

Hershey school is an 'Energy Star'



Hershey Public Schools have made several energy-saving improvements including lighting and heating and cooling system upgrades. The reduction in energy usage has earned them Energy Star status, meaning that their school is one of the top 25% in energy efficiency for facilities of their size and design. Pictured are Hershey Public Schools Board of Education members Floydene Brown, Bob Arnett, Roger Stockall and Steve Koch, Superintendent Dr. Michael Cunning and Dave Raymond representing Trane. Traci Hoatson and Julie Boettcher, who also serve on the Board of Education, were not pictured.

When the lights go out... make sure your home stays safe

If a power outage occurs while you are at home, take note of what you were doing at the time. Make sure you turn off any appliances you may have been using.

An Illinois family had a close call after the power went out as they were cooking a meal. A pan



containing grease was left on the electric burner. The family left the house.

When power was restored three hours later, the range heated the pan again and the contents ignited. Fortunately, the family returned home soon after the fire started and were able to extinguish the fire.

Give our online bill payment option a try

Dawson PPD is asking customers with Internet access to try the District's online billing and payment service. The e-bill system allows you to securely make payments using your credit card, debit card or checking account. It also allows customers to submit meter readings and to review energy usage and payment history.

"Paying bills is a dreaded task but nothing is simpler than paying online using Dawson Power's ebill service, says Gwen Kautz, Manager of Customer Service. "It's very convenient; no check to write, no envelopes to address, no stamp to buy, and no taking it to the mailbox or post office.

Enter your checking account or credit card data once and it's encrypted and stored safely to be used again and again. In all honesty, I can't imagine going back to writing checks."

The e-bill system meets the increased federal requirements for the security of private customer information known as "red flag rules."

"By using E-bill, the customer's bank accounts are being protected because they are not giving out their debit or credit

card numbers over the phone," says Connie Hird, Supervisor of Consumer Accounts. "Customers also have the

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DAWSON PUBLIC POWER today's energy. tomorrow's vision.
20101 Rt 411, Lehigh, Indiana 46030 - Phone: 317.524.2380

Easy, convenient... e-bill

Get account information, convenient payment options and an easy way to send meter readings...

Available 24/7.

Dawson PPD offers e-bill service to our customers. You can login to view your account history, energy usage charts, make a payment or record your meter reading.

To sign up, click on link below. The first time you visit the site, you will need to use the "Click here to sign up" link. You will need your account number (found on your monthly statement). If you use the e-check option you will need the numbers on the check and your driver's license number.

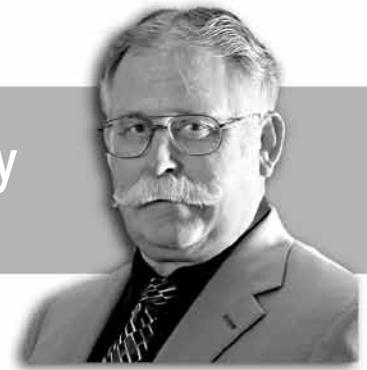
If you have **multiple accounts**, use the EXACT SAME email account and the EXACT SAME password. When you click on the "See your bill" feature, you will be able to see all of your accounts and choose to pay them individually or in groups.

Please note that Dawson PPD does not plan to stop sending paper bills at this time. You will be notified when that option becomes available.

Dawson's e-bill service allows you to access your account information anytime. It also gives you several convenient payment options. (Image: istockphoto/infusa)

Visit www.dawsonpower.com and click on the payment or meter readings tab to get more information about ebill. You will need your account information to sign up for the service.

Taking control through conservation & efficiency



Energy in all forms drives our modern lifestyles. Gas, oil, coal, and electricity are energy sources which make our communications, transportation, manufacturing, business and residential systems work. As our modern societies evolve, electricity is the clear choice to power our future.

So what will that future look like?

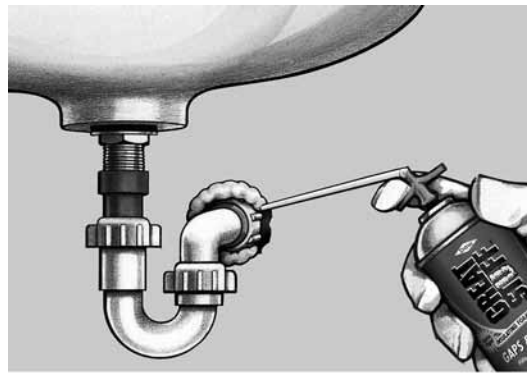
Many forces are at work which may have a profound effect on the electric industry. Currently, about 50% of the electricity produced in the USA comes from coal. Coal is under tremendous pressure from the EPA and environmental community to reduce green house gasses. Very few new coal plants are being built and many older coal plants in the existing fleet will be shut down with tighter environmental regulation. This means that replacement generators must be built which in all likelihood will be natural gas, nuclear, and renewable such as wind or solar. We believe this transition will drive up the cost of electricity.

At the same time costs are rising, demand for electricity increases. We Americans love our electronics, flat screen TVs, computers and smart

phones. All of which depend on electricity. Of course we can't forget the launching of electric vehicles for the public. As they gain in popularity, an ever increasing amount of electricity will be needed to keep the fleet operational. Projections show an ever increasing demand for more electricity as we move into the future.

How will consumers deal with these global impacts on their pocketbooks? I would suggest it will be through energy efficiency and conservation.

Conservation is defined by not wasting a resource. We can conserve electricity by turning off lights, insulating our homes, or installing better doors and windows. Efficiency on the other hand produces the desired effect with a minimum of effort, expense



or effect. You can be more efficient by installing a heat pump which uses less energy to heat and cool your home and heat water, installing a smart thermostat to control temperatures when you are not home, replacing your

light bulbs with lower wattage options, or by purchasing low energy use appliances.

In the final analysis, as consumers we all will continue to use lots of electricity. As your electric utility, we just want you to use it in the most efficient manner without waste. That's why we are encouraging energy efficiency with our rebate programs.

Until next time...

Robert Heinz, General Manager

Neal joins North Platte staff

Kim Neal is working at the North Platte Service Center as a Consumer



Kim Neal

Accounting Representative. The office is open to customers from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Neal takes payments, helps new customers

with applications for service and assists irrigators who make changes to their load management options.

Fecht marks 30 years

Gothenburg lineman Hal Fecht is celebrating 30 years of service to Dawson PPD customers.

Fecht started his career in 1981 and earned Journeyman status in 1986. In 1989 he became the Chief Area Serviceman.

He has worked at the Gothenburg Service Center throughout his career. The territory includes the towns of Farnam and Brady as well as rural areas near Gothenburg and the west side of Cozad.



Hal Fecht

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ability to pay their bills at midnight if they choose -- it is convenient."

Customers who use e-bill receive an email notice when their monthly statement is ready for review and payment. They also have the option to continue to receive paper bill statements in the mail or to discontinue them.

Too many kilowatt hours on your bill?

The best way to determine the cause of high energy usage is to look at the total picture.

Start by looking at your history of energy usage. When you make comparisons, make sure they're accurate. A comparison of 28 days of electric usage last year to a 36-day usage this year will not be helpful. Instead, you may want to look at the number of kilowatt hours used per day. Take daily readings at the same time of day for a week. Note changes in your routine. The monthly average kilowatt use per day information is available online for all customers who



sign up for the e-bill service. Dawson PPD keeps monthly weather data for comparison.

Once you have determined that you are indeed using more electricity than normal, Dawson Public Power District suggests that you investigate the following *possible* causes:

- **Electric water heater** -- a bad element
- **Submersible well pump** -- a water logged pressure tank or a control problem that makes the pump run more than usual
- **Faulty underground wire** -- between the meter and your home or outbuildings. This wire is the customer's responsibility.
- **Tank and engine block heaters** -- these may have been left plugged in when they aren't needed

- **Heat pump failure** -- a failed heat pump will turn on the backup resistance heat
- **Auto controls on appliances** -- a thermostat on an appliance, a photocell on a yard light or a timer that has failed can cause an appliance to use more electricity

Please keep in mind that an increase in usage is rarely caused by a mechanical problem in the meter. However, Dawson PPD does have a procedure for testing meters at the customer's request.

Dawson does have electronic power cost monitors that can help you keep an eye on your usage. Call 800-752-8305 if you would like to schedule the usage of one.

Photo credit istockphoto/top10

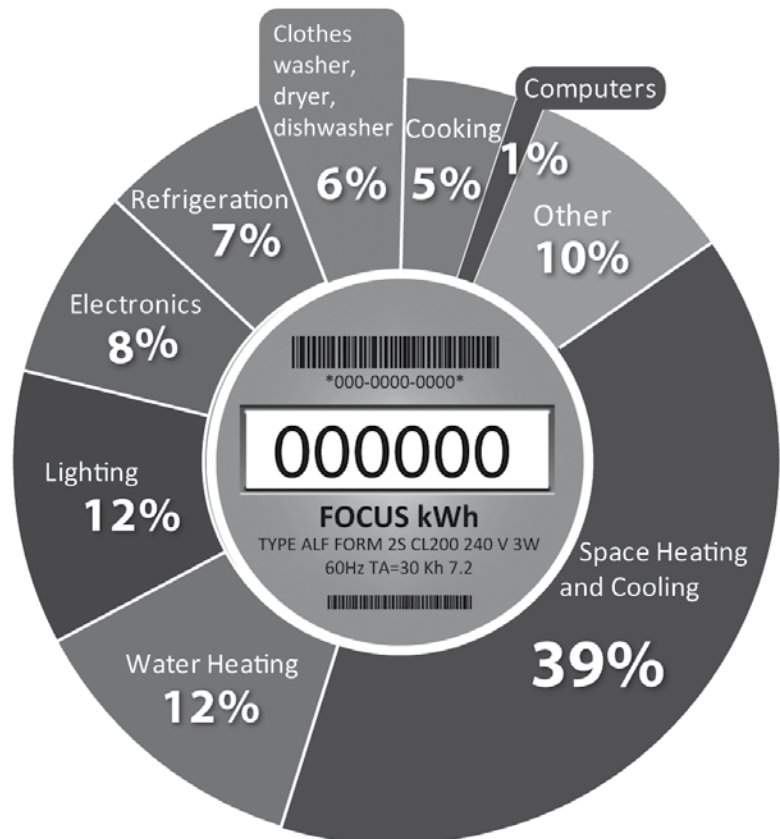
Tune in to TV energy savings

TVs are bigger than they used to be. And some of the largest ones can use as much electricity each year as a new, conventional refrigerator. But ENERGY STAR-qualified TVs use roughly 40 percent less energy than standard models.

Of course, if the set is left on when no one is watching, that costs money. But in some cases, even if you hit the "off" button, "energy vampires" might go to work—meaning your TV could still consume power.

Here are a couple of things you can do to stop that drain. Many high-definition TVs come with a quick start option. By turning it off, you'll save energy and add only a few seconds to start-up times. And to stop energy vampires, use a power strip as a central "turn off" point. When you're not watching TV and not planning to record a program later, simply flip the strip's "off" button.

How Your Home Uses Electricity



Source: 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, U.S. Department of Energy, Table 21.5. Represents an all-electric home.

Reduce irrigation energy costs through better efficiency

In the past two years, Nebraska earned another No. 1 ranking. No other state irrigates more farmland than the Cornhuskers. Nebraska producers have grown over 8.5 million acres of corn per year. More than 60 percent of those acres are irrigated. On top of that, over 4.5 million acres of soybeans are grown, and nearly half of those are irrigated acres.

Statewide, irrigated corn yields have averaged above 184 bushels an acre, but yields of more than 220 bushels an acre are not uncommon. Compare that to the state's non-irrigated corn at an average yield of 113 bushels per acre, and we can begin to appreciate the importance of irrigation to Nebraska.

But there is an additional cost for

those additional bushels and revenue. By the end of the irrigation season, a lack of efficiency may have taken a large chunk out of the profit margin. Quick fixes or unmatched irrigation system components may have increased energy input costs. More costs translate to less profit. Just because the water flowed all season does not mean that thousands of dollars in energy expense could not have been saved.

Consider what efficiency means

A central Nebraska irrigator waters a quarter section (135 total acres irrigated) using a center pivot operating at 45 psi, lifting water 80 feet from underground, while pumping at a rate of 800 gallons per minute. Over the course of the irrigation season, the farmer will pump 10 acre-inches

or nearly 37 million gallons. If the system is only 52 percent efficient, which is roughly the statewide average, the farmer can expect to use over 50,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity.

If the irrigator pays an average cost of \$0.15 per kWh, that costs over \$7,500 for the season. Had the irrigation system been optimized for efficiency (approximately 82 percent efficient), the usage

would have been less than 32,000 kWh and would have cost about \$4,800. That is a savings of \$2,800! And that is only one field. When you start to consider an entire farming operation, those savings really add up.

Dawson PPD suggests that farmers contact their well company or irrigation system technician for energy efficiency testing. It would be a good idea to evaluate systems over 15 years old or those that have upgraded delivery systems.

Incentives are available for efficiency testing and efficiency upgrades.

Efficiency not only impacts the amount of energy (and charges you have to pay), it also influences how your local electric utility must manage their electric system. Making efficiency improvements to an irrigation system not only saves you money, it helps all Nebraskans manage the precious resource of electrical energy when it is often most in demand.

For more information about the EnergyWise Irrigation Efficiency program, contact Bernie Svoboda at Dawson PPD at 308-324-2386 or bsvoboda@dawsonpower.com.



We rely on irrigation systems to help us maximize yields and profits. However, inefficient equipment can cost producers hundreds or thousands of dollars. Dawson PPD's EnergyWise program can help cover the cost of efficiency testing -- a first step in improving the efficiency of the system.

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