

CONNECTIONS

CORNHUSKER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT • JANUARY 2024



Ways to fight the winter chill and save energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all the fun outdoor activities that go with it. But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

Mind the thermostat. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home.

Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

Use window coverings wisely. Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider

hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

Consider your approach to appliance use. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills.

Source: NRECA

Community Builders visit Fullerton

Fullerton welcomed Community Builders on November 27, 2023. Tours included 308 Roots Salon by Owner, Autumn Schmale and Stylist Zoe Wetovick; Flower Barrel & Coffeehouse by Owner Andrea Meysenburg; River's Edge Meat Locker, LLC by Owners Brad & Candace Gleason; and Smith & Sons Repair, LLC by Owners Hoss & Dana Smith. While at Flower Barrel & Coffeehouse, the group of 14 listened to a presentation on Fullerton's annual event, Old Fashioned Christmas.

Fullerton's City Administrator, Allen Chlopek, welcomed the group to Fullerton and shared current projects happening around the town. Karin Rieger, Central Community College gave community updates while the guests enjoyed lunch at Overtime Bar & Grill.

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.



Zoe Wetovick (left) and Autumn Schmale (right) tell the group how 308 Roots Salon started in May 2022.



Owners of River's Edge Meat Locker, LLC, Brad & Candace Gleason (l-r) show off their newly opened business, which opened in October 2023. They process beef and pork and they also have a retail sales case, selling a variety of products from beef sticks, bacon, and steaks.



Dana Smith (right) and Hoss Smith (middle) explain how their grandfather started the business in the 1960s and has since expanded to what it is today. They offer semi-truck towing, have a parts warehouse, and offer semi-truck and trailer repair.



The Flower Barrel & Coffeehouse owner Andrea Meysenburg (back right) shows her shop to the group. In addition to the coffee shop, the store offers tuxedo rentals, sells fresh flowers and home decor.

2024 EnergyWiseSM new programs and changes

NEW ag programs starting January 1, 2024:

- Irrigation Moisture Sensors - \$300 incentive when an irrigator installs a moisture sensor in their field. Eligible once every five years. Minimum of 40 acres irrigated on account.
- Automated Grain Aeration - \$0.011 per bushel of bin capacity incentive available to farmers who install automated grain aeration in their grain bins.

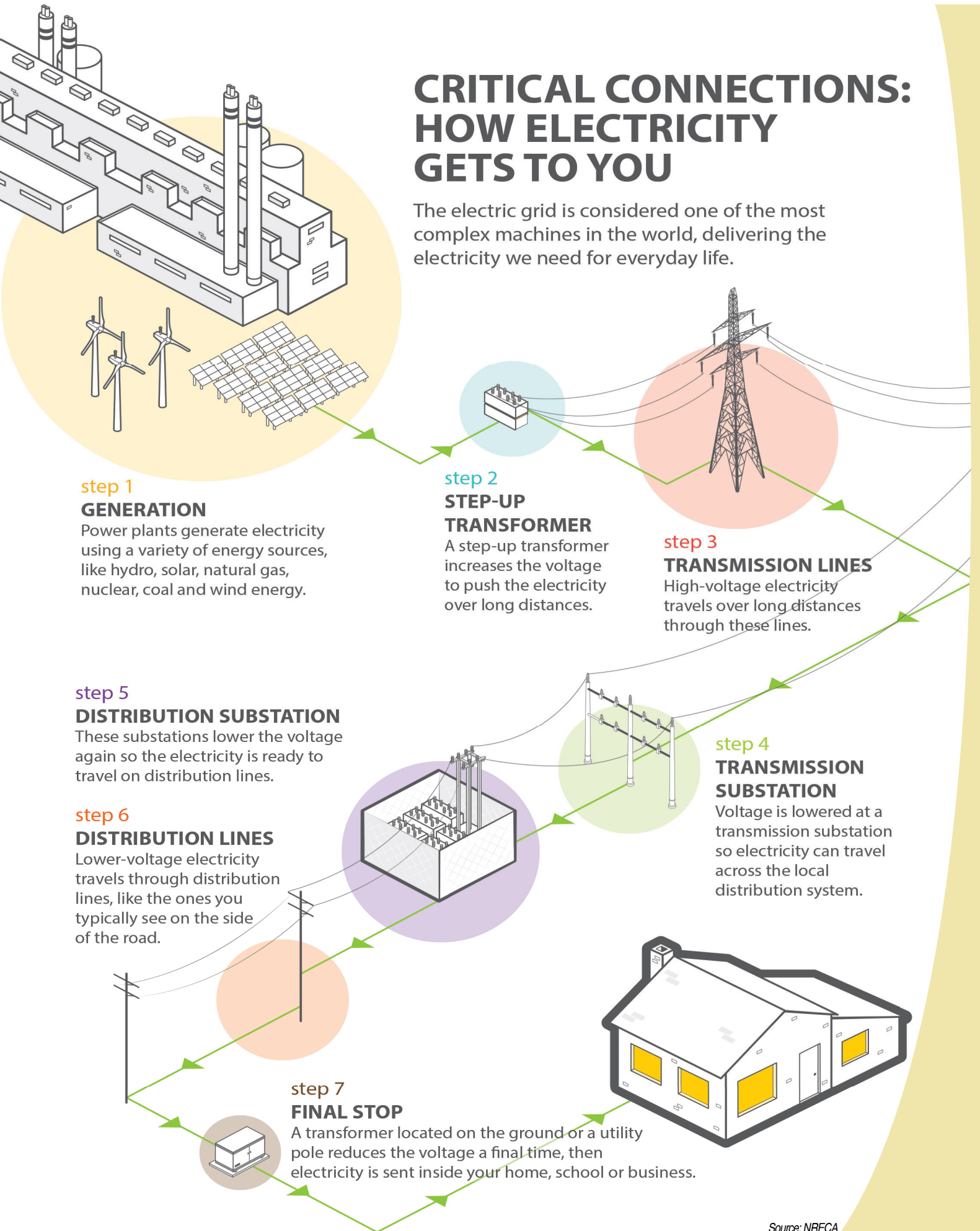
EnergyWiseSM program changes starting January 1, 2024:

- High-Efficiency Heat Pumps - 15 SEER heat pumps are not available for an incentive in 2024.
- Lawn & Garden - incentive amount is capped at \$1,500 per incentive.



CRITICAL CONNECTIONS: HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOU

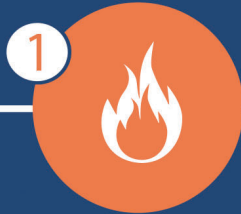
The electric grid is considered one of the most complex machines in the world, delivering the electricity we need for everyday life.



Source: NRECA

feeling chilled?

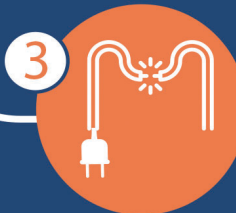
HEAT YOUR SPACE SAFELY



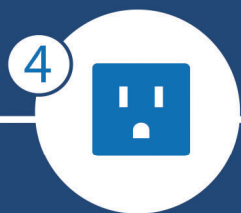
Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away



Place on a flat, level surface



Make sure the cord is not frayed or cracked



Plug it directly into an outlet



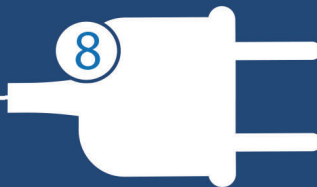
Do not use an extension cord or power strip



Follow all instructions & use models endorsed by a reputable testing lab



Do not use around small children or pets



Do not use one with a damaged plug or prongs

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

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