

Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth set for March



Registration is now open for the 16th annual Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth, an effort to help Nebraskans who struggle to keep on their lights and heat their homes.

The event, co-hosted by OPPD and Metropolitan Utilities District, is set for Saturday, March 4, at Aksarben Village in Omaha. New to the 2023 event is a timed 5-mile run and an untimed 5K walk. A timed 5K run and virtual run option are also available.

Participants will begin at Zone 6 in Aksarben Village. The timed events

will begin at 9 a.m., and the untimed event will start at 9:05 a.m.

The event is held during cold winter months to bring attention to those who are struggling with utility bills, even though there is a year-round need for assistance.

If you prefer, you can participate virtually at a location of your own choosing. You also have the option of donating to the cause without completing the run or walk. If the event can't be hosted in-person due to the weather, all registrants will be transferred to the virtual option.

For more information, visit HeatTheStreetsOmaha.com. Registration ends March 1. Children under 12 walk for free, but must still register.

The money raised is split

equally between M.U.D.'s Home Fund and OPPD's Energy Assistance Program to provide local assistance to those in need. It's administered by the Dollar Energy Fund, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves low-income utility customers. Dollar Energy works with 36 local entities throughout both utilities' service territories to provide this financial assistance.



FEBRUARY BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 14 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 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.



OPPD board approves new Corporate Operating Plan



OPPD's Board of Directors has approved a \$1.9 billion Corporate Operating Plan for 2023.

The plan includes no general rate increase. However, rising fuel and

purchased power costs necessitated an increase in the Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment line item on customer bills to help offset those expenses.

The increase in the Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment will raise customers' total bills by an average of 2.9%, although the exact amount would vary based on energy usage. For the average OPPD residential customer, whose bill is currently \$110.62 per month, the current adjustment of \$1.73 will increase to \$4.47.

OPPD's planned 2023 FPPA increase is below energy-sector inflation, which

has raised costs by about 13%.

The \$1.9 billion budget reflects OPPD's work to adapt and thrive in its fast-growing service territory.

Capital expenditures, totaling \$640 million, would include costs related to the Power with Purpose project, which will add up to 600 megawatts of utility-scale solar and 600 megawatts of natural gas generation to power our growing communities, plus the associated transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Grading begins on new Bennington-area substation

Anticipating a greater need for electricity in the fast-growing Bennington area, OPPD has started grading work for a new substation near Bennington Road and North 144th Plaza.

Substations help route electricity and transform it into usable voltages for homes and businesses. They come in various shapes and

sizes and have multiple functions, including stepping up voltage and allowing energy to travel long distances through OPPD's transmission system.

The new Bennington substation will step down voltage, making electricity usable by OPPD's customers. Grading work is necessary to prepare for construction.



The substation is expected to begin operating in mid-2024.

OPPD seeks customers for new pilot program

OPPD is seeking participants for a pilot program designed to help financially challenged customers with ongoing needs for assistance.

The Customer Assistance Program provides a monthly bill credit, reducing customers' electric bill to a more affordable level as long as they make on-time payments.

OPPD has been looking for ways to ease the burden on customers who have high bills compared to their incomes. The Customer Assistance Program is one of the first solutions to emerge from that effort.

We can enroll a maximum of 3,000 customers during this pilot phase. To qualify, you must:

- Be an OPPD customer who is current on your bill and paying monthly.
- Have a total gross household income (before taxes) at or below 100% of federal poverty income guidelines.

- Recertify eligibility each year.
- Report any change in household size or income within 10 business days.

Participants must also provide a government-issued photo ID, verify income for the last 30 days and provide a copy of their OPPD bill.

Customers can apply online at DollarEnergy.com/MyApp; a local community partner agency, which can be found on the Dollar Energy Fund agency finder website; or by calling the Dollar Energy Fund at 1-888-282-6816.



7" x 2.5" AD SPACE AVAILABLE IN 2022 Proceeds benefit EAP. For details, please email lkinghoman@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.