

Renewables continue to grow in 2019

OPPD's Board of Directors approved the 2019 Corporate Operating Plan (COP) in December. For the third consecutive year, the COP reflects the utility's commitment to no general rate increase through 2021.

Note that as part of the new rate structure that took effect in 2016, OPPD's monthly service charge – the fixed portion of your electric bill – increases by \$5 on Jan. 1. (See box.)

The COP also calls for **no** increase in the Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment (FPPA), commonly used in the industry to address costs outside of a utility's control, such as fluctuating fuel prices and power bought on the market.

The COP addresses three major transmission projects that continue into 2019, which support the area's continued economic growth.

The nearly \$1.2 billion COP budget reflects OPPD's ongoing commitment to renewable energy. The district's retail sales from renewables will increase to about 40 percent once Sholes Wind Energy Center goes online in 2019. It will add 160 megawatts (MW) of wind energy.

In addition, a community solar project will go online in the summer of 2019, providing 5 MW of energy to OPPD customers through a 20-year power purchase agreement contract with NextEra Energy Resources. The facility will be located east of the city of Fort Calhoun.

Several successes in 2018 put OPPD and its customers in a good position for 2019:

- OPPD has transitioned to a faster, more economical method to complete the decommissioning process of its Fort Calhoun Station, thanks to excellent performance by plant employees. The DECON method will potentially save \$200 million long-term and reduce the overall risk.
- OPPD continues to rank in the top quartile nationally for system reliability because of

numerous programs and initiatives. Three of our generating units completed impressive continuous runs in 2018.

- OPPD eventually will save communities and taxpayers about 25 percent on streetlight costs through a five-year LED conversion project. OPPD's nearly 300 streetlight customers across southeast Nebraska – from small towns to the Nebraska Department of Transportation – should expect to cut their streetlight energy use in half.

Service charge adjustment effective Jan. 1, bill credits still available

In June 2016, OPPD decreased its energy charge (the cost per kilowatt-hour) and started to gradually increase its monthly service charge, the fixed portion of your bill.

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, the monthly service charge on OPPD bills increases from \$25 to \$30.

This charge now more accurately reflects OPPD's costs for infrastructure, equipment and personnel – expenses incurred no matter how much energy customers use. This is the final increase to the service charge under the new rate structure OPPD implemented in 2016.

Bill credits available for qualifying customers

As it has been doing since 2016, OPPD continues to offer bill credits to customers who are qualified by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and whose energy use is less than 600 kWh/month.

Qualifying customers can receive a \$7.50 monthly credit through December 2019, and a \$5 credit from January through May of 2020.

If you are already LIHEAP-qualified, there is nothing more to do. When your energy usage falls below 600 kWh, you will automatically see a credit on your bill.

If you have not applied for LIHEAP, call 1-800-383-4278 or visit oppd.com/wecare to find a link to the application.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETINGS

Committee: Tuesday, February 12, 8:30 a.m., Energy Plaza, 444 S. 16th St., Omaha. **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, February 14, 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

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





HEAT THE STREETS

RUN & WALK FOR WARMTH

Heat the Streets is a great family-friendly event, whether you want to take a serious run or just have some fun.



Hit the streets for those in need

You are invited to take part in the 12th annual Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth, OPPD's largest fundraising event for the Energy Assistance Program. The dollars raised go directly to people who need help with energy-related expenses. This family-friendly event takes place Saturday morning, March 2, at Stinson Park in Aksarben Village, 1920 S. 67th St., Omaha. Early-bird pricing runs through Jan. 31. Kids

under 12 walk for free, but must register. For more information, to sign up or volunteer to help with the event, visit heatthestreetsomaha.org. Registration ends Feb. 26. **Walk, run or go virtual** Check-in starts at 7 a.m. The 5k run starts at 9 a.m., with the walk immediately to follow. If you cannot attend, you can support the cause by visiting heatthestreetsomaha.org,

clicking on Register, entering an individual or team name and signing up as a virtual participant for \$15. You also can support the Energy Assistance Program by making a one-time or monthly pledge on your OPPD bill. Heat the Streets has raised more than \$1 million over the years through sponsorships and registration fees. Thanks for your support!

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