



# CONNECTIONS

March 2026

## CEO/GM

Kyndell Penick

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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William Robinson, Cedar Rapids

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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



## Reliability requires investment

Cornhusker Public Power District's Board of Directors voted unanimously at the December board meeting to pass an overall average rate increase of 6.0% for 2026. This is driven by rising wholesale power costs and increases in essential operating expenses. Additionally, the 2026 budget was approved for \$7 million at the November board meeting. The budget includes capital additions, system improvements, and operation/maintenance expenses.

As your local power provider, Cornhusker Public Power District's mission has always been simple: keep the lights on and support the communities we serve. But behind every switch, every warm home, and every business that opens its doors is a complex system requiring constant care. Reliable electricity doesn't happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid—through system

repairs, maintenance, upgrades, and the integration of new technologies helping us operate smarter and more efficiently.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, age alone means components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and safety. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually, equipment must be updated to meet modern standards. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions do occur and create a stronger backbone for our growing community.

The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and

Continued on page 2-B: Reliability

## Caden Stankoski hired as Maintenance/ Utility Specialist



Caden Stankoski was hired as Maintenance/Utility Specialist on November 12, 2025.

He is a 2023 graduate of Humphrey High School. He attended Northeast Community College and graduated with an auto mechanics degree in 2025.

“Caden has been a valuable part of our team, and we’re thrilled to have him take on more responsibilities and continue contributing to our success in this expanded capacity,” says Kyndell Penick.

His hobbies include 4-wheeling on the river.

## Reliability, From Page 2-A

businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. Electric vehicles, advanced HVAC systems, smart appliances, and new commercial facilities add load to the local distribution system. As these technologies take hold, the grid must be able to support increased demand while maintaining the reliability our customers expect. Strategic upgrades are essential to ensure we can meet these needs both today and in the decades ahead.

At the same time, new technologies are reshaping how we operate. Tools such as automated switching devices, smart meters, and advanced monitoring systems allow us to detect problems faster and respond more effectively. These technologies can isolate problems, reroute power to minimize outages, and provide real-time data helping us plan and maintain equipment more efficiently.

Implementing innovative technologies into the grid is not just a convenience, it is a necessity for ensuring reliability in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

While these improvements require thoughtful planning and financial investment, the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality, and enhances safety for our crews and community. Most importantly, it ensures the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility to the people and communities we serve. Every upgrade, every repair, and every technology we deploy is an investment in your daily life—from the comfort of your home to the success of local businesses and schools.

We know powering our community means preparing for the future, not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we are building the foundation for a brighter, more resilient tomorrow.

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## Student chosen to attend Youth Tour in D.C.

Cornhusker Public Power District will sponsor a student, Cora Bartos, to attend Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June 2026. Bartos is the daughter of Jake and Lana and is a senior at Lakeview High School in Columbus.

The Nebraska Rural Electric Washington Youth Tour is an annual, week-long trip to Washington, D.C., that is open to high school students who have participated in the Youth Energy Leadership Camp. Nationwide, rural electric providers from 41 states participate. In all, more than 1,800 students from across the nation gather in Washington, D.C., each year for this event.

Students will tour the Nation’s Capital, including the National Mall and the Smithsonian Museums. Participants will have breakfast with the Nebraska congressional delegation and visit congressional offices. Trips outside the Beltway include a visit to Gettysburg and Mount Vernon.

The Washington Youth Tour is sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, and participating members of the NREA.



# YOUTH ENERGY

## LEADERSHIP CAMP



### About camp:

- Camp is **FREE** to attend.
- Tour two Nebraska power plants.
- Learn about public power in Nebraska.
- Cornhusker PPD provides six scholarships.
- Students will be asked to submit an essay upon registration.

### Win a trip to D.C.

- Cornhusker PPD will sponsor two students to attend a week-long trip during NRECA's Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. in June 2027.
- Students will also have the chance to win a trip to D.C. sponsored by the NREA.

# JULY

# 20-24

**Camp Comeca, Cozad, NE**

Student must be in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, or 11<sup>th</sup> grade, & home must be served by CPPD.


### Register at:

[cornhusker-power.com/services](http://cornhusker-power.com/services).  
Mail, or email essays by April 10

Once registered, a packet with further instructions will be mailed.

**NOTE:** if more than six students submit essays, a contest will be held at a later date to determine the recipients.

 [jessicak@cppd.us](mailto:jessicak@cppd.us)

 **PO Box 9, Columbus**



# TIME TO UPDATE

If your phone number, address or payment options have changed, **let us know!**



Call our office at 402 564 2821 to update your information.

## Call TODAY to update your contact information

In the electric utility business, we know rough weather and unexpected events will occur, resulting in power outages and restoration efforts. There are steps you, as a customer, can take to ensure your electricity is restored as quickly and safely as possible. Keeping your details accurate and up to date is important for us to provide you with the best possible service.

We need to have your most up-to-date phone number and mailing address on hand to make sure we can reach you for:

- Planned outages and restoration updates
- Delinquent notices
- Tree trimming updates
- Meter changes

If you are on automatic bill pay, make sure your information is correct to avoid a missed payment. Failure to update this information could result in a missed payment and/or late fees.

Please contact our billing department at 402 564 2821 to update your information. If your phone number, payment options or mailing address has **NOT** changed, there is no need to contact us.

Cornhusker Public Power District is dedicated to our customers by providing affordable and reliable electric service. Updating your contact information ensures you are taking full advantage of the services Cornhusker Public Power District offers.

### AVOID LATE FEES

Never miss a payment. Sign up for e-bill by scanning the QR code. Bills are due on the 20th of each month, regardless of when you receive your bill in the mail.



### PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

[myaccount.cornhusker-power.com/onlineportal/](http://myaccount.cornhusker-power.com/onlineportal/)



### VIEW OUR OUTAGE MAP

[cornhusker-power.com/services/power-outage/](http://cornhusker-power.com/services/power-outage/)



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