

ENERGY

CONNECTIONS

NorthWestern[®]
Energy

JULY 2012

Delivering a Bright Future

NorthWestern Launches Community Works



NorthWestern Energy's tradition of funding community activities, charitable efforts and economic development within its three-state utility service territory now has a new name and expanded focus.

In celebration of its 2012 Centennial, NorthWestern is bringing together its charitable contributions, economic development and community sponsorship programs under the name *Community Works* and is providing \$100,000 in additional funding for college scholarships.

"We're celebrating our first century and building for our second, which will require a workforce of highly skilled, knowledgeable employees in a variety of disciplines - including math, science, engineering and the technical skills needed for the electricity and natural gas industry," said Bob Rowe, President and CEO. "Many of our prospective employees come from our local technical colleges and universities so we're looking at our new scholarship program to provide not only needed assistance with the cost of education but also to build long-term relationships with these students as they transition into their careers."

Rowe added, "We believe the name *Community Works* reflects the grassroots nature of our company's charitable activities that are driven

mostly by local organizations and volunteer efforts. It also depicts the close connection and coordination between NorthWestern Energy and the communities we serve."



The scholarships will be in various amounts and will target specific areas of focus that reflect NorthWestern Energy's expectations of its future workforce needs; however, the company will not administer the scholarships nor choose the recipients. NorthWestern Energy has identified the educational institutions in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska that it plans to work with on this effort, but hasn't yet finalized the details with all of the corresponding institutions.

NorthWestern Energy's Community Works programs currently provide more than \$1.5 million in funds for community sponsorships, charitable contributions and economic development organizations in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. More information about grant requests is available on the company's website at www.northwesternenergy.com.



Construction Safety

Summer time driving often requires the maneuvering through new work zones. Be cautious and alert and plan for extra time when traveling the roadways.

Remember to slow down whenever you enter a work zone. Look ahead and watch for signs to direct you. Be extra cautious around flaggers and those working on the roadways. The flagger is the most important person in a work zone; they are there to protect and direct you.

Reduced speed limits are commonly posted. The posted speed in a work zone is the speed the state Highway Patrol uses as a basis for writing

citations. All fines double in a work zone and could be as much as \$1,000.

The most common accident in a work zone is a rear-end collision. Remember to pay attention to traffic and drive defensively! Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.

We do our best to alert the community if our work will require road closures. Watch your local news for press releases and check out the Area Update page of the Utility Work section of our website before heading out on your next trip.



Severe Weather Can Strike At Any Time

Severe weather can strike at any time, which may have you wondering what you can do to prepare your home or business for a power outage. Here are a few tips to help you stay safe during a severe weather event:

- ⚡ **Know how to report an outage.** If your power is out, call us right away – we are available 24/7 for emergency service. Never assume someone else has already called.
- ⚡ **Stay away from downed power lines.** If you see a downed line, consider it to be energized and stay away from it.
- ⚡ **Remember your appliances.** Turn off all the appliances you think were on before your power went out.
- ⚡ **Unplug.** Unplug your electronic equipment, including computers.
- ⚡ **Keep it closed.** Keep your refrigerator or freezer door closed as much as possible to keep the cool air inside.
- ⚡ **Keep the grill outdoors.** Never use a grill indoors to prepare food.
- ⚡ **Give yourself a cue.** Leave a light or radio on to let you know when you have electric service again.

More safety tips can be found online at www.northwesternenergy.com. Rest assured that during an outage event, NorthWestern Energy will be working day and night to restore your power.



New Service GUIDE

Planning to Build?

If you are considering a building project, one of the first things you should do is contact our New Construction department at the NorthWestern Energy office nearest you. Early contact ensures that there are no surprises when you go to break ground. Our representatives can discuss regulated extension policies, so you will be well-informed as your project progresses.

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Customer Contact Center (888) 467-2669
7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F
Emergency 24/7 Service
Call Before You Dig 811
Energy Efficiency (800) 823-5995

NEBRASKA

Customer Contact Center (800) 245-6977
7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F
Emergency 24/7 Service
Call Before You Dig 811

SOUTH DAKOTA

Customer Contact Center (800) 245-6977
7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F
Emergency 24/7 Service
Call Before You Dig 811

PAYMENT

Automated Phone
Payment Option: (800) 218-4959
(via checking, savings, or money market account)
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Phone Payment Option: (877) 361-4927
(via credit card account)

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Balloons in Power Lines

NorthWestern Energy is reminding outdoor partiers that those shiny, metallic Mylar balloons can take out an entire bash in a flash. And they can bring down much of the neighborhood at the same time.

When a metallic balloon makes contact with an electrical line or substation equipment, the power can go out, resulting in fires and possible injuries. To reduce the risk of these incidents, remember to always attach a weight to the balloons and never release them outdoors. After your event, deflate the balloons and dispose of them properly.

Go ahead and be festive – just stay safe by keeping your balloons secure.

