

MEAN kicks off second year of energy efficiency programs



The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, in partnership with the local electric utilities it serves, is providing another year of energy efficiency programs that provide cash incentives paid directly to customers to help cover the cost of energy efficient upgrades.

The programs include three residential programs: smart thermostat program, attic insulation program and cooling system tune-up program. MEAN’s commercial LED lighting program is also available for another year.

The programs are available to customers of MEAN long-term wholesale power participants, with funds being on a first-come, first-served basis until funds last. Funding for the Commercial LED Lighting Program

Energy Efficiency Programs By the Numbers for 2019-20

Residential Programs

Total Projects Completed.....	22
Total cash incentives	\$ 1,400

Commercial LED Lighting Program

Approved projects	85
Cash incentives	\$90,155
Participating MEAN communities for year.....	27
Light fixtures retrofitted	11,510
Annual energy savings estimated	1,800 MWhs
Peak demand estimated savings.....	300 KW

is \$105,000 and funding for the three residential programs are \$15,000 for each program.
For program flyers and more

information, go to www.nmppenergy.org/mean or contact Mandy Hansen, (800) 234-2595 or ahansen@nmppenenergy.org.

Delivering needed hand sanitizer to member communities

NMPP/MEAN Member Relations Representative Carol Brehm loads her vehicle with hand sanitizer to deliver to member communities to be used by essential workers, including utility crews.

Brehm and Electrical Distribution O&M Specialist Rich Eymann, delivered more than 300 gallons of sanitizer to more than 70 NMPP member communities and more is being shipped to communities in Colorado and Iowa. The sanitizer was produced by the University of Nebraska Innovation Campus’ Food Processing Center through a partnership of more than 20 organizations.

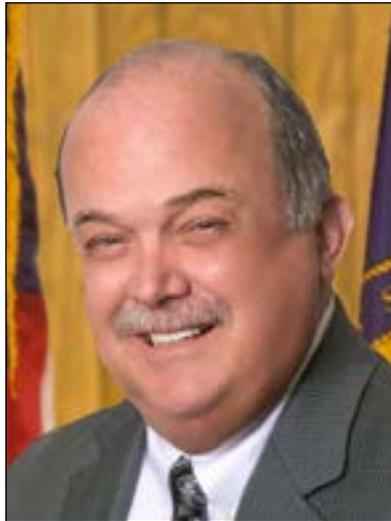


Hawks receives NMPP service award

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool (NMPP) in late April awarded Jim Hawks, recently retired city administrator of North Platte, Neb., with the Bob Arraj Service Award. Hawks retired in May after 17 years with the City.

The award is presented annually to an official or employee of a NMPP member utility system who has excelled in service in the utility industry. The award is a memorial tribute to Bob Arraj, former city administrator and utilities superintendent of Kimball, Neb. Arraj's years of knowledge, insight and expertise in the energy field allowed NMPP members to benefit from numerous energy and service projects.

Hawks was an active member of NMPP, serving on the NMPP



Jim Hawks

Board of Directors and various committees and worked with NMPP staff on various projects. He served the City in various roles, including utility director and development director in

addition to his city administrator role.

He is active on the Nebraska Department of Transportation's Innovation Task Force and is a past president of the Nebraska Association of County Engineers, Highway Superintendents and Surveyors and the Professional Surveyors Association of Nebraska.

He began his public service in North Platte as a Lincoln County highway superintendent in 1988. He joined city government in 2003 as director of North Platte Municipal Light and Water.

As the recipient of the award, Hawks received \$350 which will be designated to go to a local project or program of his choosing.

Goulette receives MEAN service award

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) presented Tom Goulette, city administrator/utility superintendent for the City of West Point, Neb., with its Rudy Hultgren Dedicated Service Award May 21 during MEAN's Board of Directors meeting held via teleconference.

The award is presented annually to an individual of a MEAN member utility who has displayed commendable efforts in promoting the use of public power and its ideals. The award is a memorial tribute to Rudy Hultgren, a utility consultant and well-known and respected citizen of Lyons, Colo., who played an active role in community service and leadership.

Goulette has served as utility superintendent for the City since



Tom Goulette

1993 and took over city administrator duties in 2001. He has been active in the MEAN organization for many years, serving as chair of the MEAN Management Committee and several MEAN subcommittees. Currently, he is in his sixth year of serving as the chair of the MEAN Board of Directors.

He also serves on the Cuming County Economic Development Board, Planning and Zoning Administrator and Ex Officio member of the LB 840 Economic Development Board, League of Nebraska Municipalities Executive Board and is President of the Nebraska Rural Water Association. He received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award from the American Public Power Association in 2006 for his dedication and service. Goulette has assisted in many projects benefitting the City of West Point.

As the award recipient, Goulette received \$350 which will be designated to go to a community project or group.



By Bob Poehling,
Executive Director



This Month at NMPP Energy

The majority of NMPP Energy staff remains working remotely while continuing to serve member communities as seamlessly as possible. Below is a list of a few of the activities and workstreams that occurred during the past month at

NMPP Energy on behalf of member communities. If you need anything during this challenging time do not hesitate to contact our team:

Nebraska Municipal Power Pool

- Work continued assisting with U.S. Energy Information Administration reports on behalf of the 33 participating member communities.
- The NMPP Board of Directors held their quarterly meeting by teleconference in late May.
- Rate study work was performed for Carlisle, Iowa, Lamar, Colo., North Platte, Neb. and Nebraska City, Neb.
- Staff is working on planning for virtual training opportunities for PowerManger users. Staff handled 49 software support calls and provided nearly 38 hours of service during April while Salt Creek Software handled more than 300 calls with approximately 122 hours of service provided.

Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

- MEAN/NMPP staff delivered more than 300 gallons of hand sanitizer to more than 70 NMPP/MEAN communities with more being shipped to Colorado and Iowa communities.

- Staff attended various virtual meetings, teleconference and training sessions.
- MEAN held its Board and Committee meetings in mid-May by teleconference.
- Staff continued working on an AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) business plan.
- Planning is underway for summer unit capability testing.

National Public Gas Agency

- The NPGA Board of Directors held a special meeting May 7 to review analysis of its current hedge positions and consideration for future options and parameters.
- A summer market outlook was provided to Stuart, Neb., to assist irrigation customers with pricing expectations.
- Preparations are underway for NPGA's Board of Directors meeting set for June 11.

Public Alliance for Community Energy

- Staff is completing reports for Black Hills Energy and ACE's wholesale supplier post Choice Gas selection period.
- Ongoing file exchange, reporting and reconciliation occurs during May in preparation for the Choice Gas year which begins June 1.
- The ACE Board of Directors meeting was held May 20.
- Staff prepared and sent responses to the Nebraska Public Service Commission on the docket it opened regarding the Choice Gas program.

Devine earns city clerk award

City of Albion, Neb., City Administrator Andrew Devine was recently named the 2020 Nebraska Outstanding Clerk of the Year for Second Class cities by the Nebraska Municipal Clerk's Association.

Devine has served as Albion's city administrator since 2007. He told the Albion News he has been focused on two main priorities as city administrator: Improving ser-

vice delivery through operational, communication and department level fiscal planning and financial planning for operation and maintenance of existing city assets and future capital improvement projects.

Devine received the award for cities with a population between 800-5,000. He has played a role in major city capital improvement projects, including a new



Photo by Albionnewsonline

Andrew Devine, left, accepts the Nebraska Outstanding Clerk award from Albion Mayor Jim Jarecki.

swimming pool, new waste water treatment plant, two new water wells and paving projects.

Ord, Loup City earn ACE Project Awards

ACE (Public Alliance for Community Energy) recently presented Project of the Year awards to two of its member communities.

ACE returns funds to its 75 Nebraska member communities through its revenue return program. These funds are used for various community betterment projects. Earlier this year, ACE returned \$400,000 to its Nebraska member communities. Since forming in 1998, ACE has returned nearly \$2.8 million to its Nebraska member communities.

Communities submitted project nominations and winners were determined through voting on ACE's Facebook page. The awards were presented in two community population categories: Under 2,000 and more than 2,000. The following projects were awarded a plaque and \$200 to be used toward future community betterment projects:



City of Ord, Neb. Anderson Island Picnic Shelter (Population more than 2,000)

The City used its ACE funds to install a picnic shelter and table at Anderson Island, located on a City park next to the North Loup River. The site, which provides access to the river, is widely used by Ord residents as well as people that use the river for kayaking, canoeing and tubing.

City of Loup City, Neb. Sherman Co. Senior Center (Population less than 2,000)

The City recently used its ACE funds to make much needed upgrades to its local Sherman County Senior Center. The upgrades included installing new dining room flooring and kitchen countertops, which allows the center to continue to serve the community by providing meals to local senior citizens as well as a gathering place for the whole community.



Chadron using its ACE funds to help local businesses

The City of Chadron, Neb., is using its share of distributed funds from ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy, to assist local businesses being economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City Council in May approved using \$5,000 of its ACE revenue to fund a gift card matching program through the Northwest Nebraska Development Corporation (NNDC).

The gift card matching program is part of an overall package that also includes \$60,000 in city micro-grants to assist local businesses economically impacted by the pandemic.

The program is named the Magic Multiplier. When a customer buys a gift card or gift certificate from a local business and brings it to the NNDC office, the business receives a check for a matching amount. There is a \$50 limit per card and a maximum of \$300 per business. The program's goal is to get revenue to businesses now with the promise of future business when the gift card is used.

The ACE Board approved an overall distribution of \$400,000 earlier this year to ACE member communities. Chadron's share of the distribution was more than \$12,000.

Source: Chadrad.com

Colorado aims to reduce emissions

With COVID-19 issues largely on our minds, don't forget there are other health concerns, such as major clean air laws, pending in Colorado.

NMPP's staff, along with Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities (CAMU) members recently participated on a call with the Colorado Energy Office and the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to learn about the state's approach to implementing the new laws. The agencies are developing air pollution control policies to implement the 2019 enacted legislation related to air quality.

House Bill 19-1261 sets statewide greenhouse gas reduction goals. The goals are to reduce emissions by at least 26 percent by 2025, 50 percent by 2030 and 90 percent by 2050.

This bill, along with Senate Bill 19-096, requires AQCC to collect greenhouse gas data from emitting entities, report on the data, including the forecast of future emissions, and propose rules to address greenhouse gas reduction goals by July 1, 2020.

Largely all of the reductions likely will be coming from the state's electric sector. MEAN is willing to be a part of the solution in Colorado along with other organizations. Earlier this year the MEAN Board of Directors approved a resolution laying out a vision to achieve a carbon-neutral power resource portfolio by 2050. Other utilities are taking steps as well:

- Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association has a plan for retiring coal assets, slashing emissions, and adding more than one gigawatt of new renewables to its portfolio.
- Platte River Power Authority has contracts for approximately 198 megawatts of noncarbon resources with 186 megawatts for delivery to its four owner communities. That number will increase

to approximately 50 percent by 2021 with the addition of 225 megawatts of wind power and 22 megawatts of new solar (plus battery storage) capacity.

WEIS set to begin in February

Southwest Power Pool's Western Energy Imbalance Service Market (WEIS) will begin in February 2021. The market will balance generation and load regionally and in real time for participants in the Western Interconnection.

MEAN, along with seven other utilities, will be participants in the WEIS Market. The new Market will centrally dispatch energy from participating resources throughout the region every five minutes, enhancing both the reliability and affordability of electricity delivery from utilities to their customers. MEAN is looking to gain efficiencies, save its members money and lower costs in the market.

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Chris Dibbern is general counsel of NMPP Energy. Contact her at cdibbern@nmppenergy.org or (800) 234-2595.

Legislative Notes



By Chris Dibbern

NPGA Board reviews hedging policy strategies

The National Public Gas Agency held a special Board meeting by teleconference in May to review and discuss its natural gas hedging policy and policy parameters.

The meeting was in response to possible natural gas price impacts due to the recent decline in oil prices as well as the COVID-19 pan-

NPGA Board Notes

demic. Natural gas prices have been relatively low, but some industry experts are projecting an increase in natural gas pricing in the intermediate term of 2021-22 due to a recent decline in production.

After considerable discussion, the Board decided not to take

action and to revisit its hedging strategy at its scheduled quarterly board meeting June 11.

NPGA uses its hedging policy to manage forward exposure to commodity price risk by purchasing a portion of its future natural gas volumes.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CHAMPION BUSINESSES



Dogwood Energy offers capacity, energy, ancillary power services

Dogwood Energy is pleased to be able to support NMPP Energy and its members as a NMPP Energy Champion business. We understand and appreciate the mission and role of municipal utilities in serving their communities. We have been proud to co-own the Dogwood Energy Facility with municipal utilities and power authorities in Missouri and Kansas since 2012.

Dogwood Energy is a one-third minority share owner of the Dogwood Energy Facility, a

650 megawatt, natural gas-fired, combined cycle power plant located in Pleasant Hill, Mo. We provide capacity, energy and ancillary services to utilities throughout the 14-state footprint of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), including all of Nebraska and Western Iowa. We offer these essential power services through various options, including both direct ownership of the facility and short or long-term power purchase agreements.

As the majority owners,

municipal utilities and power authorities jointly oversee and direct the facility's operations. The Dogwood Energy Facility is an established, operating, commercially proven asset within the SPP area, with an excellent operating record.

For more information, please contact Rob Janssen, Chief Commercial Officer of Dogwood Energy, at (443) 542-5125 or rob.janssen@kelsonenergy.com.

A complete listing of NMPP Energy Champion Businesses is on page 7

MEAN's Lindsay named vice-chair of SPP Working Group

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska Electric Operations Manager Jeff Lindsay was recently approved as vice-chair of the Southwest Power Pool's Western Markets Working Group.

The group was developed by the Western Markets Executive Committee, which oversees SPP's Western Energy Imbalance Service. The working group will recommend protocols and tariff changes to the executive committee as well as work with regulators and other parties in implementing the WEIS market.

Valerie Weigel of Basin Electric Power Cooperative will

NMPP Staff Notes

serve as chair of the working group. The appointments are for two-year terms.

SPP's WEIS, which is expected to begin in February 2021, will balance electric generation and load regionally and in real time for participants in the Western Interconnection. MEAN joined the WEIS in December 2019.

Videl Sabio joins NMPP Energy team

Videl Sabio recently joined the NMPP Energy team as a paralegal.

She previously assisted the NMPP Energy organizations on a temporary basis at the reception desk and, most recently, on the legal team before becoming a full-time employee.



She most recently worked as a legal assistant with Baylor Evnen, LLP in Lincoln, Neb. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in paralegal studies.



Follow NMPP Energy on Twitter and Facebook!

NMPP Energy is now sharing organizational, member and industry-wide news on Twitter as well as Facebook. Search for "NMPP Energy" and make us part of your social media experience!

Support NMPP member communities through the Champions Business Program

Champions are businesses and organizations that support NMPP Energy's effort to provide products and services to members. Consider these businesses when your utility or municipality has a business need. If your business is interested in becoming an NMPP Energy Champion, call Andrew Ross at (800) 234-2595.



Champions Business Directory of Services

Financial

Ameritas Investment Corp. (Ameritas.com)..... Omaha, Neb.
D.A. Davidson & Co. (dadavidson.com/ficm) Omaha, Neb.
First National Bank (Firstnational.com) Omaha, Neb.
UNICO Group, Inc. and Midlands Financial Benefits (unicogroup.com) Lincoln, Neb.
Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union (ne-fcu.org) Columbus, Neb.

Regulatory/Compliance

Air Regulation Consulting (airregconsulting.com) Lincoln, Neb.
NAQS Environmental Experts (naqs.com) Lincoln, Neb.

Utility/Community

Dogwood Energy Columbia, Md.
EnergySolutions, Inc. (energysolutions-inc.com) Omaha, Neb.
Hometown Connections, Inc. (Hometownconnections.com) Lakewood, Colo.
Foundation for Educational Services (fes.org) Lincoln, Neb.
GenPro Energy Solutions (GenProEnergy.com) Piedmont, S.D.
JK Energy Consulting, LLC (JKenergyconsulting.com) Lincoln, Neb.
Border States (borderstates.com) Fargo, N.D.
NovaTech (Novatechweb.com) Lenexa, Kan.
PDS, Inc. (PDSinc.biz) Omaha, Neb.
Protective Equipment Testing Laboratory (petl.com) Great Bend, Kan.
RESCO (Rural Electric Supply Cooperative) (resco1.com) Ankeny, Iowa
Sol Systems (solsystems.com) Washington, D.C.
Sunbelt-Solomon Solutions (sunbelt-solomon.com) Solomon, Kan.

Computer/Technology

Proteus (Proteus.co) Lincoln, Neb.
Salt Creek Software, Inc. (Saltcreek.com) Lincoln, Neb.

Engineering

Exponential Engineering Company (exponentialengineering.com) Fort Collins, Colo.
Halker Consulting (Halker.com) Centennial, Colo.
JEO Consulting Group, Inc. (jeo.com) Wahoo, Neb.
Lutz, Daily & Brain, LLC (ldbeng.com) Overland Park, Kan.
Olsson (Olsson.com) Lincoln, Neb.
Shermco Industries (Shermco.com) Omaha, Neb.

Insurance

League Association of Risk Management (larmpool.org) Lincoln, Neb.

Legal

Chapman and Cutler, LLP (chapman.com) Salt Lake City, Utah
Spiegel & McDiarmid (spiegelmcd.com) Washington, D.C.

Telecommunication

Community Broadband Action Network (broadbandaction.com) Indianola, Iowa
River Oaks Communications Corp. (rivoaks.com) Centennial, Colo.



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Employment Opportunities

Electric Distribution Lineman

The City of **Sutton**, Neb., is accepting applications for an electric distribution lineman. This is a full-time position which requires knowledge and training of electrical distribution. The individual will perform skilled line work in the operation, construction maintenance, and repair of overhead and underground electrical distribution systems. Experience in construction and maintenance of overhead and underground, primary/secondary is desired, or department foreman will train for the right individual with appropriately completed credentials. Education may substitute for some experience. Full benefits including health insurance, H.S.A., pension contribution, vacation, comp. time, uniforms, etc. Lineman will work under our electric utility foreman. Wage rates are negotiable, but compensatory with experience. The average wage rate with multiple years of experience is \$26/hour. Resume, cover letter and application may be sent to: Marla Newman, City Clerk, P.O. Box 430, Sutton, NE 68979-0430. A complete job description and application can be obtained by calling (402) 773-4225 or by e-mail: cityofsutton@gmail.com. Sutton is an equal opportunity employer. Position open until filled.

Electrical Department Foreman

The City of **Sutton**, Neb., (pop. 1502) is accepting applications for a full-time electrical department foreman with a pay range between \$28-35

To submit an ad

Submit ads to kwickham@nmppenergy.org.

per hour DOQ. This is a full-time position which requires knowledge and training of electrical distribution with a preference given for in-field working background of 3 to 5 years of lineman experience. Preference is also given to applicants with leadership training and/or supervisory experience. The applicant for this position would need to perform skilled line work in the operation, construction maintenance, and repair of overhead and underground electrical distribution systems. Experience in construction and maintenance of overhead and underground, primary/secondary is desired. Having experience as a certified Journeyman Lineman is a preference for this position. Education may substitute for some experience. The department is made up of one other lineman. The foreman position will oversee the daily activities and long-term planning of the electric (light) department and direct planning for upkeep of the system. Full benefits include health insurance, H.S.A., pension contribution, sick and vacation time, comp. time, holiday time, uniforms, etc. Wage rates are negotiable, but compensatory with qualifications, experience and leadership abilities. Resume, cover letter and application may be sent to: Marla Newman, City Clerk, PO

Box 430, Sutton, NE 68979-0430. A complete job description and application can be obtained by calling (402) 773-4225 or by e-mail: cityofsutton@gmail.com Sutton is an equal opportunity employer. Position open until filled.

Power Plant Operator

The City of **Kimball**, Neb., has an opening for a power plant operator. This position performs a variety of semi-skilled and skilled maintenance work and operates a variety of equipment in the construction, operation, repair, maintenance, and replacement of City power generating equipment. For a complete position description, go to www.nmppenergy.org and click on "careers" or go to the City of Kimball's website at www.kimballne.org.

Equipment Operator

The City of **St. Paul**, Neb., is seeking applicants for Equipment Operator. This position is responsible for repairing and maintaining traffic signals and signs, repairing roads, alleys and streets; and snow and ice removal. Must have ability to operate and maintain heavy equipment such as loaders, backhoe, bobcat, and street sweeper. Successful candidate must have a valid Class B license with an air brake endorsement. An application and full job description may be obtained by contacting the City office at 704 6th Street, St. Paul, NE 68873 or by emailing laurab@cityofstpaulne.org. Applications will be accepted until June 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.