

Shuttered Douglas County landfill to gain new life as OPPD solar array

A shuttered landfill in Douglas County will gain new usefulness as the first site of its kind in Nebraska to house a solar array, thanks to a new partnership between OPPD and Douglas County and a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET).



OPPD has received a \$3.46 million grant from NET to help pay for the project, known as OPPD-Douglas County SOLUS (Solar On Landfills Utility Scale).

The proposed project will be constructed on the Douglas County State Street landfill, a 160-acre parcel of land at 12608 State St.

Because it's a capped landfill, the property has few other practical uses. However, its location near

an existing OPPD substation makes it a prime spot for energy production. The "public-public" partnership between the county and OPPD sets the stage for a project that will provide long-term benefits to customers.

The landfill opened in July 1973 and closed in August 1989. Landfills typically have good sun exposure and limited redevelopment opportunities, making solar one of the few ways to put the land to use.

Storm & Outage Center keeps you in the know

OPPD's Storm & Outage Center blog, stormandoutage.com, is your go-to website for power outage information and weather-related news and tips.

Since going live in January 2015, the site has offered timely updates to keep you in the know and safe during Nebraska's unpredictable weather.

Here's a quick look at what it has to offer.

- At the top of the site you can get updates on outages. When there are no sizeable outages, we will refer you to other content.

- Scroll through our lively weather and energy news stories.
- Check the outage map, updated every 15 minutes. Click on "See Larger Map" to view the Outage Map page. There, you can view the number of affected customers or the percentage of the service area.
- Find exactly what you are looking for by selecting one of the topic tabs. You also can report a power outage from these tabs.
- Connect with OPPD via various social media channel updates.

MARCH BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, March 14 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, March 16, 5 p.m. (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.



Register for Heat the Streets Run & Walk



Registration is still open for the 16th annual Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth, a benefit that provides energy assistance to those in need.

The event, co-hosted by OPPD and Metropolitan Utilities District, is set for Saturday, March 4, at Aksarben Village in Omaha.

New to the event is a timed 5-mile run and an untimed 5K walk. A timed 5K run and virtual run option are also available. For more information, visit HeatTheStreetsOmaha.com.

OPPD employees volunteer throughout service district

OPPD employees from across the district worked together over the recent holiday season to provide gifts and assistance to those in need during.

Their efforts included collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program; joining the Angel Tree program in Nebraska City to bring a

holiday meal and toys to a family; volunteering at the Food Bank for the Heartland, the Open Door Mission and the Heartland Hope Mission; helping build homes through Habitat for Humanity; and more.



What you need to know about portable home generators

Campers and preppers love them. Farmers do, too. And some people use them during a power outage to keep their home running. Portable home generators can be a valuable purchase for your family.

But safety should always be the first priority with both the electricity they produce and the fuels they use.

How do they work?

Portable engine generators can provide reliable power for a variety of applications. These generators usually run on gas or diesel, but models are available to run on propane or natural gas.

Wherever and whenever grid power is available, power outlets



on such units allow a person to plug in all sorts of electric-powered tools and appliances.

Installation, use and safety

By design, portable generators should only connect with smaller selected appliances or lamps. They

cannot operate in parallel with the grid. And you should never connect them directly to your home's wiring system without a proper transfer switch. Significant safety hazards can result, including for OPPD's line workers.

If you have a larger generator that is capable of parallel operation with the grid, and you want to permanently install the generator for home or building backup power, the threat to safety can be greater. To do so you will need various approvals, including from OPPD.

For more information, check out OPPD's home generator page at oppd.com/outages/generators.

7"x 2.5" AD SPACE AVAILABLE IN 2023 Proceeds benefit EAP. For details, please email lskinghoman@oppd.com.

Proceeds from the sale of advertising space in *Outlets* are donated to OPPD's Energy Assistance Program. An advertisement in *Outlets* does not constitute an endorsement by OPPD. For information about this space, call 531-226-3756.