

# Can you dig it?

There may be more than worms under your lawn. Before you stick that spade in the sod, know the requirements for marking underground utilities. It's pretty easy, and **it's the law**.

## TYPES OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

**YELLOW:** Natural gas, oil, steam, petroleum or other gaseous materials

**BLUE:** Potable water

**GREEN:** Sewer and drain lines

**ORANGE:** Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit

**RED:** Electric power lines, cables, conduit, lighting cables

Utilities are color-coded for easy identification, matching the flags that mark their location.

### BEFORE YOU DIG, YOU MUST:

- Notify Nebraska811 at least two, but not more than 10, business days prior.
- Ensure the accuracy of all information on the request. You can mark the dig area with white paint or flags to help utilities save time when marking their equipment.
- Contact any utilities not notified by Nebraska811. Call 800-331-5666 to report any utilities that are not registered with Nebraska811.
- Ensure all utilities have responded. Call Nebraska811 if utilities have not responded or marked their equipment by your requested start date/time.

Once all utilities have responded, you are free to dig.

**WHAT IS NEBRASKA 811?** A statewide one-call notification center linking people who want to excavate or dig and underground facility owners and operators.

**IN NEBRASKA:** Call 811 or visit [www.ne1call.com](http://www.ne1call.com). The ITIC mobile app is also available, which uses GPS to help you mark the dig area.



**OPPD.COM/TREETIPS:** For tree-planting videos.

**IN IOWA:** Call 811 or visit [iowaonecall.com](http://iowaonecall.com).

## JUNE BOARD MEETINGS

**All-committee meeting:** Tuesday, June 15 (see [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting) for time and how meeting will be conducted).

**Regular board meeting:** Thursday, June 17, **5 p.m.**, online via Webex (see [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting)) and in-person at Legislative Chamber of Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam St., Omaha. Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting).

# Outlets

### OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.

Your Energy Partner<sup>®</sup>  
**OPPD**  
Omaha Public Power District

# Enjoy energy savings with OPPD's expanded Smart Thermostat Program

Plus, get \$75-plus when you install a qualifying thermostat.

OPPD has expanded its Smart Thermostat Program to include models from several manufacturers.

This gives you more choices for upgrading to a smart thermostat, which can save up to 25% on your electric bill.

When you install a qualifying smart thermostat and enroll in this program, you will receive a one-time \$75 OPPD bill credit, plus an extra \$20 bill credit each year you participate.

## How does the program work?

On extremely hot days, when the demand for electricity is greater, OPPD may declare a high-demand "event" and manage your air-conditioner through your smart thermostat.

Prior to such an event, you will receive a proactive notification both on your thermostat and via your thermostat-management application.

During an event, after a one-hour

pre-cooling period, your thermostat will adjust the temperature one to three degrees higher.

After the event (no longer than four hours in duration), your thermostat app will return your thermostat to your desired setting.

OPPD may declare high-demand events:

- On no more than 15 weekdays per year, excluding holidays
- From May through October
- Between 12 noon and 9 p.m., but lasting no longer than four hours
- No more than three times in the same week

## Who can participate?

To be eligible, you must:

- Be an OPPD residential customer
- Have an eligible smart thermostat model that is continuously connected to Wi-Fi
- Have and maintain a working



central air-conditioner, heat pump or geothermal system

- Have an active account with a qualified thermostat manufacturer, and have the thermostat linked to this account
- NOT be enrolled in OPPD's Cool Smart Program. (If currently enrolled, please call OPPD Customer Service at 402-536-4131 to cancel Cool Smart before enrolling in Smart Thermostat.)
- Agree to the program terms and conditions

## How can I learn more or sign up?

For a list of eligible thermostat models and more info, please visit [oppd.com/SmartThermostat](http://oppd.com/SmartThermostat). You can also enroll directly with your smart thermostat app.

## Work continues on utility-scale solar effort

OPPD continues to take steps to acquire 400 to 600 megawatts of utility-scale solar generation as part of its Power with Purpose (PwP) project.

The district recently signed a contract with Community Energy Inc. (CE) for purchasing the output of an 81-megawatt solar array to be located south of Yutan, Neb., in eastern Saunders County.

CE, the developer of the solar project, continues to work with the community on the site details.

When complete, this facility will be capable of powering about 14,000 average homes.

This solar installation will further boost OPPD's renewable energy portfolio (currently including wind,

hydropower, landfill gas and a small amount of solar) from its current 38.4 percent of retail sales to customers (as of 2020).

Solar power is an essential element of the PwP project, which also includes up to 600 megawatts of modern natural gas backup generation.

## Get updates online

The public can find updates, offer comments and ask questions about PwP and other projects on our community engagement platform, [OPPDCommunityConnect.com](http://OPPDCommunityConnect.com).

You can visit the site by scanning the QR code at right with your smartphone.



The COVID-19 vaccine is the best protection for you and your loved ones. It's safe, it works, it's free, and it's now available for everyone ages 16 and up.

To schedule your appointment, find your local health district at **DoRightRightNow.org**.

The community goal is to get every adult immunized. Until then, continue to wear a mask, give space, and avoid crowds.

Reach out to your loved ones and take note of your own mental health. Call **1-888-866-8660** for support.

**7"x 2.5" AD SPACE AVAILABLE IN 2021** Proceeds benefit EAP. For details, please email [lskinghoman@oppd.com](mailto:lskinghoman@oppd.com).

Proceeds from the sale of advertising space in Outlets are donated to OPPD's Energy Assistance Program. An advertisement in Outlets does not constitute an endorsement by OPPD. For information about this space, call 531-226-3756.