



Dennis, in blue, participates in a tree planting event.

Growing up outside Grand Island, Nebraska, Dennis Placke had no idea how much infrastructure, such as natural gas lines and other utility lines, was right under his feet.

Today, as NorthWestern Energy's Manager of District Operations based in Grand Island, Dennis works hard to make sure our underground natural gas lines deliver safe, reliable energy to our customers.

NorthWestern Energy is currently working to add a new 8-inch high-pressure gas line around Grand Island to increase reliability and better serve our customers.

Knowing he's benefiting our customers is one of Dennis's favorite parts of his job.

"When we're doing good work, our customers will be better off at the end of the day," Dennis said.

Dennis grew up outside Grand Island on his family's farm. He moved away to work in the energy industry. Then, about 18 years ago, he was back for a visit and saw a NorthWestern Energy border station and applied for a job with the company so he could move back to his hometown.

Now Dennis once again lives on the farm where he grew up. That gives him plenty of room to garden.

"I grow quite a few zucchinis and quite a few tomatoes," Dennis said.

Those are the perfect ingredients for Dennis's Zucchini and Tomato Casserole.

"It's one of my favorites," Dennis said of the dish, which comes from his wife's grandmother.

"My wife is a really good cook, and I'm a good eater," Dennis said with a laugh.



Zucchini and Tomato Casserole

INGREDIENTS

- 2 medium zucchini (sliced ¼ inch thick)
- 2-3 medium tomatoes (Roma or small slicers, sliced in ¼ inch thick)
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- Approx. 1 cup shredded Mozzarella cheese
- ½ teaspoon of dried basil, or 1 ½ tablespoons of fresh basil, snipped
- ¼ teaspoon of garlic powder
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

- Pre heat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Spray 9x9 baking dish with non-stick spray.
- Layer sliced zucchini in over lapping rows to cover the bottom of the casserole dish. Lightly salt and pepper the zucchini layer.
- Place tomatoes in a single layer over the zucchini. Spread the mayonnaise in a light layer over the tomatoes.
- Top with the shredded cheese and then sprinkle garlic powder and basil over the cheese layer.
- Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Remove foil and continue baking an additional 15-20 minutes until the cheese is lightly browned and the zucchini is tender when pierced with a fork.

Note: Casserole can also be grilled in an aluminum pan over indirect heat on the grill for roughly 30 minutes.

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We are proud of the diversity in the communities we serve. To better serve the needs of some of our customers, we translate important customer information into two languages: Spanish and Karenic.

Estamos orgullosos de la diversidad en las comunidades que servimos. Para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de algunos de nuestros clientes, traducimos información importante del cliente a dos idiomas: español y karenic.

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Energy Connections

Customer Bill Insert
South Dakota/Nebraska | June 2023

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Bright ideas to save

Turn up your thermostat

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.



NorthWestern gives back to our communities during National Volunteer Week

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, April 21-27, NorthWestern Energy employees rolled up their sleeves to make a difference in their communities. From planting trees to cleaning up trash and volunteering at local food banks, our team showed their commitment to giving back to their communities.

A few service projects include:

- We partnered with South Dakota State University to donate and plant two trees on campus.
- Employees picked up trash along the Big Sioux River near Sioux Falls.
- Employees in Madison teamed up with local students to paint widows around town in recognition of Earth Day.

- Brookings employees volunteered at the local food bank.

“NorthWestern Energy’s 1,500 employees live, work and raise their families in the communities we serve,” said NorthWestern Energy President and Chief Executive Officer Brian Bird. “Contributing to make our communities better places to live for all is a core value of our company.”

NorthWestern proudly supported our employees’ dedication to giving back to the communities we serve. In recognition of their work, NorthWestern donated to the organizations employees volunteer with.

NorthWestern adds renewable natural gas

NorthWestern Energy’s natural gas system is now delivering renewable natural gas to homes, businesses and manufacturers in the Brookings area.

NorthWestern Energy will accept about 700,000 dekatherms annually of renewable natural gas originating from area dairy operations at a new interconnect facility north of Brookings. That’s enough natural gas to serve about 10,000 residential customers.

Renewable natural gas is a carbon-negative fuel, capturing methane that would otherwise be emitted into the atmosphere. It is a part of NorthWestern Energy’s Net Zero by 2050 Vision and an economic development tool for South Dakota.

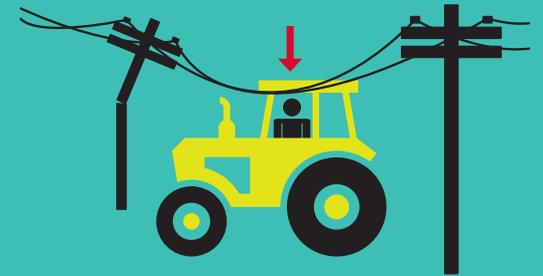
“We are proud to be at the forefront of using renewable natural gas, at no additional cost for our customers, in South Dakota,” said NorthWestern Energy President and Chief Executive Officer Brian Bird. “Renewable natural gas contributes to our sustainable future, provides opportunities for local agriculture businesses and is part of NorthWestern Energy’s net zero plan.”

NorthWestern Energy and our partners expect to bring five more renewable natural gas projects online in South Dakota this year.



What to do if your vehicle contacts a power line

Stay in the vehicle and call 911 for help.



If you must exit the vehicle because of a fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump clear of any wires with your feet together, never touching the equipment and ground at the same time. Then hop or shuffle at least 40 feet away, keeping your feet together.



Stay away from the equipment until the authorities tell you it is safe.

