



2022 Corporate Operating Plan helps ensure bright future

Includes modest rate increase to help OPPD invest in technology, infrastructure to better serve customers.

OPPD's Board of Directors has approved a \$1.8 billion Corporate Operating Plan for 2022.

It includes an average 2.5% increase in retail rates across all customer classes, as OPPD works to improve and modernize its power distribution system.

As a public power utility, OPPD puts revenue generated by retail sales back into its operations.

Funding enhancements

"The utility industry is going through a period of rapid transformation," said OPPD President & CEO Javier Fernandez.

"As we navigate these changes, our employees are working on a number of innovative projects and initiatives to position better position OPPD for the future.

"We are committed to doing this important work, while maintaining a strong focus on our mission of providing affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services for our customers," said Fernandez.

Examples of OPPD's planned investments for enhancing service include:

- Implementing technology that will increasingly integrate our system and modernize our technology platform to better serve our customers.
- Increasing the reliability of the system through greater investment in the maintenance of overhead lines.

- Increasing tree-trimming to help prevent outages and ensure the resiliency of the electric system.
- Hiring new staff in Energy Delivery to keep up with large infrastructure projects.

Residential customers

Effective Jan. 1, residential customers will see a rate increase of approximately 3.2%, when averaged throughout the year.

The overall bill impact for the average residential customer, using approximately 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month, equates to \$35.60 more over the course of a year. This will be noticed more in the summer months, when customers typically use more electricity.

OPPD had held rates steady for the past five years. But a number of factors contributed to a projected revenue deficit of nearly \$26 million for 2022.

These include the increased cost of materials and labor, as well as the need to invest in our system for the health of existing structures and equipment and to support our growing communities.

The Corporate Operating Plan (COP) does not require a change to the Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment, which appears as a separate line item on customers' bills and recovers costs OPPD cannot control, such as fluctuating market prices for fuel.

You can view the full 2022 COP at OPPD.com.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 15 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 17, 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.

Your Energy Partner[®]
OPPD
Omaha Public Power District

OPPD awards EPC contract for battery storage project

OPPD is powering ahead with an energy storage project that will help inform the utility as it moves toward its board-set goal of net zero carbon by 2050.

The district has taken an important step toward bringing the project to life, selecting WEG Electric Corp. to engineer, procure and construct (EPC) the Battery Research Innovation Guided by High-Potential Technologies (BRIGHT) project.

OPPD awarded the EPC contract to WEG in early December.

Grants help fund project

Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) grants totaling \$600,000, awarded in June 2020, helped make this project possible. The project was approved by the Nebraska Power Review Board this



OPPD's battery container will look similar to this.

past July as the first stand-alone battery in the state.

OPPD is planning to build a battery energy storage device with a 1 megawatt-hour capacity, with a two-hour duration, meaning it will initially provide 1 MW of power for up to approximately two hours.

It will be housed at a Cass County substation. OPPD's system planners say that's an ideal location because it carries a relatively high amount of industrial load for a rural substation, which can provide voltage fluctuations in the area.

Statewide benefits

The project will provide innovative research that will benefit not only OPPD, but all Nebraska utilities.

WEG was selected for the EPC contract after a series of workshops with multiple vendors. The company will provide all engineering, equipment, construction, commissioning, maintenance and warranty services for the

battery energy storage system, which is designed to last about 20 years.

Build Your Dreams (BYD) will provide the battery container with lithium iron phosphate battery cells. Their CubePro battery containers use a liquid cooling system to regulate the battery packs and include multiple levels of integrated fire protection.

Indie Energy will provide the battery Energy Management System, and Interconnection Systems Inc. of Central City, Neb., will perform civil and electrical work for WEG.

The BRIGHT team estimates commercial operation will begin in the fall of 2022.

Save the date

Heat the Streets set for March 5



15TH ANNIVERSARY

After going virtual last year, the Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth is coming back to Aksarben Village in Omaha on Saturday, March 5.

Co-hosted by Metropolitan Utilities District and OPPD, the event – now in its 15th year – raises money for utility assistance programs in our area.

While utility assistance is a year-round need, this event is held during the cold winter months to bring

attention to those who struggle to heat their homes and keep the lights on.

Run, walk or go virtual

Participants may choose between a 5k run and a one-mile walk.

Funds raised are administered by Dollar Energy Fund, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves low-income utility customers.

Funds are equally distributed between M.U.D.'s Home Fund and OPPD's Energy Assistance Program to provide local assistance to those in need.

Dollar Energy works with 26 local entities throughout both utilities' service territories to provide this financial assistance.

Big goal for big hearts

Last year, the event surpassed its \$100,000 goal to help those struggling to pay their utility bills.

However, with ongoing economic and health challenges, we have increased our joint fundraising goal to \$300,000 for 2022.

Registration for the event started Jan. 1. You can register now at HeatTheStreetsOmaha.com.

Participants may participate virtually, if they prefer, at a location of their own choosing. People also have the option of donating to the cause without completing the run or walk.

Stay tuned

While this event is scheduled to be in-person, the planning team is monitoring local and state guidelines related to the pandemic.

If this becomes a virtual event, we will post status updates at HeatTheStreetsOmaha.com.

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.