

# CURRENT FLASHES

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## Extreme Winter Weather Impacts Reliability & Your Bill

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on the electric grid.

At Cedar-Knox PPD, we work closely with our local generation and transmission (NE G&T) and wholesale provider, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than just us.

CKPPD, NPPD, and our NE G&T take proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning; but it takes everyone to keep the grid stable.

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if an event like a large polar vortex, ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. This is why occasional reminders are sent out to a region to ask consumers to be aware and if possible, reduce usage. These reminders help to reduce strain on the grid but also to reduce usage affecting your overall bill.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

- Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible.
- Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.

- Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryer. For example: Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.
- Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation. Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged and dirty. Replace it as needed.
- When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs.
- Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money

on your electric bills, but you can also each contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our local community warm and connected.

### BEST BETS FOR

## Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

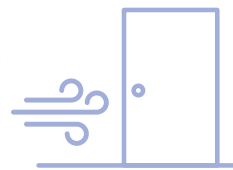
### UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

### ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



### USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



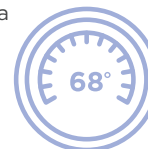
### MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.



### LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



## CLOSED FOR TRAINING

CKPPD will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024 for President's Day and for an all-employee training. As always, for outages and emergencies, give us a call and a trouble crew will respond.

# A NEW LOOK COMING

Cedar-Knox PPD will feature a new bill design in the next few months. We hope that you find this easier to read and review your usage data. An important detail will be that the remittance stub has moved to the bottom of the paper to aid with our posting equipment and process. Please continue to return this for proper application of your payment.



## INTERESTED IN ATTENDING YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP?

- Cedar-Knox Public Power District selects students to attend camp each year to represent Northeast Nebraska.
- Use the QR Code or go online at [cedarknoxppd.com/programs-services/youth-energy-camp/](http://cedarknoxppd.com/programs-services/youth-energy-camp/) to apply by May 1st
- Camp is July 22-26, 2024 at Camp Comeca in Cozad, NE
- Student must currently be in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade...And your home must be served by CKPPD



## WHY GO TO ENERGY CAMP?

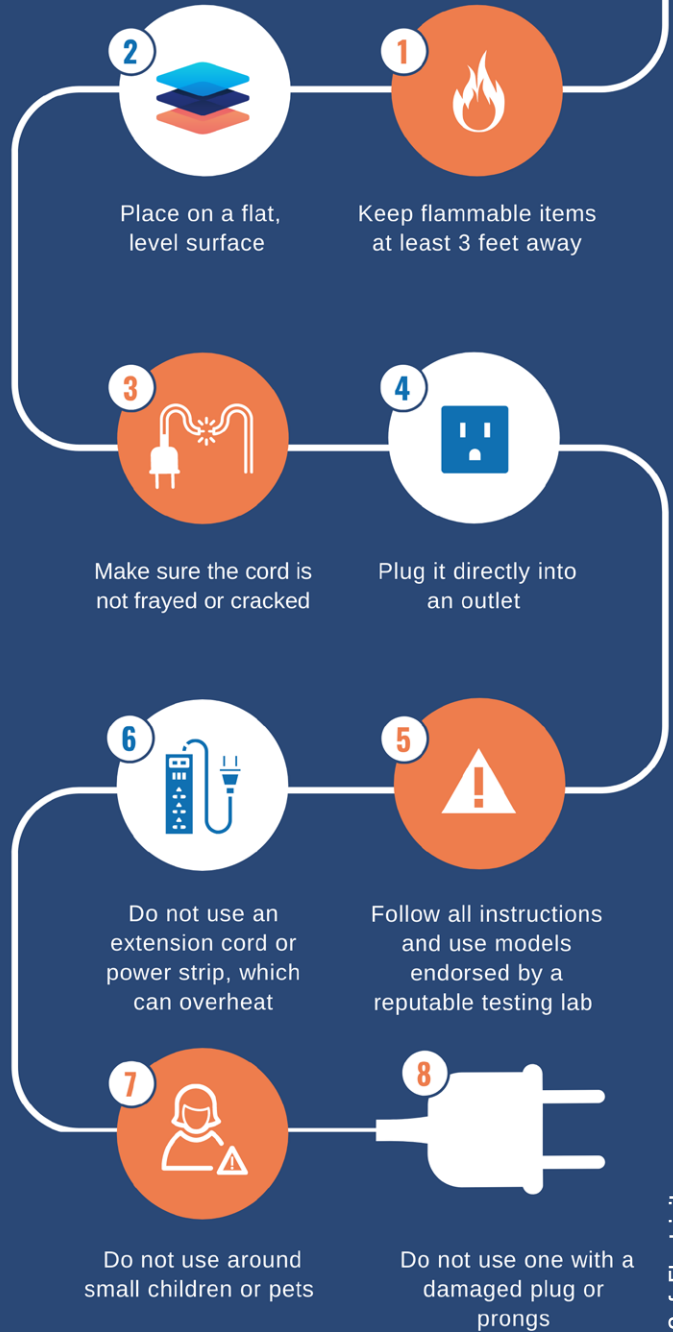
- Learn about public power in Nebraska and what makes it unique
- Tour two Nebraska Power Plants
- Have a chance to win a trip to Washington D.C.
- Meet other students from all over Nebraska and Wyoming
- Participate in activities: sports, swimming, a dance, and a banquet



- Attending this camp would be an excellent addition to scholarship applications & resumes
- It's FREE!

feeling chilled?

# HEAT YOUR SPACE SAFELY



SafeElectricity.org

## Interested in a text or email reminder that your bill is due?

Give us a call and we can sign you up!

