



Growing demand

Demand for electricity in Nebraska is expected to grow faster than ever, prompting the need for more generation to continue serving customers, according to a recent report.

Nebraska's public power utilities are expected to see average annual growth of 1.5% through 2042. The rate might seem modest at first, but it's more than three times higher than the 0.4% growth rate projected last year.

Utilities updated their projections as more customers use greater amounts of electricity and businesses announce plans to build or expand their operations throughout Nebraska. The Nebraska Power Association, a group representing public power providers statewide, released the information in its annual report.

OPPD's Board of Directors recently approved a plan to add 100 megawatts annually over the next several years to keep pace with customer needs.

Just a few years earlier, OPPD was adding 4 megawatts per year.

Larger, industrial customers – including data centers, food processors, manufacturers, agricultural companies and others – are driving much of OPPD's growth. Those customers are building new facilities and adding jobs in Nebraska. But the need to expand is also coming from new homes, schools and smaller businesses that are locating in the service territory.

Public power is a unique part of living in Nebraska

Nebraska is the only state where all residents get electricity from public power utilities or cooperatives. Here are a few facts you may not know about your public power utilities.

Affordability

Public power customers pay

average electricity rates that are lower than those charged by investor-owned utilities. Nebraska enjoys rates that are even lower than the national average.

Large presence

Public power utilities represent 60 percent of the electric utilities in the United

States, serving 1 in 7 Americans. Nebraska has 166 public power utilities and cooperatives.

Local control

All public power utilities and cooperatives are controlled by

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DECEMBER BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 19 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Dec. 21, 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.



Public power *(From front)*

boards of directors. Voters can elect board members, access open meetings conducted by governing authorities and give input.

Commitment to community

Employees of public power utilities are your neighbors and friends. They work to strengthen economic development in communities and attract

new business.

Reliability

According to data released in April 2018 from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Nebraska's 2016 average electrical customer outage duration was the nation's lowest. Excluding major weather events, that duration was 27 minutes.

Even with major weather events included, Nebraska still ranked the lowest nationwide.

Public power is a unique part of Nebraska, and a tradition that has electrified the homes of residents from large cities to small farmsteads.

OPPD's meter technicians stay busy

OPPD's meter technicians never know quite where their workdays will take them. On some calls, they inspect, test and replace meters to ensure that customers aren't paying too much or too little for the electricity they use. Other times, they help homeowners who just installed rooftop solar panels.

When a storm rips through OPPD's service territory, meter technicians repair downed power lines leading to homes. And then there's the sensitive work involving business



customers who haven't paid their bills.

Meter technicians are primarily solo operators who play a critical role in OPPD's efforts to deliver reliable,

affordable and sustainable power to customers.

When big storms wipe out power for large numbers of customers, meter technicians remove broken tree limbs and repair overhead services to restore power to individual homes, allowing line crews to focus on larger neighborhood circuits.

Meter techs work two-month shifts in different areas of their trade: testing meters for accuracy, setting up meter service for new commercial buildings, and working out in rural areas, to name a few. They routinely partner with line crews on projects.

OPPD named a Tree Line USA Utility for the 23rd year

OPPD has once again earned an honorable distinction for its commitment to proper urban forest management, including tree-planting and care.

The Arbor Day Foundation named OPPD a Tree Line USA Utility for the 23rd year. Tree Line USA is a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters that recognizes public and private utilities for pursuing best practices that protect and cultivate

America's urban tree canopy.

Tree Line USA also promotes delivering safe and reliable electricity, while maintaining healthy community forests.

OPPD and other utilities have a vested

interest in promoting the proper care of trees, including planting the right trees and shrubs in the right locations.



OPPD's Arboretum is located at 108th & Blondo St.

Visitors can check out the OPPD Arboretum at 108th and Blondo streets in Omaha.

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