

# Ash trees call for action

## **Emerald ash borer threatens trees and electric service.**

The emerald ash borer (EAB), a native of Asia, was first spotted in the U.S. in Detroit in 2002. The tiny, invasive beetle already has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in the U.S.

The EAB arrived in Nebraska in 2016. Once it shows up in an area, it spreads quickly, killing about 70 percent of unprotected ash trees within four years.

### **Risk includes power lines**

The EAB also threatens the reliability of electric service, because diseased trees do not just dwindle slowly and lose leaves. The EAB destroys tree tissue that transports water and nutrients.

Weakened trunks eventually snap near the base, and trees crash down onto whatever is nearby – including power lines and other property.

OPPD foresters have identified at least 10,000 ash trees in proximity of power lines throughout our service area. The responsibility to treat or remove ash trees lies with property-owners.

### **What ash tree owners can do**

Owners should begin treatment in the spring, depending on the treatment used. Options include trunk injections and basal trunk sprays, soil drenches and granules, implants and bark/foliage sprays.

Ash trees will need continuous annual or biannual treatment. Consult a certified arborist to determine the best course of action. You can locate an arborist at [treesaregood.org/findanarborist](http://treesaregood.org/findanarborist).

For more information on the EAB, visit [eabne.info](http://eabne.info).

### **Identifying an ash tree**

Ash is a large tree, growing 40 to 80 feet tall, depending on species. Green and white ash are most common in Nebraska.

### **Opposite branching**

Ash tree branches grow directly opposite each other as opposed to alternating.



### **Leaves**

Ash tree leaves have five to 11 leaflets, with the direct-opposite growth pattern.



### **Bark**

Young ash trees have a smooth bark that thickens into a diamond-shaped pattern as the trees age. The color is usually gray.



### **Seeds**

When present, seeds are paddle-shaped and in clusters that stay on the tree until late fall.



### **Emerald ash borer**



.33 inch



## **MAY BOARD MEETINGS**

**Committee:** Tuesday, May 15, 8:30 a.m., Energy Plaza, 444 S. 16th St., Omaha. **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, May 17, 4 p.m., same location. Hearing-impaired may call 402-636-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Meetings are livestreamed online at [oppd.com](http://oppd.com).

# Outlets

### **OUR MISSION**

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

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**OPPD**  
Omaha Public Power District

# Future of LED streetlights looks bright



An LED streetlight fixture in a Bellevue neighborhood, one of several areas across the metro where OPPD conducted an LED pilot project.

Over the next five years, OPPD will convert its streetlight lamps to energy-efficient LEDs. The district plans to start installations later this year.

The streetlight conversion plan came after evaluating value to customers in terms of environmental impact, customer satisfaction, financial impact and technological advances.

OPPD determined a five-year conversion to LEDs in conjunction with lamp replacement would best meet these criteria.

The district owns most of the streetlights in its service area. OPPD has 298 streetlight customers, ranging from small towns to the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

A total of 98,744 streetlights shed light on the roads and highways of OPPD's service area. By converting the streetlights to LED fixtures, the municipalities that contract with OPPD would

see a 25-percent reduction in their overall streetlight costs.

## LED streetlight benefits

LED streetlight lamps last about four times longer than the current high-pressure sodium bulbs in place for most customers – 15 to 20 years compared to five years.

- Customers will see a 50-percent average reduction in energy usage, which translates to savings for taxpayers.
- The conversion will increase reliability, with fewer streetlight outages.
- LEDs emit a bright, white light compared to the amber tones of current streetlights. This provides better visibility and helps deter crime.
- LED streetlight fixtures are designed to send light more directly at the roadway, decreasing the spread of light where it is unwanted.

See more at [oppdthewire.com](http://oppdthewire.com)

## OPPD streetlights by the numbers

### Streetlight contracts

**Cities and towns:** 44

**Sanitary Improvement Districts (SIDs):** 248

**Counties:** 5

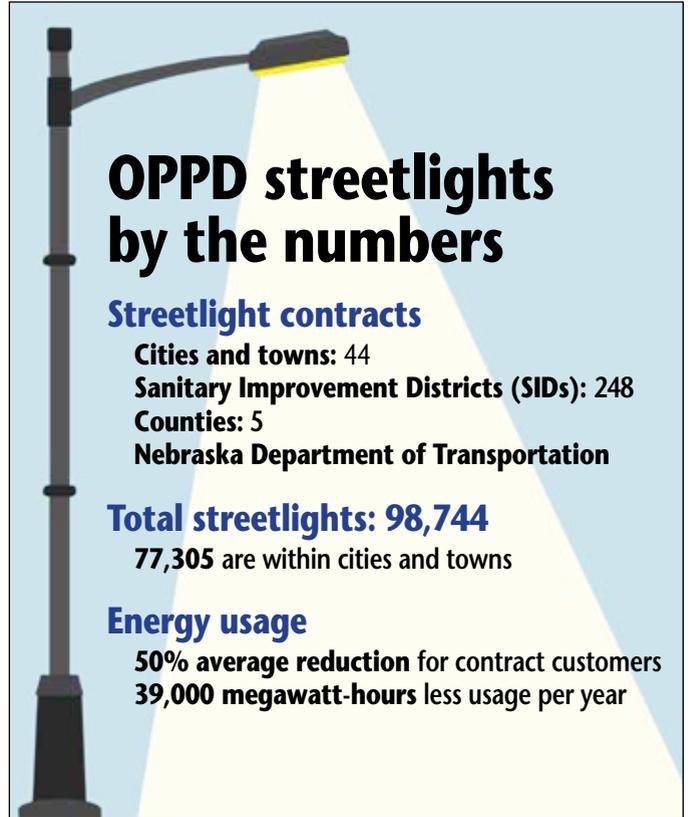
**Nebraska Department of Transportation**

### Total streetlights: 98,744

**77,305** are within cities and towns

### Energy usage

**50% average reduction** for contract customers  
**39,000 megawatt-hours** less usage per year



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