



CONNECTIONS

January 2026

CEO/GM

Kyndell Penick

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Board meetings held the third Monday of each month at 9 AM. Agenda available during business hours.

EDITOR

Jessica Kurpgeweit

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed weekends and holidays

SERVICE CENTERS

Albion, NE and Fullerton, NE

CONTACT

23169 235 Ave • PO Box 9
Columbus NE 68602-0009
402 564 2821 • cornhusker-power.com

OUTAGE CALLS 24 HOURS

(402) 564 2821

COUNTIES SERVED

Platte, Colfax, Boone, Nance, Greeley,
Merrick and Wheeler Counties



Cornhusker Public Power District announces rate adjustment for 2026

The Cornhusker Public Power District board of directors has approved a rate adjustment which will take effect in 2026, driven by rising wholesale power costs and increases in essential operating expenses. The District remains committed to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable energy, and this adjustment ensures CPPD can continue to meet the evolving needs of the communities it serves.

“As a not-for-profit public power provider, we work hard to keep costs as low as possible while maintaining the high level of service our customers rely on,” said CEO/GM Kyndell Penick. “This rate change reflects cost increases beyond our control, but it also helps us continue investing in system reliability, safety, and future infrastructure.”

Over the past year, CPPD has experienced increases in wholesale power prices—the largest part of a customer’s bill—as well as higher costs for materials and equipment needed to maintain and upgrade the

electric system. Additionally, industry-wide increases in insurance and labor expenses have contributed to the need for a rate adjustment.

Even with these rising expenses, Cornhusker Public Power District has taken careful steps to operate efficiently, postpone increases when possible, and lessen impacts on customers.

“We understand any change in rates affects the families, farms, and businesses we serve,” Penick added. “Our priority is to remain transparent and responsible stewards of our customers’ dollars. This adjustment helps ensure we can continue providing reliable service, supporting economic growth, and maintaining the infrastructure needed for years to come.”

Customers will receive more information in the coming months, including details about how the rate adjustment might affect individual accounts. CPPD urges customers with questions to contact the District at 402 564 2821.

ENERGYWISESM

2026 incentive programs



Residential



HEAT PUMPS

Air-source, mini-split or geothermal
Up to \$3,300



HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS

Air source or water/ground heat pump water heaters **Up to \$650**



SMART THERMOSTATS

Up to \$100 on a Wi-Fi enabled smart thermostat



COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP

\$30 when customers tune-up their cooling system



ATTIC INSULATION

Add 6" insulation to existing (less than 6") attic insulation
30¢ sq/ft rebate available



INDUCTION COOKTOP/STOVE

20% off purchase price of a 30" minimum width induction cooktop or range

Ag/Business



PRESCRIPTIVE AG

Prescriptive irrigation (**\$500**), corner pivot VFDs (**\$18/hp**), irrigation moisture sensors (**\$300**), automated grain aeration (**\$.011 per bushel of bin capacity**)



LIGHTING

Prescriptive or custom upgrades
Up to \$80 per fixture

Beneficial Electrification



LAWN & GARDEN

20% off purchase price of all electric lawn and garden tools



EV CHARGING STATIONS

Commercial & residential incentives available for installing a charging station or pre-wiring a home

*For full list of program guidelines visit: cornhusker-power.com

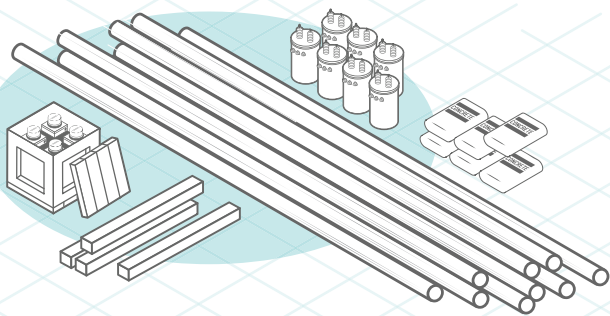
Infrastructure Costs

The past five years have been a period of exploding costs for the electric utility industry, pushed by soaring demand, supply chain challenges, raw materials shortages, and increased labor costs. The impact has been rapid increases in the cost of producing power, longer and more unpredictable project timelines and the need for more financing, all of which have driven electric rates up for residences, businesses and other end-users. Here's a look at what's contributing to the trend.

Percent increase since 2020:

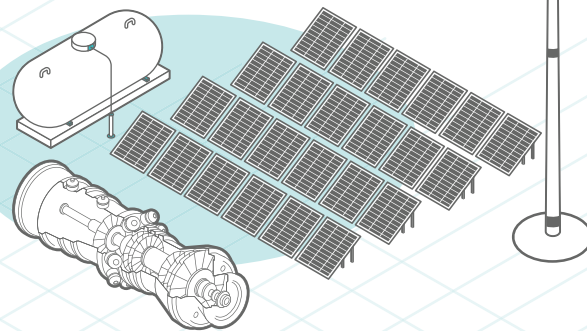
● Infrastructure

Utility poles (wood, steel, composite)	+25-40%
Crossarms & braces (steel/wood)	+20-35%
Conductor wire (aluminum/copper)	+30-50%
Transformers	+70-100%
Grain-oriented electrical steel	+80-100%
Oil/dielectric fluids	+25-40%
Copper wiring	+50%
Concrete	+25-35%
Smart meters	+20-35%
Pad-mounted switchgear	+25-40%
Circuit breakers/reclosers	+20-35%



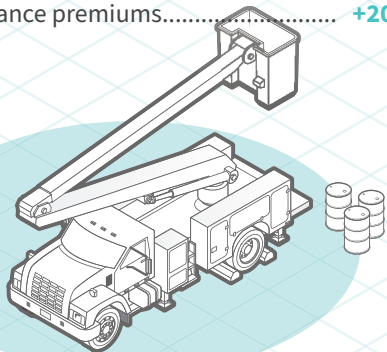
● Generation

Diesel gensets	+20-40%
Gas turbines	+20-30%
Solar PV systems	+25-35%
Wind turbines	+25-35%
Hydropower components	+20-30%
Battery storage	+25-40%
SCADA/EMS systems	+20-30%
Inverters	+20-30%
Relays & switchgear	+25-40%
Natural Gas	+20-120%
Coal	+30-60%
Diesel/fuel oil	+40-70%



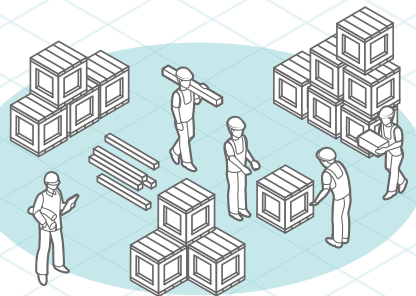
● Fleets

Light trucks	+25-40%
Bucket trucks, digger derricks	+20-50%
Fuel costs (especially diesel)	+20-30%
Maintenance	+15-25%
Insurance premiums	+20%



● Build-outs

Utility construction labor	+20-40%
Freight/logistics	+30-60%



Sources: BLS; energynews.com; Reuters; Wood Mackenzie; NREL; IEA

Lindsay welcomes Community Builders

Lindsay welcomed Community Builders to their town on November 12, 2025. Tours included Lindsay Academy and the Event and Wellness Center by HR/ Business Manager Jenny Korth, Lindsay Manufacturing by Sr. Operations Manager Irrigation Mark Bloom and Sr. Operations Manager Infrastructure Tyler Schmidt, 14-unit Apartment Complex by owner Quinten Rowley, and Jarecki Physical Therapy by owner Steph Jarecki.

Lindsay Board Chairman Fred Hoefler welcomed the group of 36 for lunch at Tavern 1888. Jenny Korth gave a presentation on “What it takes to make projects happen” and explained how the Lindsay Area Development (LAD) was formed.

Community Builders helps individuals in Platte, Colfax, Boone, and Nance counties learn ways to improve their communities. Sponsors are Cornhusker Public Power District, Loup Power District, and Central Community College.



Steph Jarecki opened her business in August 2025. She has about twenty visits per day and treats patients with a variety of pain issues.



Lindsay Chairman Fred Hoefler gave a brief history of Lindsay to the group during lunch.



The 14-unit complex features seven units on top, and seven on the bottom. They are two bedrooms and one-bath units. Construction is still ongoing with hopes of having occupants early next year.



The Event and Wellness Center has a full court for sporting events (above) and a fitness center for students, as well as memberships available for public use (r).



Lindsay Manufacturing is a worldwide force in irrigation. They are expanding their current facility to modernize its largest global manufacturing facility right in Lindsay.



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cornhusker-power.com/services/power-outage/



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