CAMPER

The 2026 NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp was held July 20 to 24 at Camp Comeca, near Cozad, Nebraska. There were 34 campers from 19 public power districts. The Stanton County Public Power District was represented by **Hazel Schellpeper** as a camper and **Alessa Gall** as a junior counselor.

Through interesting workshops and demonstrations, and presentations by regional experts addressing the many issues affecting the rural electric system, campers depart after five days far more knowledgeable about the public power industry in Nebraska than when they arrived. A tour of the Gerald Gentleman Power Station and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plan provided a first-hand look at the process of generating electricity.



On August 27, Ms. Schellpeper attended our Board of Directors meeting and reported on her experience at camp, describing it as a life-changing experience where she learned about public power, made new friends and became a lot more sociable as a person. She was especially impressed with the Gerald Gentleman Station and Kingsley Dam and was fascinated with how the dam works and all the functions of generating power for all Nebraskans.



If you know a high school student interested in the electric utility industry, encourage them to attend the NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp! It's an incredible opportunity to build leadership skills, make new friends, explore exciting career opportunities, and even earn the chance to represent our district on a trip to Washington, D.C.

ENLIGHTENING NEWS

**From Your Stanton County
Public Power District**

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Stanton, NE 68779-0319

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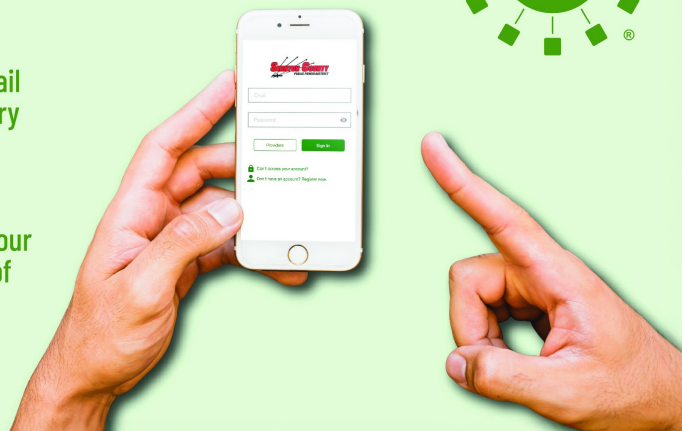
24/7 Mobile Access Online Payments **PAPERLESS BILLING**

There is a growing concern around the timing of our US mail.

Customers have expressed frustration when they do not get their bills in the mail or when their payments arrive late. While we share your frustration, there is very little we can do to control this issue. Therefore, we are exploring more ways to communicate electronically.

SCPPD encourages customers to consider a paperless option! Simply log into your SmartHub account and turn on paperless billing. You will receive notifications of your bill availability as well as options to pay your bill electronically, and more!

For more information, check out our website or call the office.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**
1-800-331-5666



877-439-2228 | www.scppd.com | scppd@scppd.net

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