

The Wheat Belt Connection



OCTOBER 2026



When you flip a switch, you expect the light to turn on; however, it does more than just light a room. It powers the dreams of a teenager studying for a test, the community gathering to support one another, and the critical processes that keep the local economy running. This is the heart of public power and the energy that continues to fuel Nebraska.

Yet, this seamless access to electricity was once a distant reality for many Nebraskans. During the early 20th century, many rural areas of Nebraska lacked access to electricity from private utilities, prompting the state to establish a public power system to serve all communities. In the 1930s, the Nebraska legislature passed legislation allowing the creation of public power districts, such as Wheat Belt Public Power District, to bring electric service to rural areas not served by private utilities. Public power districts deliver more than electricity; they add significant value to the quality of life within the communities they serve. Now, Nebraska is the only state in the country with a fully public power system.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, public power is owned and operated by public entities, including cooperatives, public power districts, and municipalities. Public power operates on a not-for-profit basis, allowing utilities to reinvest revenue in the electric system. Since public power is operated by public entities, it allows for local control that fits the community's needs.

Public power provides great value to the community, and we take pride in serving as your public power provider. This October, we celebrate Public Power Month and the value of local people, local decisions, and local power in the communities we serve.

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Local People.

Public power begins with people. At Wheat Belt PPD, we recognize the importance of service and being active in our local communities. Our employees and board members live and work throughout the area, providing a thorough understanding of the needs of those we serve. Having local people serve the PPD allows us to directly connect with our customers and learn about their needs.

Continued on 3-B

Powered By Local Values cont'd from 3-A

Wheat Belt PPD also strives to serve the community in other ways, such as volunteering at local events, supporting schools and youth programs, and participating in community safety fairs and activities.

This allows us to learn more about the area, connect with local community partners, and support our customers.



Just some of the people behind the power! From left to right: Cory Lundgren, Xander Burns, and Jordan Peters.

Local Decisions.

Public power is built on local people making decisions that benefit the local community. Since PPDs are publicly owned and governed by locally elected board members, PPDs prioritize community and district needs over shareholder profits. This structure ensures our customers have a direct voice in how the utility operates and plans for the future. Additionally, our Board of Directors regularly meets to discuss the future of the public power district. Not only do we hold monthly board meetings, but our directors also participate in community meetings, industry conferences, and other trainings to ensure they have all the resources they need to fully serve our community.

Local power.

Public power districts operate for the benefit of their customers, making every investment a direct contribution to service quality and the long-term prosperity of our community. PPDs continually invest in infrastructure, including substations, power lines, poles, transformers,



Part of our Technical Services Team, Jim Weeda and Kurt Cleveland, out in the field staking new line.

and technology, to ensure safe and dependable electric service. These investments help maintain reliability today while preparing for the future needs of our homes, farms, businesses, and industries.

Local power also plays a vital role in supporting economic growth. Access to reliable electricity is a key factor for businesses, as it helps create opportunities for growth, new investments, and provides local jobs.

This Public Power Month, we celebrate the importance of public power and the value of keeping it local. From the lights in our homes to the critical infrastructure that drives our local economy, public power is the steady and reliable source for our communities. Thank you for trusting us to power what matters most to you.



Public Power Month is a time to recognize the support we give and receive through mutual aid. The fire in March 2026 was a time when we needed help, and crews from utilities near and far showed up to lend a hand.

Celebrating Public Power Month!
We take great pride in serving as your public power provider, and we couldn't do it without your support. Public power empowers local communities to make crucial decisions and ensures a steady energy supply. Thank you for being a customer of Wheat Belt PPD!

PUBLIC POWER

Month

POWERING OUR COMMUNITY.



LOCAL PEOPLE.

LOCAL DECISIONS.

LOCAL POWER.

BEHIND THE POWER: QUESTIONS THAT MATTER

What is capacity—and why is it important?

Capacity simply means having enough dependable electricity available when customers need it most, measured in kilowatts or megawatts. It is different from energy, which is the electricity used over time. Wheat Belt PPD and our power supply partners plan and work to ensure adequate resources are available during the highest-demand conditions, along with a prudent reserve. This preparation helps keep power available during peak periods and supports the dependable service that you, our customers, rely on.

What goes into the cost of generating electricity?

The cost of generating electricity includes more than fuel. It also covers purchased energy, plant construction and financing, operations and maintenance, employees, environmental controls and regulations, insurance, applicable taxes or assessments, transmission access, and eventual retirement obligations. Variable costs determine which resources run from hour to hour, while fixed costs keep dependable units ready even when they are not generating.

How do capacity shortages influence wholesale electricity prices?

When dependable capacity becomes scarce, suppliers compete for a smaller pool of resources, which can raise the cost of firm capacity and increase energy prices during peak or emergency conditions. Wheat Belt prepares for these situations by evaluating contracts, available resources, and long-term supply options before shortages occur. This thoughtful planning helps limit cost pressure while preserving the reliable service customers count on.

What happens when electricity demand increases?

Growing electricity demand can bring new opportunities to our communities. As demand increases, more energy, dependable capacity, and transmission may be needed to serve the new peak. When existing resources can absorb that growth, added sales may help spread fixed costs over more kilowatt-hours. If new generation, capacity purchases, or grid upgrades are necessary, Wheat Belt PPD carefully evaluates their timing and cost. This balanced approach supports growth while helping protect existing customers from unnecessary cost pressure.

OUR HOURS HAVE CHANGED!

NEW HOURS, SAME SERVICE.

Beginning October 19, 2026
7:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Monday - Friday

**10-hour days will begin on April 12, 2027.*



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which is the perfect time to take a fresh look at your passwords. Forget the old advice about cramming passwords with symbols and random capitalization. Today's cybersecurity experts recommend using longer passphrases. A password made up of four or five unrelated words is easier to remember and much harder for criminals to crack than a short, complex password. Use a unique passphrase for every account and enable multi-factor authentication whenever available for added protection.

Source: NIST



LUCKY DRAWING

Wheat Belt Public Power District is pleased to announce Shirley Schlecht as our August Lucky Draw winner. Shirley has been in the Lake McConaughy area since 1979 and has three kids, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Shirley loves to work in her yard.

Shirley received a \$50 credit on her account for her prompt payment. If you would like to be included in our next drawing and avoid a \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 16th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please give us a call at 308-254-5871 or visit the Customer Engagement page on our website for more information.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

MAIN HEADQUARTERS:

P.O. Box 177
11306 Road 32, Sidney, NE 69162

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday
7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

CONTACT US:

P: 308.254.5871
T: 800.261.7114
wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com
www.wheatbelt.com

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OUR MISSION

Deliver electricity safely, reliably
and efficiently.