



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Ronald R. Schultz
President

Glen M. Honeman
Vice President

Paul W. Unruh
Secretary

Edwin D. Lenkner
Treasurer

Michael Christie
Trustee

Lori R. Jones
Trustee

Ruth Teichman
Trustee

Kenneth E. Unruh
Trustee

Bruce E. Warren
Trustee

Staff

Teresa Miller
General Manager

Robert Lamatsch
Manager of Operations

In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

A Well-Designed Landscape Can Save You Some Green

Thinking of planting trees in your yard this summer? If the answer is yes, giving some thought about where you'll plant them could help reduce your energy bill. Not only are trees beautiful, but shading is the most cost-effective way to reduce heat gain from the sun — a good thing in the summer.

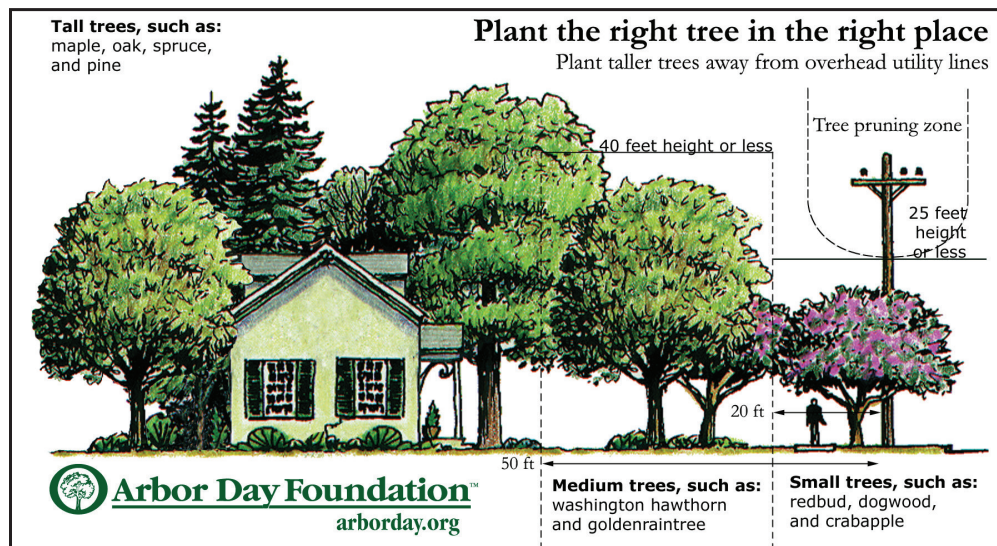
And the savings are nothing to sneeze at. According to the Department of Energy, a well-planned landscape can reduce an unshaded home's air conditioning costs by 15-50%. Our nation's energy authority also boasts that on average, a well-designed

landscape saves enough energy to pay for itself in less than eight years.

Although effective, shade-producing landscaping strategies vary by climate, here are some general planting guidelines from the Arbor Day Foundation:

- ▶ Plant on the west and northwest sides of your home to provide mid-to late-afternoon shade.
- ▶ Plant shade trees over patios, driveways and air-conditioning units (but never crowd or block your A/C unit; it should have a 5-foot clearance above it and 3 feet on all sides).
- ▶ Use trees to shade east and west

Continued on page 16B ▶



Elections & Bylaws Voting Results

Members re-elected to the Ninnescah Board of Trustees are **LORI R. JONES**, **EDWIN D. LENKNER** and **KENNETH E. UNRUH**.

The proposed bylaw change passed by a vote of 163 “yes” and 15 “no.”

The winners of the \$50 credit on their electric bill were **GEORGI DAWSON** and **MARJORIE PATRICK**.

Thank you to all of our consumer-members who exercised their right to vote.

Summer Rates Begin in July

We would like to remind you that Ninnescah's summer rates will be reflected on your July bill. The summer rates will remain in effect through your October bill. We are listing below the rates for electric service.

Summer Rates		Cost
Single Phase	Customer Charge	\$27.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.1406 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
Three Phase	Customer Charge	\$37.50
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.1406 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
Irrigation No Control	Customer Charge	\$25.00
	Annual Horsepower Charge*	\$42.50 per HP
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.1231 per kWh
Irrigation Direct Co-op Control	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly
	Customer Charge	\$25.00
	Annual Horsepower Charge*	\$37.50 per HP
	Summer Energy Charge	\$0.0881 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	varies monthly

*Billed in five equal installments on April-August bills

Welcome New Members

Celia &/or Jorge Garcia – Kinsley

Charyl &/or Mark B Zier – Eudora

Brian Acord – Attica

A Well-Designed Landscape Can Save You Some Green

Continued from page 16A ►

windows. If they block your view, prune lower branches.

► In general, large, deciduous trees planted on the east, west, and northwest sides of your home create shade in the summer and can help decrease the cost of running your air conditioner in the heat of the summer.

And what is deciduous, you ask?

Deciduous trees shed their leaves annually. Although it equates to a lot of leaves to rake come October, the annual cycle lets the sunshine through in the winter but blocks the sun's rays in the summer. Either scenario helps reduce energy costs if trees are strategically placed in relation to your home.

Trees that don't shed leaves are

called evergreens, which usually block the sun year-round. That's great in the summer but not so hot in the winter.

Consult a landscape professional for specific climate/region recommendations.

NOTE: When planting trees, be sure to consider height potential. Do not plant a tree that will mature to more than 15 feet tall near or under power lines. Taller-growing trees (taller than 15 feet at maturity) should be planted a minimum of 20 feet away from power lines, or much farther to avoid future pruning/power line issues.

For more information about planting the right tree in the right place or about electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.

DO NOT GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other equipment makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, do not get out of your cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- Call 911 and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- Wait to exit your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. If you must get out, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop.



Be Smart Around Electricity: Inside Your Home

Many safety hazards are obvious and can be seen, smelled or heard: that wrinkled rug you could trip on, spoiled food that could make you sick, icy pavement that could cause a nasty fall, or a weather siren announcing an approaching tornado.

Electrical hazards, however, are often undetectable. While some you can see, smell or feel — outlets that are warm to the touch or lights that constantly flicker, for example — many others you cannot.

Ninnescah Electric and Safe Electricity remind you of these electrical safety tips to keep in mind in and around your home:

CELL PHONES MAKE STRANGE

BEDFELLOWS: Do not sleep or lounge in bed with a cell phone or other device that is charging. Doing so can cause burns to your skin or it can cause the soft bedding materials to ignite. This also goes for devices that are warm to the touch but not plugged in.

DO NOT USE CHEAP CHARGERS: Use the original charging components that came with your cell phone or other electronics. When it comes time to replace them, spend a little extra to buy brand-specific chargers and cubes. Using cheaply made generic chargers with your electronics can cause injury (shock or burns) or even a fire if they are defective.

CHARGING DEVICES AND WATER

DON'T MIX: Do not use a plugged in (charging) cell phone near water. Take a break from your phone while bathing. Deaths have occurred when a plugged-in cell phone has fallen into the bathtub. DO NOT use plugged in items near water.

DO NOT OVERLOAD OUTLETS OR CIRCUITS. It's tempting to plug in several items in one outlet or on one circuit, but drawing too much power can damage your electronics or your home's wiring, or cause more serious problems such as a fire. If too much

current is drawn, usually a circuit breaker will trip or fuses will blow, but this is never guaranteed.

DO NOT USE PORTABLE HEATERS UNATTENDED OR AROUND SMALL CHILDREN OR PETS. Do not place flammable items near or on a space heater.

DITCH THAT OLD ELECTRIC BLANKET: Do not use an electric blanket that is 10 years old or older or one that has frayed or visible wires in the blanket itself. Do not use one that has a damaged electrical cord or plug.

TEST YOUR GFCI BUTTONS ONCE A MONTH: Put a reminder in your phone or mark it on your calendar each month. GFCIs help prevent ground faults that can shock or injure you, but they can't do their job if they are not working properly.

DO NOT IGNORE ODD ELECTRICAL SYMPTOMS IN YOUR HOME. If your lights flicker often, if your outlets are warm to the touch, or if you smell odors like something is overheating but can't determine where the odors are coming from, there may be problems with your home's electrical system. There might also be a problem if your circuits or fuses are tripped or need to be changed often. If you notice any of these symptoms or other unusual electrical oddities in your home, have a qualified electrician assess your home's electrical system.

IS YOUR HOME AFCI PROTECTED? AFCI stands for arc fault circuit interrupter, and when there is an arc

fault, it means that an electrical source in your home is malfunctioning. When that happens, an arc (intense heat or light) can be discharged. Because of that, AFCIs are required by National Electric Code since they help prevent home fires. Have a professional electrician assess your home to make sure AFCIs are installed, especially if your home is older. He or she can also inspect your older home's wiring to make sure it can handle today's electrical demands.

BABYPROOF AND CHILDPROOF YOUR HOME, INCLUDING ELECTRICAL SOURCES. There are many everyday electrical dangers that toddlers and children can tamper with, such as exposed outlets, accessible power strips and surge protectors, and hanging or dangling cords. In addition, little ones like to imitate you, and there have been reports of toddlers trying to plug the wrong end of a phone charger into the outlet, which can cause severe shocks or burns. Be aware of potential electrical dangers throughout the home. Get down on the floor and see what's at eye level or within reach.

TAMPER-RESISTANT OUTLETS BECAME PART OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE IN 2008, BUT MANY HOMES BUILT BEFORE THAT YEAR DO NOT HAVE THEM. Make sure all of your outlets are covered (with a plastic plug, for example) so that small children cannot insert foreign objects into the slots.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started. **Source: energystar.gov**



Common Electrical Terms

If you work with electricity for a living or you paid attention during that junior high or high school science unit that covered ohms, currents and connectivity, you will know every term listed here.

This article is for the rest of us: everyday people who scratch their heads every time they hear the word ohm (unless they are meditating and softly chanting oooohhhhhmmmm as they put their index fingers on top of their thumbs and slowly pull their arms outward).

Here are some common electrical terms and their basic definitions:

PATH TO GROUND: Electricity takes the easiest path. If electricity's usual path is interrupted, the current will take a new path. If that path is a person, electrical current will shock or kill as it runs through the body, since the body has become part of the electric circuit or pathway.

GROUND: Literally means the earth or ground in the term "path to ground" because electrical circuits can be connected to the ground. A ground wire is a wire that has been intentionally connected to the earth but does not typically carry electricity, although it can if the system detects a problem.

GROUND FAULT: This is when an electrical circuit malfunctions and finds a path to ground outside the established path. When there is a ground fault, a human in contact with the wiring may suddenly become part of the pathway to ground.

VOLTAGE: Measured in volts, voltage makes electric charges move. Industry professionals

often liken electricity to an invisible fluid that moves through some materials better than others while doing its job. To expand on this analogy, voltage would be the pressure needed to move the fluid along. No voltage (pressure), no movement of electricity (fluid).

CURRENT: Measured in amperes (amps), current is the amount of electricity that is moving through the path as pushed by voltage (pressure). Continuing with the fluid analogy, current can be thought of as flow.

CIRCUIT: This is an electrical pathway in which electricity enters and exits. Your home's electrical system/wiring has different circuits. Several devices that don't draw much power (a lamp or clock, for instance) can be plugged into the same circuit, while large appliances that draw a lot of power are usually placed on their own circuit.

OHM: This is a unit used to measure electrical resistance. Resistance measures how much an object (like a wire) resists the current moving through it. Another way to think of it: a water pipe with a lot of buildup would have higher resistance than a clean pipe; a small pipe would have higher resistance than a large pipe.

GFCI: This stands for ground fault circuit interrupters, and they help protect against electrical shock and electrocution as long as they are working properly. GFCIs detect whether electricity is staying inside the circuit or leaking somewhere else (like through you). It's a good idea to test them monthly.

AFCI: This acronym stands for arc fault circuit interrupters, and they break the circuit

when they sense a dangerous electrical arc. AFCIs are more sensitive to arc faults than regular circuit breakers.

ARC: An arc is a discharge between two electrodes that can cause intense heat or light. Lightning is a big arc.

STEP POTENTIAL: As its name implies, it is the potential for a person to step from one voltage to another, which can cause electrocution. When there is stray electrical current running through the ground from a downed power line or other electrical source, it often spreads like ripples on a pond, and each ripple represents a different voltage. This happens because the electricity going into the ground is not limited to just where the wire touches. The ground resists the flow, which can cause a "pool" of electricity to form. When you step in it, you give it another path to take.

WATT: Simply put, a watt is a unit of power, named after James Watt, who invented the steam engine.

JOULE: A joule is a unit of work or energy.

CONDUCTOR: This is anything electricity can go through.

NON-CONDUCTOR: This is anything that is really bad at conducting electricity, like most plastics and rubber (although everyday rubber-soled shoes may not protect you). Non-conductors are also called insulators.

ONE LAST DEFINITION: electrical safety. At Ninnescah Electric, safety is our TOP priority — your safety and the safety of our employees. Since electricity is invisible, people often forget to respect its potential for danger.

USE THESE POWER TOOL TIPS TO COMPLETE YOUR DIY PROJECT SAFELY.



Use GFCI Outlets

Protect against electric shock by plugging your electric power tools into ground fault circuit interrupter plug ins.



Protect Pipes and Wire

Use extra caution when cutting or drilling into a wall or ceiling that contains water pipes or electrical wire.



Protect Yourself

Wear appropriate personal protective equipment when working with power tools. Never use power tools without proper safety guards.

source: esfi.org