



FEBRUARY 2021

## THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION

### 2021 BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION & EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Wheat Belt Public Power District and Tri-State Generation & Transmission issue rebates to our customers for purchasing and installing energy efficient products. Our program is an electrification and conservation program designed to promote efficient electric products and the wise use of electric energy.

#### \*PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS\*

##### Residential

- LED Lamps
- Energy Star® Appliances and Recycling

##### Residential & Commercial

- Electric and Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Energy Star® Split System Air Conditioners
- Electric Thermal Storage and Thermal Slab Units
- Heat Pumps - Air and Ground Source
- Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment
- Outdoor Power Equipment

##### Commercial

- LED Lighting / LED T-12 Retrofit
- Refrigerated Case / Walk-in Cooler Fan Motor Retrofit
- Irrigation Motors
- Variable Speed Drive Retrofit

Please visit [wheatbelt.com](http://wheatbelt.com), Modern Energy, Energy Efficiency Rebates for more information.

*\*Rebates are subject to change without notice and additional qualifiers may apply\**

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### LUCKY DRAWING & PAYMENT OPTIONS

Our monthly drawing is held January through November. All customers who pay before the delinquent date, printed on your statement, are automatically entered. The winner receives a \$50 credit on their account and is featured in the winner spotlight.

We offer the following payment options:

- \*Wheat Belt PPD Mobile App
- \*Online, using our secure Auto-Pay system
- \*Automatic Bank Draft: Checking or Savings
- \*Automatic Credit Card Draft: Visa, MasterCard, or Discover
- \*Phone payments, one-time drafts: e-check/ savings or credit card
- \*Mail: PO Box 177, checks only
- \*Drop box: 11306 Road 32, checks only (checked daily except during office closures)
- \*Pay at the office: cash, check or credit card

Please contact us, 308-254-5871/800-261-7114, with any questions. Visit [wheatbelt.com](http://wheatbelt.com) to pay Online, and select Customer Engagement to download the automatic draft forms.

P.O. BOX 177, 11306 RD 32, SIDNEY, NE 69162

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## MOTHER NATURE'S WRATH CAN MEAN SERVICE DISRUPTIONS

Although we work hard to maintain our equipment, monitor power delivery 24/7, and do all we can to keep the lights on, there are circumstances beyond our control that can interfere with power delivery. Winter weather is one example. Winter storms can impact the distribution of electricity due to ice, heavy winds, sleet, and other extreme conditions.

Regardless of the reason, know that when the lights go out — even during extreme weather — we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. In fact, our mission statement is “Deliver electricity safely, reliably and efficiently.”

Along with causing outages, wintery conditions can cause hiccups with power delivery that include blinking lights or ebbs and flows in the amount of power that comes into your home. Although blinking lights can be a symptom of other problems such as loose wiring connections or overloaded circuits, they can also be caused by extreme weather conditions.

Wintery conditions include:

**Ice/freezing rain:** Ice accumulation on power lines makes them heavy. One-half an inch of ice can add as much as 500 pounds to a power line. This added weight can impact power distribution and even bring down a power line. Ice that forms on power lines also increases its surface area, which means gusts of wind have more to catch. The weight of ice on tree limbs can cause them to fall on power lines as well.

**Wind:** Wind can cause tree branches to brush power lines, which can result in blinking or flickering lights. This is why it's so important for us to keep trees cleared around power lines and poles. In

addition, heavy winds (or extreme wind plus ice) can cause lines to move and sway. If they gain enough momentum, they can gallop or jump. This, in turn, can cause disruptions in service since the extreme motion can cause lines to either break or make contact with each other, which they are not meant to do.

**Melting Ice:** Melting ice can be extremely heavy, putting extra strain on power lines and causing the lines to touch or rest on one another. Because of this, melting ice can cause outages even though the temperature is rising. Depending on conditions, melting ice can cause as many or more problems than the ice itself.

**Wind or ice + tree branches:** In any weather condition (or even in calm conditions), tree-related issues cause the most power outages in many service areas. Branches, limbs or even tree trunks can fall into power lines and cause problems. Add wind, freezing rain, or ice to the mix for an increased potential for problems.

**Icy Roads:** Vehicles sliding on ice or that collide with one another can strike a power pole or pad-mounted

*Continued on 12-D*




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Tim Lindahl  
General Manager / CEO

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND DIRECTOR DISTRICTS

Your public power district is governed by seven individuals that you elect in the general election. Each director serves a six year term. Wheat Belt has two electoral sub-districts. The North District has three directors and includes the counties of Morrill, Garden, Keith, and Arthur. The South District has four directors and includes the counties of Cheyenne and Deuel. To vote for a director on our board, you have to be a registered voter within our chartered service territory. Our chartered service territory does not include the city of Sidney, for example, so those residents cannot vote for Wheat Belt's directors. Wheat Belt must maintain equal representation per director in each sub-district, and this is determined by the population in each district. The ratio of registered voters in each electoral sub-district to directors is very, very close. Every decade, after the U.S. Census, Wheat Belt has to study the electoral sub-districts to ensure that the representation ratio remains close. This will be the year that we study this. Should a variation have occurred in the past ten years, it may be necessary to redraw the sub-district lines to maintain proper representation.

In 2020, we had two director positions up for election in the North Electoral District. John Gortemaker and Mike Blomenkamp both chose not to run again. I

thank John for his twelve years of service and Mike for his six. They both, along with the rest of the board, have provided tremendous value on your behalf to the operation of the district. The voters selected Marcus Milanuk and Toni Blomenkamp to replace them on our board. We welcome Marcus back to the board and Toni as a new director. Occasionally there is a need to appoint a director between elections. This year, we have two openings in the South Electoral District, due to an untimely death and a move out of our chartered territory. When situations such as these arise, the board can choose to appoint a replacement until the next general election. Wheat Belt's board is currently considering its options for appointment.

Wheat Belt's board meetings are open to you. The board typically meets at 8:30 A.M. on the fourth Friday of each month and welcomes our customers to attend to gain a better understanding of the decisions that they make. I applaud and appreciate the dedication that your directors have to ensuring Wheat Belt remains safe, reliable, and affordable. It is a very complex job and the decisions that they make are not easy ones.

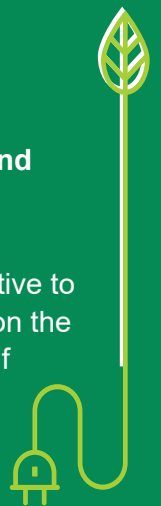
## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### Tip of the Month

**Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.**

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: [www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)





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transformer, causing an outage or other problems.

**Blizzards:** Heavy snowfall, icy roads, or reduced visibility can make it a little more difficult for our crews to get out and fix problems, although we do all we can to get out there to address service issues as soon as possible.

Be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. Items to gather include bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, hand sanitizer, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, back-up phone chargers, extra batteries, and toiletries.

To learn more about preparing for storms and electrical safety, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

**\*REMINDER\***

Scholarship applications must be in Wheat Belt's office by 4:00 p.m. on February 12, 2021.



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Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Brian Zimmerman, *Big Springs*

### SECRETARY

Brian "Moe" Moffat, *Oshkosh*

### DIRECTOR

Marcus Milanuk, *Oshkosh*

### DIRECTOR

Toni Blomenkamp, *Broadwater*

### DIRECTOR

Stuart Morgan, *Dalton*

## STAFF

### GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

Tim Lindahl

### MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES & BUSINESS STRATEGIES

Lacey Gulbranson

### CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Kelli Chaon

### OPERATIONS MANAGER / SAFETY DIRECTOR

Earl Reilly

### CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Carolyn Hostetler

### STAKING / CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

Ryan Borges

### MANAGER OF TECHNOLOGIES

Jim Weeda

### OFFICE HOURS:

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**P** 308.254.5871 | **T** 800.261.7114 | **F** 308.254.2384

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