

# Energy efficiency programs expand for 2019-20

*Programs began June 1, run through March 2020*

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, in partnership with its long-term power participants, began a suite of energy efficiency programs for retail customers in June.

The three new retail-level programs were approved by the MEAN Services Committee earlier this year. The Commercial LED Lighting Program, now in its fifth year, will continue through 2019-20. The three new retail-level programs approved for 2019-20 provide cash incentives for smart thermostats, attic insulation and cooling system tune-ups. The committee approved \$75,000 in incentives for the programs. A brief description of each program is below.

An overview tri-fold brochure of each program as well as program guidelines and application forms for each program can be downloaded at [www.nmppenergy.org/mean](http://www.nmppenergy.org/mean).

For questions regarding the program, contact Amanda Hansen at (800) 234-2595 or [ahansen@nmppenenergy.org](mailto:ahansen@nmppenenergy.org).

## Program guidelines and application forms

Download program guidelines and application forms at [www.nmppenergy.org/mean](http://www.nmppenergy.org/mean).

## Energy Efficiency Programs

### Commercial LED Lighting Program

This program provides cash incentives paid directly to commercial customers to help cover the cost of lighting upgrades and replacements for existing facilities. The program covers:

- Indoor high/low bay lighting
- LED exit signs
- Linear replacement or retrofit lighting
- Fluorescent freezer/refrigerator case lighting
- And customized requests

### Smart Thermostat Program

This program provides a cash incentive of up to \$100 paid directly to residential customers to help cover the cost of installing a qualifying smart thermostat. Smart thermostat technology is most beneficial in households that have extended periods during the day when no one is home, those that turn their thermostat down during bedtime hours or those that have irregular occupancy through the week, month or year.

### Attic Insulation Program

This program provides cash incentives of \$0.15 / per square foot with a maximum incentive of \$300 per

**MEAN**  
MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NEBRASKA

Your local public electric utility, together with the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, provides financial incentives through four energy efficient programs. Increase your energy efficiency through these programs and save money!

- COMMERCIAL LED LIGHTING PROGRAM**
- SMART THERMOSTAT PROGRAM**
- ATTIC INSULATION PROGRAM**
- COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP PROGRAM**

existing residential dwelling for attic insulation.

### Cooling System Tune-Up Program

This program provides a \$30 cash incentive to residential homeowners who have their cooling system tuned up by a HVAC contractor, regardless of what type or age of cooling system (air conditioner/air or water source heat pump).

# EPA finalizes Affordable Clean Energy rule

## *New rule replaces Obama-era Clean Power Plan*

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the final Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, replacing former President Barack Obama administration's Clean Power Plan (CPP).

The new rule places more authority to individual states to devise their own plans to cut carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, mainly by encouraging coal-fired power plants to improve efficiency.

"Today, we are delivering on one of President Trump's core priorities: ensuring the American public has access to affordable, reliable energy in a manner that continues our nation's environmental progress," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "Unlike the Clean Power Plan, ACE adheres to the Clean Air Act and gives states the regulatory certainty they need to continue to reduce emissions and provide a dependable, diverse supply of electricity that all Americans can afford. When ACE is fully implemented, we expect to see U.S. power sector CO<sub>2</sub> emissions fall by as much as 35 percent below 2005 levels."



*Andrew Wheeler*

## **APPA: ACE rule provides flexibility**

The American Public Power Association said it welcomed the EPA's final ACE Rule. It allows states to drive carbon dioxide reductions by improving the efficiency of power plants, as contemplated by Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act.

"The final ACE rule provides a framework for states to tailor their emission reduction plans based on local market conditions and established emission policies. The rule gives states the flexibility to

regulate emissions at the individual power plant level while considering factors such as a plant's remaining useful life," the Association said.

Public power utilities have reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 33 percent between 2005 and 2017 by investing in low and non-emitting generation from solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, and natural gas, the Association said, noting that public power continues to reduce emissions through local, state, and regional programs.

The ACE rule establishes emissions guidelines for states to use when developing plans to limit CO<sub>2</sub> at their coal-fired power plants. Specifically, ACE identifies heat rate improvements as the best system of emission reduction (BSER) for CO<sub>2</sub> from coal-fired power plants, and these improvements can be made at individual facilities. States will have 3 years to submit plans, which is in line with other planning timelines under the Clean Air Act.

Also contained within the rule are new implementing regulations for ACE and future existing-source rules under Clean Air Act Section 111(d). These guidelines will inform states as they set unit-specific standards of performance. For example, states can take a particular source's remaining useful life and other

factors into account when establishing a standard of performance for that source.

EPA stated ACE is expected to reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, mercury, as well as precursors for pollutants like fine particulate matter and ground-level ozone.

More information, including a pre-publication version of the Federal Register notice and fact sheets, are available at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). The new rule takes effect 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register. States would then have three years to submit a compliance plan.

## **Legal challenges expected**

Since the ruling's release, several environmental groups and state attorney generals have announced their intention to file legal challenges to the rule.

## Committee members appointed at May NMPP Board meeting

NMPP Board President Darrel Wenzel appointed committee members to the Energy Research and Development Fund (ERDF) and the Computer Services Review Committee during the NMPP board meeting held in late May.

Those reappointed to the ERDF Committee were:

- Collin Bielser, **Fairbury**, Neb.
- Pat Davison, **Imperial**, Neb.
- Tom Goulette, **West Point**, Neb.
- Duane Hoffman, **Oxford**, Neb.
- Bob Lockmon, **Stuart**, Neb.
- Mike Palmer, **Sidney**, Neb.
- Chris Rodman, **Wall Lake**, Iowa
- Jeremy Tarr, **Broken Bow**, Neb.
- Randy Woldt, **Wisner**, Neb.

The ERDF Committee manages ERDF grant funding for innovative energy projects to communities/utilities participating in the voluntary program.

Those appointed to the Computer Services Review Committee were:

- Lanette Doane, **Ansley**, Neb.
- Mary tenBensel, **Arapahoe**, Neb.
- Karla Rader, **Cozad**, Neb.
- Pam Rasmussen, **Gibbon**, Neb.
- Janine Schmidt, **Morrill**, Neb.
- Dana Klabenes, **Neligh**, Neb.
- Kellie Crowell, **Ravenna**, Neb.
- Nancy Bryan, **Stromsburg**, Neb.
- Stephanie James, **Wisner**, Neb.

The committee reviews PowerManager software program requests from software users and assists in providing input and recommendations on software upgrades and improvements.

## JOC officers elected for fiscal year 2019-20

The NMPP Energy Joint Operating Committee held annual officer elections for fiscal year 2019-20 at its May board meeting in Lincoln. The 12-member committee consists of the three representatives from each of the four NMPP Energy organizations.

The following officers were elected to one-year terms:

- Jeff Wells, city manager, **Fort Morgan**, Colo., chairman;
- Andrew Devine, city administrator, **Albion**, Neb., vice chairman;
- Darrel Wenzel, CEO, **Waverly**, Iowa, secretary

The committee, which meets twice a year, reviews budgets of each of the organizations, determines allocation of expenses and approves the compensation structure and benefits of NMPP employees. The next JOC meeting is scheduled for November.

## **nmpp** ENERGY Staff news

Laurie Keiser in May was promoted to administrative assistant for the Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) and National Public Gas Agency (NPGA). She previously served as an office support specialist at NMPP Energy. In her new position, she will provide administrative duties for those two organizations. She joined NMPP Energy in 2015.

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Amber Degner, who joined NMPP Energy in 2017 as a receptionist/office support staff specialist, will assume more support services responsibilities in working with ACE/NMPP organizations.



Laurie Keiser



Amber Degner

## Member News

# Central City earns award

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) recently presented the Governor's Showcase Community Award to the city of Central City, Neb.

The Showcase Award honors a Nebraska CDBG non-entitlement community for outstanding achievements in community and economic development over the past five years.

Central City was recognized for an array of achievements spanning local business development, youth and education, solar energy, and other projects that have enhanced local well-being. Central City is a member of NMPP and NPGA.

### Allen Coyne retires

Allen Coyne recently retired as town manager for the City of Julesburg, Colo., after 27 years, capping a career that spanned 49 years in public service. Prior to his position in Julesburg, he served with the City of Holyoke, Colo., and Phillips County, Colo., for 22 years.

### Jim Gibney retires

Jim Gibney, recently retired as utilities general manager after 18 years at Wahoo (Neb.) Utilities. Among his accomplishments, he is credited with helping to stabilize Wahoo Utilities finances as well as cross-training employees and breaking down department barriers leading to an attitude of increased teamwork.

# Does your municipality have an active shooter policy?

No one likes to think of an active shooter scenario occurring in their workplace. Although rare, these kinds of devastating situations do happen and have become more frequent.

Having an active shooter policy in place and reviewing that policy with staff may save lives if such a scenario ever occurs in your municipality, where public officials can be the target of an attack. NMPP Energy developed and implemented its active shooter policy in 2017.

The Department of Homeland Security identified three key actions to defend against an active shooter: Run. Hide. Fight. An active shooter plan should cover these three strategies.

### Option 1 (RUN)

Staff should identify safe escape routes and run from the attack.

### Option 2 (HIDE)

If running/escaping is not viable, staff should hide in a room that can be locked and barricade themselves inside by blocking the door or hiding under or behind equipment.

### Option 3 (FIGHT)

If the first two options are not viable, staff should fight the active shooter with improvised weapons to incapacitate them.

In developing an active shooter plan, reviewing the policy and training staff is important.

An active shooter plan could include the following:

- Establish emergency escape routes.
- Install emergency alert system that all employees will be able to identify.
- Determine which access doors can be safely barricaded to prevent shooter from entering.
- Assign roles to each employee and manager regarding locking doors, identifying safest possible route and contacting 911.
- Create small groups to ensure each member is accounted for when they escape or hide.
- Identify potential weapons in the building that would be most damaging to the shooter.
- Practice your plans and teach staff to identify those threats in the workplace.

## Active Shooter Policy Resources

These resources can help to get started in developing an active shooter policy for your municipality:

[www.ready.gov/active-shooter](http://www.ready.gov/active-shooter)

[www.dhs.gov/cisa/active-shooter-preparedness](http://www.dhs.gov/cisa/active-shooter-preparedness)

# MEAN Board working to restructure governance

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors has engaged in an initiative to streamline and modernize the governance structure of MEAN, which was created almost four decades ago. The end-result of the initiative will phase out the MEAN Management Committee and retain the MEAN Board of Directors as MEAN's sole governing body.

As part of the initiative, certain policies and agreements are being updated, consolidated or terminated as needed.

MEAN's Board Chairman, Tom Goulette, of West Point, Neb., sent a letter recently to all MEAN participants to give notice of terminating the MEAN Electrical Resources Pooling Agreement (ERPA). This is the first step of an effort to transition from MEAN's current two-body governance structure (ERPA Management Committee and Board of Directors) to a single governing body: the Board of Directors. While there are governance changes anticipated, the first step was to give the written two-year notice of terminating the ERPA agreement.

It is important to note the termination of the ERPA will not change any other agreements participants have with MEAN or

with any of the other NMPP Energy entities, such as membership on the MEAN Board, MEAN Charter, other NMPP organizations, MEAN power supply contracts, renewable power supply contracts or agent agreements with MEAN.

Today, 54 members have taken the necessary steps to join MEAN's Charter and no additional action is needed to retain their representation in MEAN's governance. In the future, 15 other participants may wish to join the MEAN Board and may contact MEAN to learn more about the steps required to join MEAN's Charter and Board. Having a representative on the MEAN Board of Directors ensures MEAN participants of a seat at the table and voting rights regarding governance decisions.

The MEAN Board formed a Governance Committee last year to help guide the transition. The Committee, chaired by Tom Ourada of Crete, Neb., will move quickly to update organizational documents and policies to reflect transfer of duties and reconfigure various committees as part of the Board, in lieu of the Management Committee.

If you have any questions regarding the governance restructuring, don't hesitate to contact me.

\* \* \*

*Chris Dibbern is general counsel of NMPP Energy. Contact her at [cdibbern@nmppenergy.org](mailto:cdibbern@nmppenergy.org) or (800) 234-2595.*

## Legislative Notes



By Chris Dibbern

# NPGA Board approves Fort Morgan as new member

The National Public Gas Agency Board of Directors approved the City of Fort Morgan, Colo., as a new member during its board meeting June 13.

The city of about 11,000 residents was previously a wholesale natural gas customer of NPGA. Now as a full member, Fort Morgan will have representation and voting rights on the NPGA Board of Directors. Fort Morgan Director of Water Resources and Utilities Brent Nation will serve as the City's representative on the NPGA board and City Manager Jeff Wells will serve as alternate.

The City of Fort Morgan has been an active participant in NMPP organizations for many years. The City receives long-term power supply from the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska and is also active on the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool Board as well as several committees.

"We welcome Fort Morgan as a member," said NPGA Director of Gas Operations Beth Ackland. "As with all NMPP Energy organizations, NPGA is member-driven and provides the benefit of local control. We look forward to working with the City to manage their gas supply needs."

NPGA membership now includes 13 communities that own their own gas system as well as six additional communities that receive natural gas supply as customers.

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED CHAMPION BUSINESS



### Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union provides value to its members

The Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union (NEFCU) celebrates the success of being among the nation's best in providing direct financial benefits to members in its asset range. This year NEFCU received its fifth consecutive National Benefits Top Performance Award. It is the only credit union in Nebraska to receive a Member Benefits Top Performance Award, with over 1,100 credit unions nationally in its asset size range. The real winners are YOU - its member-owners, as you benefit from the value that this award represents.

For 76 years, NEFCU has strived to meet the financial needs of its members and their families. The best measure of performance of its credit union is the financial success of the members it serves, one at a time. NEFCU mem-

[www.ne-fcu.org](http://www.ne-fcu.org)

bership includes those who are affiliated with the electrical power generation, transmission and distribution industry throughout Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado and South Dakota.

As a full service financial institution, NEFCU offers personal loans and auto lending, it also offers home equity line of credit, and mortgage loans - among many other financial services. Loan applications are available at [www.ne-fcu.org](http://www.ne-fcu.org). NEFCU offers checking, savings, certificates and IRA accounts, as well as convenient services like online banking with free bill pay service. Members have 24/7 access to their account and mobile access with the ability to deposit checks using a smartphone



or tablet.

NEFCU recently introduced a Platinum Cash Back Rewards credit card. Many of its members are enjoying their new credit card and the 1.5% cash rewards on all purchases. Protecting its member's identity is an important priority for NEFCU. In 2019 NEFCU plans to offer identity theft protection on all checking accounts free of charge.

NEFCU is proud to partner with NMPP and invites you to join members who have discovered the credit union difference. Joining is easy - give them a call at 1 (800) 453-3913. Learn more online at [www.ne-fcu.org](http://www.ne-fcu.org).

Share the value!

For a complete listing of NMPP Energy Champion Businesses, see page 11

## Employment Opportunities

### Director of Economic Development

City of **Atkinson**, Neb., is seeking an economic development director. This is a full-time position under the direction of the Mayor and City Council and focuses on business recruitment, retention, expansion, and the creation of jobs while preserving the quality of life in Atkinson and the surrounding area. The candidate should possess strong verbal and written communication skills, the ability to make public presentations, write grants, and focus on multiple projects at the same time. The position also includes administering the website, social media, marketing of the community, and working with the Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce in the position of secretary/treasurer. Strong leadership, finance, economic development, and public relations skills are necessary for this position. The City offers very competitive benefits with a starting salary

### To submit an ad

NMPP members can advertise job openings for free in the *Essent* newsletter and on the NMPP Energy Web site. E-mail Kevin Wickham at [kwickham@nmppenergy.org](mailto:kwickham@nmppenergy.org).

commensurate upon experience. A full job description is available at the Atkinson City Office, 104 S. Main St., Atkinson, NE 68713 or email [louann.tooker@atkinsonne.com](mailto:louann.tooker@atkinsonne.com). Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume with a City application to follow. Atkinson is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Position will remain open until filled.

### Deputy City Clerk

City of **Fairbury**, Neb., is accepting applications for the position of deputy city clerk (non-exempt: \$17.98/hr. - \$22.09/hr.). This posi-

tion will assume the full role of city clerk/treasurer, (exempt: \$24.53/hr. - \$33.64/hr.), in November 2019. The selected applicant will train with the city clerk /treasurer until date of transition. The deputy city clerk and city clerk/treasurer positions perform duties that include but are not limited to preparing payroll and all reporting work as required by federal and state laws, assisting with departmental reports, bookkeeping duties, processing accounts payable, assists in handling customer requests, receipt of money, balancing ledgers, issuing permits, scheduling facility reservation requests, preparing state reports, assisting department heads with special projects, and performing other duties as assigned. The successful applicant must be a detail oriented and organized

See 'EMPLOYMENT' on page 8

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## Support NMPP member communities through the Champions Business Program

Champions are businesses and organizations that support NMPP Energy's effort to provide products and services to members. Consider these businesses when your utility or municipality has a business need. If your business is interested in becoming an NMPP Energy Champion, call Andrew Ross at (800) 234-2595.



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## Champions Business Directory of Services

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### **Financial**

<b>Ameritas Investment Corp.</b> (Ameritas.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
<b>D.A. Davidson &amp; Co.</b> (dadavidson.com/ficm) .....	Omaha, Neb.
<b>First National Bank</b> (Firstnational.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
<b>UNICO Group, Inc. and Midlands Financial Benefits</b> (unicogroup.com) .....	Lincoln, Neb.
<b>Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union</b> (ne-fcu.org).....	Columbus, Neb.
<b>RBC Capital Markets</b> (rbc.com).....	Denver, Colo.

### **Regulatory/Compliance**

<b>Power Plant Compliance</b> (Powplant.com).....	Oketo, Kan.
<b>NAQS Environmental Experts</b> (naqs.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.

### **Utility/Community**

<b>Dogwood Energy</b> .....	Columbia, Md.
<b>EnergySolutions, Inc.</b> (energysolutions-inc.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
<b>Hometown Connections, Inc.</b> (Hometownconnections.com).....	Lakewood, Colo.
<b>Foundation for Educational Services</b> (fes.org).....	Lincoln, Neb.
<b>GenPro Energy Solutions</b> (Genproenergy.com).....	Piedmont, S.D.
<b>JK Energy Consulting, LLC</b> (JKenergyconsulting.com) .....	Lincoln, Neb.
<b>Border States</b> (borderstates.com).....	Fargo, N.D.
<b>NovaTech</b> (Novatechweb.com).....	Lenexa, Kan.
<b>PDS, Inc.</b> (PDSinc.biz) .....	Omaha, Neb.
<b>Protective Equipment Testing Laboratory</b> (petl.com) .....	Great Bend, Kan.
<b>RESCO (Rural Electric Supply Cooperative)</b> (resco1.com) .....	Ankeny, Iowa
<b>Sol Systems</b> (solsystems.com).....	Washington, D.C.
<b>Solomon Corporation</b> (Solomoncorp.com).....	Solomon, Kan.

### **Computer/Technology**

<b>Proteus</b> (Proteus.co) .....	Lincoln, Neb.
<b>Salt Creek Software, Inc.</b> (Saltcreek.com) .....	Lincoln, Neb.

### **Engineering**

<b>EPSIM Corporation</b> (epsim.us) .....	Boulder, Colo.
<b>Exponential Engineering Company</b> (exponentialengineering.com) .....	Fort Collins, Colo.
<b>JEO Consulting Group, Inc.</b> (jeo.com) .....	Wahoo, Neb.
<b>Lutz, Daily &amp; Brain, LLC</b> (ldbeng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.
<b>Olsson</b> (Olsson.com) .....	Lincoln, Neb.
<b>Power Engineers</b> (powereng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.

### **Insurance**

<b>League Association of Risk Management</b> (larmpool.org) .....	Lincoln, Neb.
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### **Legal**

<b>Chapman and Cutler, LLP</b> (chapman.com) .....	Salt Lake City, Utah
<b>Spiegel &amp; McDiarmid</b> (spiegelmcd.com) .....	Washington, D.C.

### **Telecommunication**

<b>Community Broadband Action Network</b> (broadbandaction.com) .....	Indianola, Iowa
<b>River Oaks Communications Corp.</b> (rivoaks.com) .....	Centennial, Colo.



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## Employment (cont.)

individual. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or equivalent. Position requires effective written and verbal communication skills. Applicant must enjoy working with the public and be able to work in a kind, courteous, and helpful manner with staff and public. Please visit [www.fairburyne.org](http://www.fairburyne.org) for a detailed job description of both the deputy city clerk and city clerk/treasurer positions. The City of Fairbury is an Equal Opportunity Employer. First review of applications will be July 5, 2019. Candidates may either apply online, email or mail a cover letter, resume, and three (3) references to: Collin Bielser, city administrator, P.O. Box 554, Fairbury, Ne 68352, [cbielser@fairburyne.org](mailto:cbielser@fairburyne.org).

### Street and Alley Employee

The City of Fairbury, Neb., seeks applicants for a street and alley employee. Depending on knowledge and experience, the position will be hired at either a Grade 1 (\$15.25/hr. - \$18.89/hr.), Grade 2 (\$16.76/hr. - 19.71/hr.), or Grade 3 (\$17.78/hr. - \$20.58/hr.) level. Under the direction of the street and alley foreman, the street and alley employee performs a variety of semi-skilled and skilled maintenance work, and operates a variety of equipment in the construction, operation and repair, maintenance and replacement of City street, alleys, drainage rights-of-way, traffic systems, signs, storm sewers, and other city facilities and infrastructure. The applicant must have a high school diploma or equivalent, have some knowledge of equipment

utilized in maintenance, construction, and repair activities, and can operate a variety of machinery including but not limited to trucks, mowers, skid steers, etc. An applicant with a Class A CDL is preferred. Finalists must possess a valid driver's license with acceptable driving history. Post-Offer Employment Testing (POET), including but not limited, to drug screening, criminal background check and a Physical Capacity Profile will be required. Position will remain open until filled. Please visit [www.fairburyne.org](http://www.fairburyne.org) or City Hall for a detailed job description and application form. Candidates may apply online at [www.fairburyne.org](http://www.fairburyne.org) or submit application materials to: Collin Bielser, city administrator, P.O. Box 554, Fairbury, Ne 68352, [cbielser@fairburyne.org](mailto:cbielser@fairburyne.org).

**Complete job descriptions are posted at [www.nmppenergy.org](http://www.nmppenergy.org)**

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