



#COMMUNITYpowered

Three ways public power benefits customer-owners.

If you were born and raised in Nebraska, you may not think about the advantages of public power, because it is all you have known. The benefits public power offers are actually quite unique.

In honor of Public Power Month this October, we are sharing three ways your community-powered utility benefits you.

1) You save money.

Public power customers pay less per year, on average, than corporate utility customers, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). OPPD residential rates are 18.5 percent below the national average, according to June 2018 figures from EIA.

2) Your voice matters.

Public power customers, including OPPD customer-owners, have a voice in how their utility operates. Like other public power utilities, OPPD is directly accountable to the people it serves through a locally elected board of directors.

3) Your community benefits

Across the country, public power communities receive more than \$2 billion annually because of investments from public power. Utilities like OPPD are committed to the communities they serve, and invest revenue back into those communities.

They also work to bring in new businesses, which bring jobs and economic growth. Public power's affordability, flexibility and collaborative approach attract customers, big and small. For example, Facebook cited OPPD's innovative approach to rates as a major reason the firm was attracted to the area.

Simply put, public power utilities like OPPD work for the communities they serve, not shareholders. We are community-powered.



NOVEMBER BOARD MEETINGS

Committee: Tuesday, November 13, 8:30 a.m., Energy Plaza, 444 S. 16th St., Omaha. **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, November 15, 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.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

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



Sunny outlook

OPPD partnering with UNMC to brighten med center's campus with largest rooftop solar installation in Nebraska.

University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha has long been known for its innovative medical research. Now, in partnership with OPPD, it's taking an innovative approach to energy, as well.

The UNMC campus will soon house 1,487 solar panels in a rooftop solar installation atop three campus buildings. The panels will generate up to 500 kilowatts of solar-powered electricity to help power UNMC, starting in 2019.

Ken Hansen, associate vice chancellor of facilities at UNMC and vice president of facilities at Nebraska Medicine, said the solar array project is another "great

partnership" between UNMC and OPPD.

Recent projects and initiatives have reduced the campus' energy load from 29 megawatts to 23 megawatts, even as the number of buildings, students and staff has increased.

This solar installation is expected to be the largest rooftop system in Nebraska, said Jared Friesen of Morrissey Engineering, which designed the project. "Its energy production will equal the average annual electricity use of 60 homes in OPPD's service territory."

"We continually seek new ways to advance energy services and



Aerocompact solar arrays will be installed on three UNMC buildings.

Photo courtesy of Aerocompact.

options to meet our customers' needs," said OPPD's Wyndle Young, manager of Mid/Small Commercial and Industrial Sales & Services. This solar pilot at UNMC introduces a new business model for us to explore – energy as a service."

The solar arrays will use a combination of east- and west-facing panels. They will be built to

maximize the energy produced in each square foot of roof space used, while reducing shade between rows and limiting the overall weight added to the roof, Friesen said.

The project is part of an inter-local agreement between the OPPD Board of Directors and the UNMC Board of Regents. (Full story on oppdthewire.com)

Get the roots right

Planting a new tree goes beyond digging a hole and shoveling dirt around the trunk. The

process depends on how the tree's roots appear when you buy the tree.

Trees can come with bare roots, in containers, or with the root system balled and wrapped in burlap. Following, are the proper techniques for all three.



BARE ROOT

1. Untangle the roots, soak in water for 3-6 hours.
2. Dig a hole wider than the tree so the roots can grow outward.
3. Plant at the same depth as it was planted at the nursery.
4. Shovel in remaining soil, packing firmly.

CONTAINER

1. Dig a hole 3-4 times wider than container, with sloped sides.
2. If tree is root-bound, cut an "X" on bottom of the root ball and four vertical slices around the sides.
3. Place in hole, with root collar just below top.
4. Firmly pack soil until just below root collar.

BALLED, BURLAPPED

1. Dig saucer-shaped hole 2-3 times wider, deeper than root ball.
2. Set tree in the hole so root ball is slightly above ground level.
3. Cut and peel away the wire basket, rope and twine from the ball. Regular burlap can remain under the ball.
4. Firmly pack original soil around the tree until soil is just below the root collar.

MORE INFORMATION: Visit arborday.org/trees for more details on planting trees.

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