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PREMA

PREMA Board Approves 2019 Budget

The PREMA Board of Directors, at its October 23, 2018 meeting, approved a budget which included estimated total revenue of \$13,412,574, net margins of just over \$500,000 and a rate increase of 2.5 percent.



This budget assumes a capital credit payment to the membership of \$350,000 which works to lower the customer's effective electric rates by an average of 2.68 percent. Any margins at the end of the year will be allocated to the membership. The budget reflects purchased power costs from Tri-State at over \$8,000,000 or 63 percent of PREMA's total operating costs.

Included in the 2019 budget are \$347,000 for replacement of equipment and other general plant items such as an upgrade to the two-way radio system. It also includes continued funding of preventative maintenance programs at over \$300,000, including such things as: tree trimming, pole testing and substation testing. The money spent on preventative maintenance helps insure the highest possible quality of power to the membership.

Each year, certain financial ratios must be maintained to be in compliance with PREMA's mortgage agreements with lenders. The 2019 budget produced ratios that comply with these agreements.

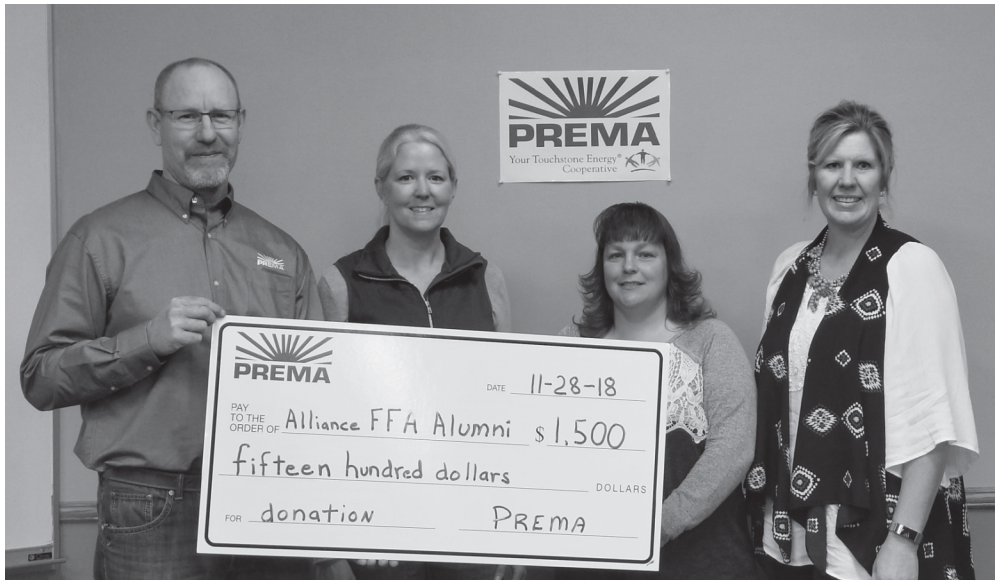
PREMA continues to invest in new plant (such as poles, wires and transformers). These investments make PREMA's electric system more reliable especially during severe weather.

PREMA employees are dedicated to the mission of providing high quality electric service at a reasonable rate. We at PREMA look forward to serving your electrical needs in the New Year. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 308-762-1311.

PREMA Donates to Alliance FFA Alumni

PREMA partnered with CoBank in its Sharing Success Matching Fund program to donate \$3,000 to the Alliance FFA Alumni Chapter (Alumni). The Alumni is a resource to help fund the Alliance FFA Chapter. The donation will assist them in giving out scholarship money for students to attend the Nebraska State FFA Convention, National FFA Convention in Indianapolis and FFA Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). The Alumni also awards scholarships to graduating seniors who plan to attend college.

PREMA strives to support local organizations that are helping the community and especially associated with agriculture



Pictured above, left to right: PREMA Director, Michael Collins; Chris Collins, Jamie Quick, and Leanna Johnson.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: energy.gov



Invest a Little; Save a Lot

Saving energy at home can be simple and free: Turn off the lights and TV when you're not using them; lower the thermostat at night. But for a bigger impact on your electric bill, make a little bit more of an effort and invest a few bucks in energy-saving equipment.

Here's what to buy:

LEDs. Next time a light bulb burns out, replace it with an LED. They last for years and use their energy to produce light, not heat. LED bulbs can screw right into the lamps and fixtures you have. But when it's time to replace those, consider buying LED fixtures for even greater savings.

Good-quality power strips. Plug your electronic equipment into them. Before you go to bed at night, unplug those strips. If energy-intensive appliances like computers, printers and video game consoles are left plugged in after you turn them off, they still use energy—constantly. The only way to stop wasting that energy is to unplug.

New windows. If your old ones are single-pane versions, you might as well leave them open all winter. They're no match for the cold air, which can seep through them. And they don't do a good job of keeping your heated air inside. If that's too much for now, at least plug the leaks around your windows and doors with weather stripping or caulk.

Window shades. Uncovered windows are great for views, but terrible for your energy bill. Your heating bill will be lower in the winter and your air conditioning costs will drop in the summer if you use blinds, curtains or awnings on windows. Uncover them on sunny winter days to let the natural warmth come into your home, but close them up after dark when the temperature dips.

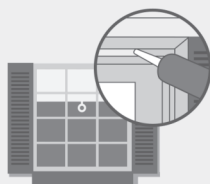
Programmable thermostat. Everyone forgets to lower the heat once in a while. A programmable thermostat will do that for you. Program yours to lower at bedtime, and then automatically warm the house up just before everyone wakes up. It can lower the heat again once everyone leaves for school and work in the morning and crank it back up before the family gets home in the afternoon.

The services of qualified technicians. Keeping your heating and cooling system clean and well-maintained will help it run smoother and more efficiently. Likewise, keeping vents clear—including the one for your clothes dryer—will keep your family safer and your appliances running as they should.

EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

WEATHERIZE

Seal doors and windows with caulk, weather stripping and/or plastic film.



SEAL IN WARMTH

Close blinds and curtains during the night to keep cold air out. Open them during the day to let sunlight in.



COOK UP SAVINGS

Use smaller appliances, like microwaves, toaster ovens and slow cookers when possible.





*PREMA wishes everyone
a happy and healthy 2019!*



Notes From Load Management

The Load Management program is in place for the 2019 irrigation season. If you have an irrigation account with PREMA, a letter explaining the guidelines for Load Management will be in the mail in January. Irrigators not receiving the letter can call the office for information at 308-762-1311 or email Tim Sherlock at tims@prema.coop.



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