

*“Electricity” — your least expensive energy source, keeping your life running, delivered with reliability by people who care about you*

## Make sure your heating system is operating efficiently and safely

Though it may not feel like it today, “Old Man Winter” is just around the corner. Probably the last thing on your mind is whether your heating system is ready to keep you warm and toasty without draining your wallet. But it’s never too early to start planning for a comfortable winter (and save money in the process).

In our neck of the woods, a heating system can run for over 1,500 hours. That is equal to running your car at 50 mph for 75,000 miles. Would you drive your car that far without changing the oil, rotating tires, or checking other critical systems? Your heating system requires the same kind of scheduled maintenance in order to run efficiently and last its normal lifetime.

So what are benefits of having a certified technician performing a heating system tune up?

- Peace of mind knowing your heating equipment is safe, especially if your home has natural gas. A carbon monoxide leak can be fatal.
- Keep your equipment at peak operating condition. This allows your system to operate less in providing the

heat you need.

- Improve heating capacity. On the coldest days, it is good to know your system has the capability to keep you warm.
- Avoid an expensive breakdown by testing for weak components. It never fails that systems fail at the most inconvenient times.
- Extend the life of your equipment. Your heating system cost a lot of money! You want to get as many years of efficient operation out of it as you can.



What sorts of things should you expect a certified technician to do?

- Clean and vacuum the heat exchanger
- Inspect heat exchanger for cracks and holes

- Tighten all wiring connections for safety
- Lubricate all moving parts
- Clean blower housing and remove all debris
- Check and replace furnace filters
- Test fan and furnace limit for proper safety
- Clean outside unit coils (air-source heat pumps only)

If you use natural gas or propane to heat your home, a certified technician may also do the following:

- Inspect thermocouple/igniter for proper burn
- Inspect for dangerous combustible material
- Test gas valve to reduce delayed ignition
- Remove and wash burners for more efficient operation
- Remove and clean vent pipe
- Check for natural gas leaks to prevent fires
- Test for proper gas pressure

Do not let a broken down heating system catch you by surprise this winter! Have your system checked today and enjoy knowing you will not be at the bottom of the list your certified technician has of “no heat” calls!

## An easy way to save on your energy expense

Over the past year or so, it seems like every time we turn around the price of something we use is going up. Fueled by the rapid explosion in the price of all fuels at the gas station, what we pay for everything we use is going in the wrong direction.

It is a constant barrage of negative press whenever we turn on the TV set or read a paper or look at the internet. The price of all forms of energy we use for our homes, farms or businesses are also rising, but there are ways to help you save some of your hard earned money.

**Heating & cooling uses 50% of the energy consumed in your home**

In your home, conditioning the air, whether it is heating or cooling, uses the most energy. In fact it uses around 50% of the energy

consumed in the average home. Because of this high use there is also a great opportunity to get significant savings through energy efficiency gains. The most efficient source of heating & cooling today is a heat pump.

With the price of propane getting to high levels it is possible to cut your energy bill in half or better. The installation of an electric heat pump that can heat and cool your home will allow these savings. This can amount to several hundred dollars a year, very easily justifying a new heating and air conditioning system.

All you have to do is visit your Heating and Air Conditioning contractor and tell them you want to install a new EnergyStar qualified Heat Pump for your home. **Twin Valleys Public Power District** even provides rebates to our customers for making the switch from propane or natural gas to electric heat. This makes it even easier to justify get-

ting a new heating and air conditioning system for your home.

Making the switch to using electricity instead of propane or natural gas can benefit you in other ways also. You may be able to qualify as an "all-electric" service with **Twin Valleys Public Power District** and get a lower rate for the eight month period from October thru May. Be sure to call our office to get the details and find out how easy it is to keep more of your money in your pocket.

**Find out the benefits of making the switch to electricity for your heating needs**

As the heating season approaches take some time out of your busy schedule and visit with us or your Heating & Air Conditioning Contractor to find out the benefits of making the switch to electricity.

## Farm equipment and power lines don't mix

Those who live on a farm know that not only is it hard work, but it can be dangerous, too. Each year, farmers are electrocuted when large farm machinery comes into contact with overhead power lines.

Often, the situation occurs because a newer, bigger piece of equipment no longer clears a line the way a smaller one did. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year to year.

The following tips will help keep everyone on a farm safe:

- Look over work areas

carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles.



- Make sure you have ample clearance when moving large machinery such as combines,

grain augers, pickers, bailers, and front-end loaders. Do this every year as equipment sizes or soil conditions may change.

- Store large equipment properly if near or under power lines. When planning new construction, factor in existing power lines.
- Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.
- Train all farm workers to keep an eye out for overhead power lines.

# Look for lumens, not watts

When you're shopping for light-bulbs, compare lumens to be sure you're getting the amount of light, or level of brightness, you want. A new Lighting Facts Label will make it easy to compare bulb brightness, color, life, and estimated annual operating cost.

## Buy Lumens, Not Watts

We typically buy things based on how much of it we get, right? When buying milk, we buy it by volume (gallons).

So why should lighting be any different? But for decades, we have been buying lightbulbs based on how much energy they consume (watts), not how much light they give us (lumens). With the arrival of new, more efficient lightbulbs, it's time for that to change.

## What's a Lumen?

Lumens measure how much light you are getting from a bulb. More lumens means a brighter light; fewer lumens a dimmer light.

are to bananas or gallons are to milk—they let you buy the amount of light you want. So when buying new bulbs, *think lumens, not watts*. The brightness, or lumen levels, of lights in your home may vary widely, so here's a **rule of thumb**:

- To replace a 100-W traditional incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that gives you *about* 1,600 lumens. If you want something dimmer, go for less lumens; if you prefer brighter light, look for more lumens.
- Replace a 75-W bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 1,100 lumens
- Replace a 60-W bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 800 lumens
- Replace a 40-W bulb with an energy-saving bulb that gives you about 450 lumens.

Brightness	820 lumens
Estimated Energy Cost	\$7.23 per year

## For? The Lighting Facts Label

To help consumers better understand the switch from watts to lumens, the Federal Trade Commission will require a new product label for lightbulbs starting in January 2012. The labels will help consumers buy bulbs that are right for them.

Like the helpful nutrition label on food products, the Lighting Facts Label will help consumers understand what they are really purchasing. The label clearly provides the lumens—or brightness—of the bulb, estimated operating cost for the year, and the color of the light (from warm/yellowish, to white to cool/blue).

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
Brightness	820 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$7.23
<small>Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use</small>	
Life	1.4 years
<small>Based on 3 hrs/day</small>	
Light Appearance	
Energy Used	60 watts

Lumens are to light what pounds

What Should I Look

Front

Back

## Tired of high propane prices??

Switch to an electric heat pump

Rebates available up to \$1000

2 1/2% loan available through the Nebraska Energy Office

You could qualify for our "all-electric" rate—save an average of 10%-30% on your electric bill from October thru May



<b>Board of Directors</b> Bruce Lans, President Larry Kubik, Vice President Brent Ballou, Secretary K. Dale Fults, Treasurer Dallas Ott Gerald Meyerle David Black	<b>Staff</b> James P. Dietz, General Manager Sandra Stagemeyer, Director of Administrative Services Mike Langley, Director of Operations Bill Minnick, Director of Communications & Marketing
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**Website: [www.twinvalleysppd.com](http://www.twinvalleysppd.com)**

**Notice of Board Meeting**  
 The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Twin Valleys Public Power District is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. the third Monday of each month at the District Office in Cambridge, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the principal office of Twin Valleys Public Power District in Cambridge during normal business hours.

**Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Monday - Friday**  
**Service Calls After Hours**  
 Please call 800-658-4266 or 697-3315 at all times to report outages or service calls after normal business hours. A Twin Valleys' dispatcher will take down the necessary information.


**Twin Valleys' Employees**  
 David Benson, Line Superintendent  
 Bob Bergquist, Lease Town Meter Reader  
 David Custer, Apparatus Supervisor  
 Todd Eitzmann, Apprentice Lineman  
 Derek Galusha, Apprentice Lineman  
 David Garcia, Load Mgmt & Info Technology Specialist  
 Gary Groshong, Construction Layout Tech  
 Doug Huxoll, Warehouseman  
 Marcie Houghtelling, Secretary/Receptionist  
 Kim Miller, Cambridge Crew Chief  
 Jim Mollhoff, Journeyman Lineman  
 Brock Mowry, Apprentice Lineman  
 Cole Nickerson, Apparatus Tech  
 Janet Rasmussen, Accountant  
 Adam Stottler, Apprentice Lineman, Alma  
 Jim Teter, Journeyman Lineman  
 Carol Voss, Billing Supervisor  
 Karen Werkmeister, Billing Clerk  
 Nick Woetzel, Apprentice Lineman, Alma  
 Brandon Wright, Alma Crew Chief  
 Philip Young, Area Serviceman

# Top 10 reasons to install a geothermal heat pump

10. Comfort is constant: humidity levels are ideal, no blast of hot air or cold blow, temperatures are constant and the inside air is very clean.
9. The value of your home is increased, with the closed loops lasting 50 years or longer. A geothermal heat pump requires less maintenance.
8. No carbon monoxide is produced since a fuel does not have to be burned. This is safer and provides much cleaner air inside your home.
7. This is the most efficient heating and cooling system available, saving you money and is good for our environment and natural resources.
6. This type of a system can also supply much of your hot water heating needs for free with a desuperheater.
5. With no outside unit the outdoor noise level is zero when the system is running.
4. Rebates up to \$1000 are available from **Twin Valleys Public Power District**.
3. There is a 30% tax credit available for qualifying systems.
2. You may qualify for the "Total Electric Rate" from **Twin Valleys Public Power District**, saving you even more money.

## And the number 1 reason to install a geothermal heat pump is

1. You owe it to yourself to make an informed decision regarding your home's heating & cooling system because it will be with you for a long time.



**Energy Efficiency**  
*Tip of the Month*

Check your water heater thermostat. Many manufacturers set thermostats to 140° F, although most households only need a setting of 120° F. Each 10 degree drop in water temperature can save you between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs.

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