POWERING THE FUTURE

Take a look around OPPD’s service area and you’ll see some exciting changes afoot. Neighborhoods are growing, new families are arriving, businesses throughout the region are opening and expanding.

Our area is growing at a rate we’ve never seen before, but OPPD is actively planning for a bright and fully powered future.

OPPD expects to add energy load to its system at a rate of 100 megawatts (MW) per year for the next 5-6 years. How much is that? Imagine building 65 new metro-area high schools or mid-size hospitals in one year. Just a few years ago, OPPD was adding about 4 MW annually.

That’s why we’re working now to meet our customers’ immediate and long-term needs with reliable, affordable and environmentally sensitive power. Growth brings prosperity, thriving communities, increased tax revenue, new jobs and affordable electricity.

The rapid growth and an increased planning reserve margin requirement from the Southwest Power Pool necessitates continued progress on our generation plans.

Among those plans is Power with Purpose, which includes up to 600 MW of utility-scale solar and 600 MW of modernized natural gas generation.

OPPD must also pursue additional near-term generation options beyond Power with Purpose that align with our plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while meeting the demands of the communities we serve.

More information with specific solutions will be presented to the OPPD Board of Directors for the approximate timeframe of 2027-2032.

Learn more at oppdcommunityconnect.com.

HVAC Tuneup program

Regular HVAC maintenance can reduce your energy bill, improve indoor air quality and prevent costly repairs and breakdowns.

And now, with OPPD’s HVAC Tune-up Program, you can earn a $25 rebate just for scheduling regular maintenance through a certified HVAC contractor.

Here’s how it works:

Schedule a tune-up with a contractor to examine your HVAC unit. The contractor will sign and complete an 8-point tune-up checklist.

Submit your checklist and rebate application via OPPD’s online portal. Once accepted, you’ll receive a $25 check in the mail within 60 days. You can learn more and locate an HVAC contractor on our website, oppd.com.

The rebate is one of many programs available to OPPD customers. For more information, visit oppd.com/residential/products-services.

JUNE BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, June 13 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Regular board meeting: Thursday, June 15, 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.

OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.
Ospreys return to Fort Calhoun Station

Two ospreys have returned to their home near the Missouri River at OPPD’s Fort Calhoun Station. Their nest is the only known site of its kind in eastern Nebraska, and last year was the first year they had their own webcam, which you can watch live on YouTube. The camera lets observers from around the world watch the pair hatch and raise three chicks.

The nest sits on a platform atop a 50-foot power pole. It was moved there in 2021 after OPPD took down the 360-foot meteorological tower that held their previous nest in December 2020 as part of decommissioning efforts.

OPPD workers carefully preserved the nest material, partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission on a plan to relocate the nest material on a structure near the site of the previous tower. Osprey have certain legal protections under the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Recently, the birds have been busy gathering sticks to bolster the walls of their nest and adjusting the soft lining made of grass, moss and dirt.

Solar rebate program offers customer savings

OPPD is expanding its solar rebate program after selling out of the rebates during a pilot program last year, and we’re here to get you started on the path to lowering your utility costs.

The rebates are now available for new customer-owned solar systems installed with an OPPD solar Trade Ally. The program has a total of 165 rebates available this year, each worth $2,000. Last year’s pilot program offered 10 rebates, and they went quickly.

The rebates are only available to customers who use a company that is part of OPPD’s solar Trade Ally program. The company that does the work must apply for the rebate on the customer’s behalf.

OPPD vets and approves the companies on the trade ally list and monitors their practices to ensure they’re up-front and honest with customers about the benefits of solar. We also require companies to meet a list of qualifications.

To get started, contact a Solar/Customer-Owned Generation Trade Ally to determine if installing a solar system is right for you. A full list and eligibility rules are available at oppd.com/cog. Click the “Solar Rebates” button.

Project Houseworks

Project Houseworks is a local nonprofit working to enhance lives and strengthen communities through the preservation of quality affordable housing. On August 19th, volunteer teams will put fresh exterior paint on the homes of low-income seniors during our annual “Brush Up” event. Homeowners must be age 60 or older and living in Douglas or Sarpy Counties. Space is limited, restrictions apply. To apply, contact Project Houseworks at 402-965-9201. Visit projecthouseworks.org for more information.

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.