



September 2025



What Is Net Metering?

BY: **JIM WEEDA**, Assisted by ChatGPT
Technology & Systems Design Manager

Ever wondered what happens if your solar panels make more electricity than you use? That's where net metering comes in!

Net metering is a way for customers who generate their own electricity—like with solar panels or wind turbines—to share any extra power they don't use with the power grid. In return, you get credit on your electric bill. You only pay for the “net” amount of energy you use—what you take from the grid minus what you send back. It's like turning your electric meter backwards when you're making more power than you're using!

What Are the Rules in Nebraska?

Nebraska has some clear guidelines for net metering. Here's what you need to know:

- Your system must be 25 kilowatts or smaller* (that's enough to power most homes).
- You can use renewable sources like solar, wind, hydro, or biomass.
- Any extra electricity you send back to the grid earns you a credit, which helps lower your monthly bill.

These rules are set by Nebraska law under **LB 436**. You can read more on the Nebraska Legislature's website.

****Wheat Belt may allow systems larger than 25 KW upon board approval.***

How Wheat Belt Supports Net Metering

At Wheat Belt Public Power District, we support customers who want to invest in renewable energy. As of our latest report, 27 local customers are part of our net metering

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LUCKY DRAWING



Congratulations to Kae Carlson (Carlson Farm and Ranch) our July “Lucky Draw Winner”!

Kae is a retired rancher and has three kids and four grandchildren. The Carlson Farm is located north of Lewellen and has been a customer since electric services were first installed back when Wheat Belt was still called “REA”.

Carlson Farm and Ranch received a \$50 credit on their account for their 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 wheatbelt.com, and select the Customer Engagement page for more information.



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Editor - Kelli Chaon

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What is Net Metering cont'd from 3-A

program, producing renewable energy from their homes or farms. Combined, they've sent over 68,000 kilowatt-hours of extra energy back to our system. That's enough to power several homes for a whole year!

A Few Important Notes on Safety

Before jumping in, there are a few important safety steps:

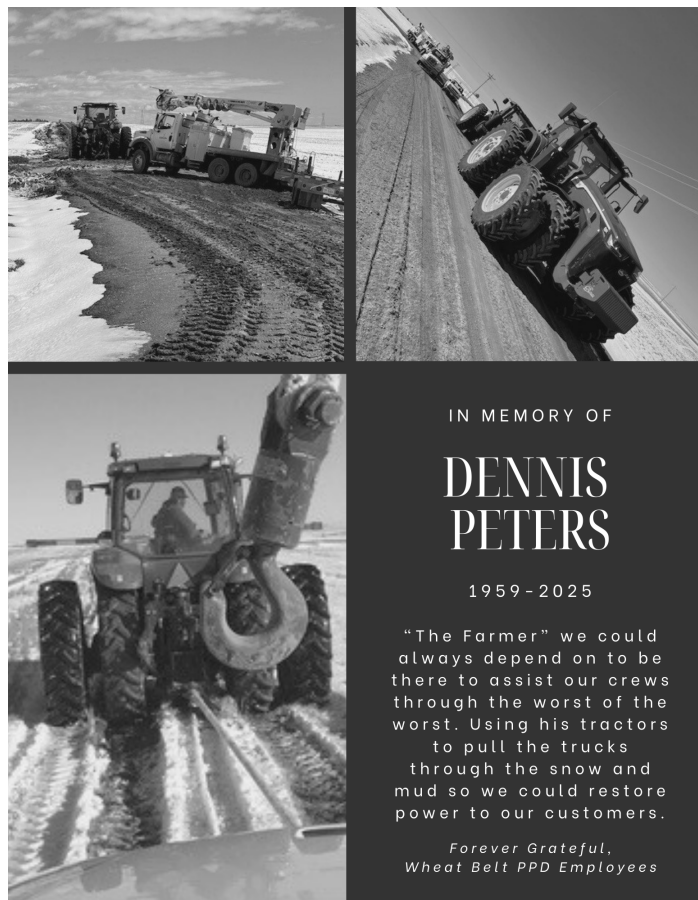
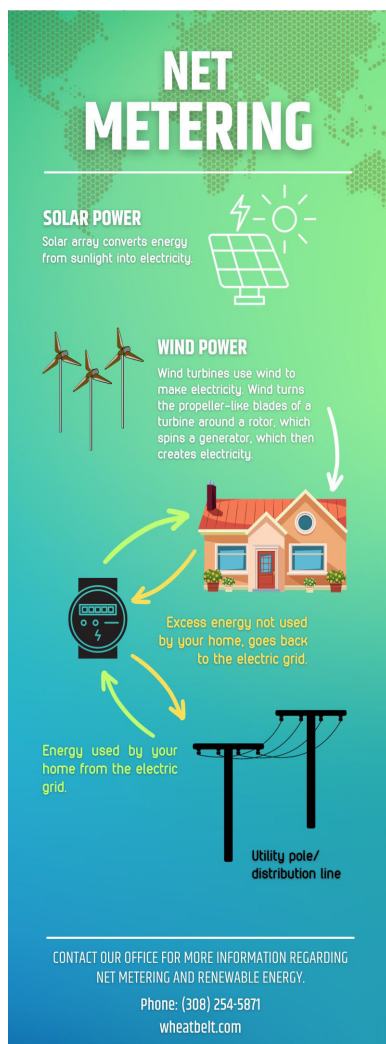
- **Qualified Installers:** Always use a licensed, experienced installer who knows local codes and utility requirements.
- **Electrical Inspections:** Your system must be inspected and approved before it connects to our grid.
- **Disconnect Switch:** Nebraska law requires a visible switch so utility crews can safely work on power lines.

These steps help keep everyone—customers, lineworkers, and electricians—safe.

Thinking About Getting Started?

Net metering is a great option if you're interested in renewable energy and want to lower your electric bill. And you don't have to go it alone—Wheat Belt is here to help. Give us a call, and we'll walk you through the process, explain the requirements*, and help you decide if it's the right fit for your home or business.

**Please call us before purchasing a system to confirm your eligibility for interconnection. In some scenarios, Wheat Belt's engineering requirements will prohibit the ability to interconnect a net-metered system.*



Door Prizes

Drawings

Breakfast

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

CELEBRATING **YOU** BECAUSE SERVING **YOU** IS THE BEST PART OF WHAT WE DO!

September 20th, 2025

8:00 AM - 11 AM

Garden County Eagles Club
201 Main St
Oshkosh, NE 69154

Have you ever wanted to drive an electric vehicle? Come see and drive the Ford Lightning F-150 EV.

Visit with our knowledgeable employees and learn about our rebates, youth programs, net metering requirements and much more!

Enter for a chance to win a 65 in. Smart TV or tickets to a Husker football game....Plus many more prizes!!

Saving Energy During Peak Times Benefits All

BY: ABBY BERRY, NRECA Straight Talk

Conserving electricity during peak energy use times not only lowers your monthly bill—it can benefit our entire community.

“Peak times” refer to periods of the day when the demand for electricity is highest. Think early mornings when people are getting ready for work or school and evenings when families return home, cook dinner and unwind with electronics. When everyone uses energy at once, it adds pressure on the electric grid.

Wheat Belt Public Power District works around the clock to ensure that electricity flows to your home whenever you need it. Behind the scenes, an enormous and intricate system is at work—one of the most complex machines in the world: the U.S. power grid. The grid is made up of three major interconnections that span the country, each managing supply and demand through regional authorities to keep the lights on and our economy running smoothly.

Electricity comes from a diverse mix of sources—hydro-power, natural gas, coal, solar, wind and more. Some power plants can respond quickly to spikes in demand, while others are less flexible. Once energy is generated, it travels through high-voltage transmission lines to local utilities, like Wheat Belt, which then delivers it to your home or business through distribution power lines.

When electricity demand surges during peak times, it’s more expensive to generate or purchase power. If supply can’t keep up, the risk of outages increases. That’s why using less energy during peak hours is more important than ever. It not only eases strain on the grid but also helps you save money. Wheat Belt’s current peak hours are 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm Monday through Saturday. This is subject to change each year after our power supplier sets their rates for the coming year.

So how can you “beat the peak”? Start by adjusting your thermostat a few degrees during peak hours. Smart thermo-

stats can automate this for you. Delay using energy-hungry appliances like ovens, clothes washers and dishwashers until later in the evening. Charging your electric vehicle overnight instead of right after you get home can also help.

Small actions taken by many households can lead to big results. When we all work together to reduce energy use during peak times, we protect our power grid, help control costs and ensure reliable electricity for our communities.



JULY BOARD MEETING UPDATE



- The board reviewed the request for proposals from three audit firms regarding our annual audit. After review and in-depth discussion, the board voted to award DeCoria the auditing contract for the next three years.
- The board went into an executive session for a conference call with NRECA for an update on the CEO search.
- Waite informed the board that Unit 25 (Dalton Bucket Truck) is up for replacement and bids were received from multiple companies. The board approved the bid from Altec with an additional four-year warranty.
- The strategic plan initiative update was presented to the board regarding: Strengthen Safety Culture. (See update on page 3-C)
- Per Policy C-11, an irrigation demand was approved to be written off in the amount of \$400.35.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of “shoulder months,” which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.



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OFFICE HOURS:

M-TH 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Our Mission

Deliver electricity safely, reliably and
efficiently.