



# A big move

## OPPD forges ahead on natural gas generation plant

Work on two new OPPD natural gas generation plants hit a major milestone in September with the arrival of some of the giant engines that will help one of them operate.

The first of nine Wärtsilä reciprocating internal combustion engines for Standing Bear Lake Station arrived on Sept. 7 at the site near 114th Street and Military Road in Omaha. The others also arrived in September.

Standing Bear Lake Station is a key part of the Power with Purpose initiative, which will use natural gas and solar power to reduce OPPD's carbon footprint and help us become a net-zero producer of greenhouse gases by 2050.

Standing Bear Lake Station in Douglas County and Turtle Creek Station in Sarpy County will provide backup electricity for the solar component of the Power with Purpose project. The natural gas generation plants will provide reliability and resiliency to the grid in support of renewables, balancing the energy load as needed. OPPD will also use them during extreme weather to maintain a consistent quality of electricity.

Each engine was built in Italy, shipped to Texas and sent by train to Nebraska. In Omaha, each was placed on a special heavy haul trailer for the rest of the trip. Combined, the trailer and engine weigh 796,000 pounds. They're about 248 feet long, 19 feet tall and 14 feet wide.

Follow our progress on [OPPDcommunityconnect.com](https://www.oppd.com/communityconnect).



## Save energy this fall

As temperatures drop this fall, it's a good time to ensure your home is energy efficient to help you lower your heating costs and stay comfortable.

New technology such as smart thermostats can play a role, but there are many old-fashioned tricks as well.

Here are some tips to get started:

**SEAL LEAKS:** Check for leaky spots around exterior doors and windows. Caulk is a good option to seal window leaks, and weather stripping is good for doors and some windows. Another option is a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet sealed tightly on the inside of a window frame.

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## NOVEMBER BOARD MEETINGS

**All-committee meeting:** Tuesday, Nov. 15 (see [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](https://www.oppd.com/BoardMeeting) for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Nov. 17, 5 p.m. (see [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](https://www.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](https://www.oppd.com/BoardMeeting).

# Outlets

### OUR MISSION

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

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**OPPD**  
Omaha Public Power District

## Energy-saving tips *(From front)*

**LET IN THE LIGHT:** Opening blinds or curtains to direct sunlight can help warm a room by up to 5 degrees.

**CIRCULATE AIR:** Reverse the rotation of your ceiling fan so it spins clockwise. In cooler months, this pushes warm air down and outward.

**FURNACE CHECK:** If you're able, hire a licensed HVAC

contractor to inspect your furnace. A cracked heat exchanger can also leak harmful gases into your home.

OPPD offers more tips and incentive programs to improve efficiency on its website, **oppd.com**, and its energy news website, **oppdthewire.com**.

If you have questions about energy efficiency contact us at 402-536-4131 or **customerservice@oppd.com**.

# Tips for tree-planting success

If you are planning some fall landscaping that includes trees, OPPD Forester Mike Norris recommends the tree types listed below.

These species and more can be seen at the OPPD Arboretum, 108th and Blondo streets in Omaha. You can also learn how to plant trees to avoid power lines.

But planting a new tree goes beyond digging a hole and shoveling dirt around the trunk. The process depends on how the 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. Below right, we share the proper techniques for all three.

## RED OAK

This medium to large shade tree with a spreading canopy is known for its hardiness and adaptability, as well as its brilliant fall foliage.

**Size:** 60-70 feet at maturity, with a spread of around 45 feet.

**Growth rate:** This is a relatively fast-growing tree, gaining more than 24 inches per year.

**Location:** Full sun is ideal.

## GINGKO

This tree is known for its uniquely shaped leaves that turn a bright yellow in fall. It also has high tolerance for urban soils and pollution.

**Size:** 25-50 feet at maturity, spread of up to 35 feet.

**Growth rate:** Medium, adding 13-24 inches per year.

**Location:** Full sun and partial shade are best, with a minimum of four hours of direct sunlight.



## CONCOLOR (WHITE) FIR

This hardy evergreen thrives in an urban setting, has good foliage color, good needle retention and a pleasing shape and aroma.

**Size:** 30-50 feet at maturity, with a spread of about 20 feet.

**Growth rate:** Slow to medium, with gains of less than 12 inches to 24 inches per year.

**Location:** Full sun and partial shade, with a minimum of four hours of direct sunlight daily.

## 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. Fill, 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.

## WATERING

In all cases, create a basin around the hole and give the tree a good watering.

**More information:** Visit **arborday.org/trees** for more details on planting trees.

**IT'S THE LAW:** In Nebraska, call 811 or visit **ne1call.com** before digging. In Iowa, call 811.

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