



December 2023

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Photo by Chad Peltola on Unsplash

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy has begun public outreach for its Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Program. This outreach will help NDEE develop climate action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

NDEE holds Climate Pollution Reduction Planning kickoff webinar, stakeholder meetings

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's (NDEE) public outreach for its Climate Pollution Reduction Planning (CPRP) Program is well under way.

The department kicked off its state-wide outreach efforts for the CPRP Program with a webinar on Tuesday, Oct. 17, and has scheduled 10 online stakeholder workgroup sessions through Dec. 19. These working group sessions will consider greenhouse gas emission reduction measures in the following sectors:

- Transportation
- Agriculture/Natural & Working Lands
- Industry/Waste & Wastewater
- Energy Production
- Buildings/Housing/Communities

The meeting schedule can be found in the yellow sidebar on the next page. Registration is open until the start of each meeting session. To download a stakeholder information packet and to register for a session, visit NDEE's [Climate Pollution Reduction Planning](#) webpage. A recording of the kickoff webinar, as well as additional information about the CPRP Program, can also be found on this webpage.

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NDEE encourages stakeholders in each working group to attend both sessions to assist the NDEE in developing effective and practical greenhouse gas reduction measures. The first session will present example measures and provide stakeholders the opportunity to discuss these and propose alternate measures. The second session aims to refine the scope and scale of individual measures and finalize a list of potential measures for the sector.

The CPRP Program is developing and implementing climate action plans to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission in Nebraska. NDEE is using a \$3 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) due by March 1, 2024, followed by a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) due in August 2025.

The PCAP will identify high priority, readily-implemented actions to reduce GHG emissions, focusing on voluntary actions and financial incentives. The following CCAP is required to explore short-term and long-term GHG emissions across all sectors of the economy.

Both plans will solicit participation from a variety of stakeholders across the state and will include analyses of benefits to low-income and underserved communities, along with other elements required by the EPA grant.

NDEE is committed to an open, transparent, and inclusive engagement process for these planning activities. The stakeholder workgroup sessions will be followed by in-person public meetings in January. These meetings will take place at several locations across the state to further encourage public input in the climate action plans' development.

For further information about the meetings and the program contact NDEE via email at: NDEE.climatepollution@nebraska.gov.

Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Stakeholder meeting schedule

Transportation

Tuesday, Nov. 28 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Agriculture / Natural & Working Lands

Thursday, Nov. 30 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 14 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Industry / Waste & Wastewater

Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Energy Production

Thursday, Dec. 7 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 18 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Buildings/Housing/Communities

Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 19 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Registration is open until the start of each event. To download an information packet and register, visit NDEE's CPRP Planning webpage: <http://dee.ne.gov/nd-eqprog.nsf/onweb/cprg>

Additional updates on NDEE's IJJA/BIL & IRA grant applications

- NDEE completed and submitted its Solar for All Competitive grant application to the EPA on Oct. 12.
- NDEE is developing its [Grid Resilience Formula Grant](#) IJJA Section 40101(d) program.
- NDEE [plans to apply](#) for the Home Energy Performance-Based Whole House Rebate program and the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program.
- Continued work on [State-Based Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grant](#) application.
- Developing an energy audit program for public schools with [State Energy Program BIL Funding](#) and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund.
- Waiting on DOE approval for the [Energy Efficient Conservation Block Grant](#).

Keep up with NDEE's energy IJJA/BIL & IRA Formula Funding grant applications on our [update page](#).

October was Energy Awareness Month



Photo by Amanda Woita, NDEE

Gov. Jim Pillen declared October as Energy Awareness Month on Oct. 6. Members of NDEE's State Energy Program and Dollar and Energy Saving Loans Section and the Weatherization Team attended the proclamation ceremony. Pictured are, from left: Rod Opp, Doris Jansky, Scott Hansen, Bryce Puck, Alicia Boss, NDEE Director Jim Macy, Gov. Pillen, Aaron Miller, Shawna Orth, Katie Svoboda, and Lynn Chamberlin.



Photos by Amanda Woita, NDEE
Gov. Jim Pillen (far left) and NDEE Director Jim Macy gave remarks about Energy Awareness Month during the governor's proclamation ceremony Oct. 6. Energy Awareness Month is an annual event that aims to highlight the importance of energy efficiency and energy conservation. Efforts to use less energy can save homes and businesses money on their energy bills, reduce air pollution and protect the environment. Throughout October, NDEE shared energy saving tips through its [Facebook](#) and [X](#) (formerly Twitter) accounts.

NDEE attends annual Wind and Solar Conference in Lincoln



Members of the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's State Energy Program and Dollar and Energy Saving Loan Section and the Weatherization team attended the 16th Annual Nebraska Wind and Solar Conference Oct. 24-25 in Lincoln. Supervisor Aaron Miller (pictured left) presented on the department's Dollar and Energy Saving Loans program, while Energy Team members (Shawna Orth and Bryce Puck, pictured below) staffed a booth to share more about NDEE's energy programs. The Wind and Solar Conference [webpage](#) has a [recap](#) of this year's conference, as well as [presentations](#) from previous years. This year's presentations will be added soon.



Presentations from 2023 Power Summit are available

The 2023 Power Summit, sponsored by NDEE and NPPD, was held in Lincoln on Oct. 5, 2023. The Power Summit provides those in the power generating industry and those responsible for the implementation of the associated environmental regulations with an opportunity to exchange information related to power production, environmental policies, programs, and issues in Nebraska.

A primary objective of the Summit is to enhance the dialogue that has been established between the power industry and the associated regulatory agencies.

View the agenda from the summit and the presentations that were made that day on [NDEE's website](#). NDEE and NPPD would like to thank all presenters for their time and efforts in supporting the Power Summit.

Presentation topics included:

- NDEE's Section 404 Assumption
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
- Grid Resiliency
- Heartwell Renewable and Hastings
- IIJA and IRA Update from OPPD
- IIJA and IRA update from LES
- Midcontinent Clean Hydrogen Hub
- An update from NDEE Director Jim Macy
- Nebraska Power Association Load Report



Nebraska Grid Resiliency Grant Program

Power Summit
October 5th, 2023

NDEE and NPPD sponsored the 2023 Power Summit on Oct. 5, 2023. The Summit is meant to enhance dialogue between the power industry and associated regulatory agencies. Several organizations gave presentations, including this one from NDEE on the Grid Resiliency Grant Program.

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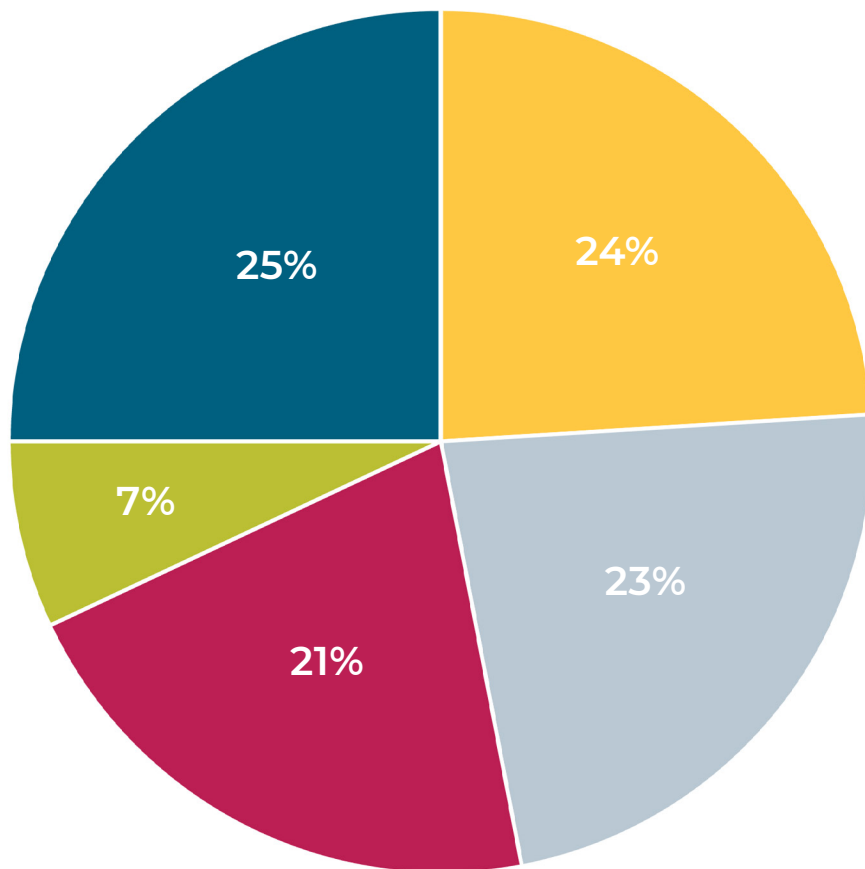
Nebraska by Numbers Wind Generation in Nebraska

Sources of energy for Nebraska are changing. According to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's 2022 [annual energy report](#), renewable fuel production increased from 21% in 2019 to 23% in 2020.

NDEE is keeping up with this changing energy landscape by updating its wind and solar community generation maps. These maps show communities with wind facilities and solar energy generation across the state. As wind turbines and solar panels go online, these maps will be updated.

The wind map can be seen below, and a solar map will be included in a future NEQ. Both the [wind](#) and [solar](#) maps are available online, and more energy information can be found on our [statistics webpage](#).

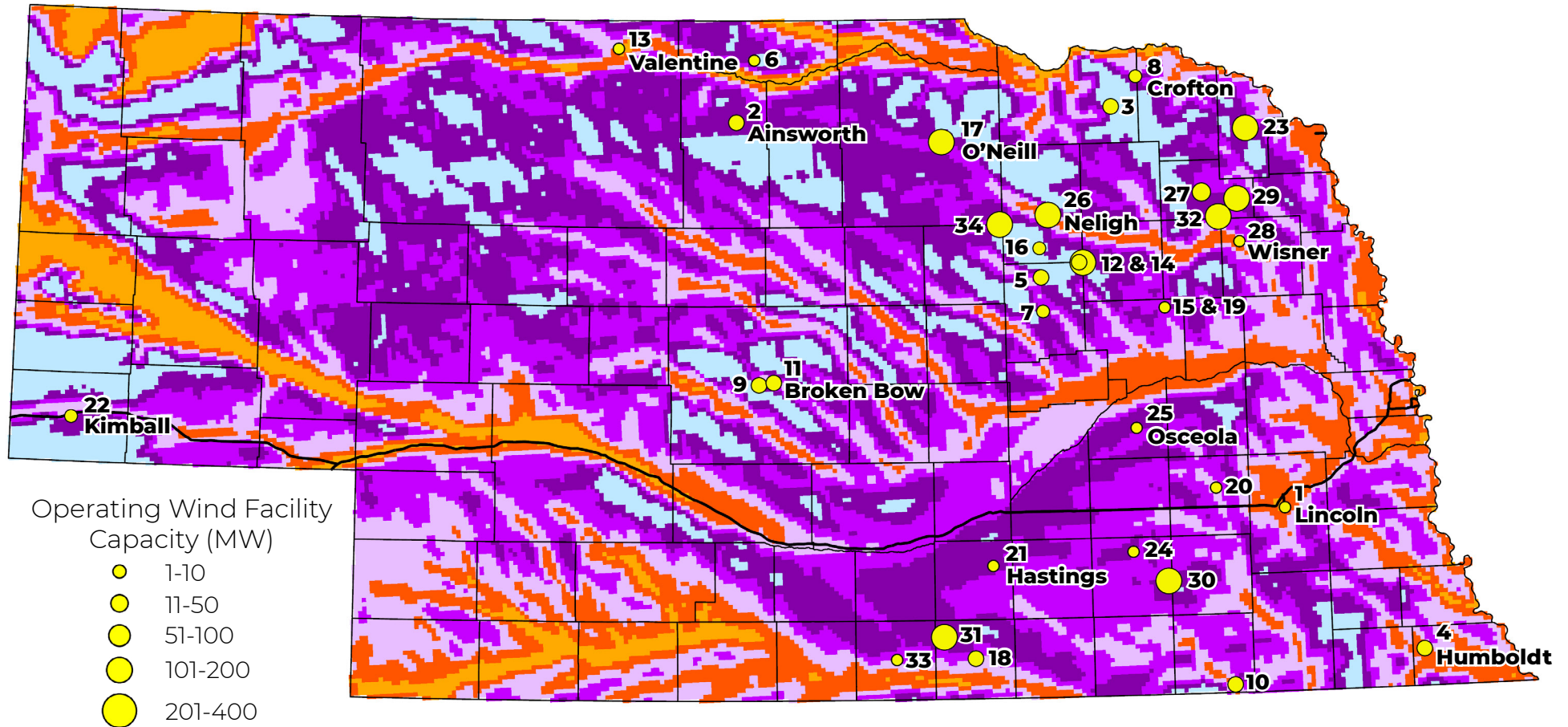
Nebraska's Total Energy Consumption by Fuel Type 2020



● Petroleum ● Coal ● Natural Gas ● Renewable ● Nuclear Electric Power

Wind Development in Nebraska

Operating Facilities



Total operational MW: 3,519.9

Numbers on the map correspond with the table on the back.
Wind facilities as of October 2023.
Map shows 80-meter wind overlay.

For questions or comments on this map, contact neo.energy@nebraska.gov.
For more information, visit: <https://neo.ne.gov/programs/stats/inf/89.htm>

Sources: Base map provided by National Renewable Energy Laboratory for U.S. Department of Energy (2017).
Facility locations provided by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (2023).

Wind Development in Nebraska

| | Operating Wind Facilities | Year of Commercial Operation | MW | Turbines | Locations |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| 1 | Salt Valley | 1998 and 1999 | 1.32 | 2 | Northeast of Lincoln, Lancaster County |
| 2 | Ainsworth Wind Energy | 2005 | 59.4 | 36 | Ainsworth, Brown County |
| 3 | Elkhorn Ridge Wind, LLC | 2009 | 81 | 27 | Bloomfield, Knox County |
| 4 | Flat Water Wind Farm, LLC | 2010 | 60 | 40 | Near Humboldt and Beatrice, Richardson County |
| 5 | Laredo Ridge Wind Farm | 2010 | 80 | 54 | Petersburg, Boone County |
| 6 | Springview II | 2011 | 3 | 2 | Springview, Keya Paha County |
| 7 | Petersburg, LLC | 2011 | 40.5 | 27 | Boone County |
| 8 | Crofton Bluffs Wind Farm | 2012 | 40.6 | 22 | Peoria, Knox County (southwest of Crofton) |
| 9 | Broken Bow Wind, LLC | 2012 | 77.6 | 50 | Broken Bow, Custer County |
| 10 | Steele Flats Wind | 2013 | 75 | 44 | Steele City and Odell, Jefferson and Gage counties |
| 11 | Broken Bow Wind II | 2014 | 75 | 43 | Broken Bow, Custer County |
| 12 | Prairie Breeze I | 2014 | 200.6 | 118 | Petersburg, Antelope County |
| 13 | Valentine Wind, LLC | 2014 | 1.85 | 1 | Valentine, Cherry County |
| 14 | Prairie Breeze II | 2015 | 73.39 | 41 | Adjacent to Prairie Breeze I |
| 15 | Creston Ridge, LLC | 2015 | 6.8 | 4 | Creston, Platte County |
| 16 | Prairie Breeze III | 2016 | 35.8 | 20 | Elgin, Antelope County (adjacent to I and II) |
| 17 | Grande Prairie Wind, LLC | 2016 | 400 | 200 | O'Neill, Holt County |
| 18 | Cottonwood Wind Project | 2017 | 89.7 | 52 | Webster County |
| 19 | Creston Ridge II Wind Farm | 2017 | 6.9 | 3 | Creston, Platte County |
| 20 | Seward Wind Facility | 2017 | 1.7 | 1 | Seward, Seward County |
| 21 | Hastings Wind Farm | 2017 | 1.7 | 1 | Hastings, Adams County |
| 22 | Kimball Wind Project | 2018 | 30 | 12 | Kimball County |
| 23 | Rattlesnake Creek Wind Project, LLC | 2018 | 320 | 101 | Dixon County |
| 24 | Perennial Wind Farm | 2018 | 6.9 | 3 | Fairmont, Fillmore County |
| 25 | Prairie Wind | 2018 | 2.5 | 1 | Osceola, Polk County |
| 26 | Upstream Wind Energy, LLC | 2019 | 202.5 | 81 | Neligh, Antelope County |
| 27 | Sholes Wind Energy Center | 2019 | 160 | 71 | Wayne County |
| 28 | Cuming County Wind Farm | 2019 | 2.5 | 1 | Wisner, Cuming County |
| 29 | Plum Creek Wind | 2020 | 230 | 82 | Wayne County |
| 30 | Milligan 1 Wind Farm | 2021 | 300 | 99 | Milligan, Saline County |
| 31 | Little Blue Wind Farm | 2021 | 250 | 100 | Webster and Franklin counties |
| 32 | Haystack Wind Farm (revised) | 2022 | 298 | 51 | Wayne County |
| 33 | Franklin County | 2022 | 5.64 | 2 | Franklin County |
| 34 | Thunderhead Wind | 2022 | 300 | 108 | Antelope, Holt, and Wheeler counties |
| | Totals | | 3,519.90 | 1,500 | |
| | Retired Wind Facilities | Years of Commercial Operation | | | |
| | Springview Wind Energy | 1998-2007 | | | |
| | Valley | 2001-2016 | | | |
| | Kimball Wind Project | 2002-2017 | | | |

Note: Operating facilities with more than one year listed have multiple turbines that began commercial operation in different years.

Gift ideas for energy efficiency

Information from the [U.S. Department of Energy](#)

As the days get colder and shopping becomes a holiday pastime, it's a great opportunity to think about efficiency and savings (and that doesn't just mean rationing wrapping paper). With that in mind, here is a list of energy-efficient holiday gifts for your energy-conscious loved ones. With these gifts, your carbon footprint and home electric bill could dip along with the temperature.

Portable Battery or Fuel Cell Phone Charger

For the gadget-carrying loved one, a portable charger is one of the greatest gifts they could ask for. These battery-powered devices can be used to recharge smartphones, GPS devices, and even music players several times over while on the go. Thankfully, rechargeable batteries can be used, which is much better for the environment.

Some of the newest portable charging devices also run on hydrogen using miniature fuel cells. These nifty devices use special cartridges that react with the air or H_2O , right from your own water bottle, to produce electric current. Prices are a bit steeper than a battery-assisted charger, but the hydrogen fuel aspect is a definite novelty to consider as a great stocking stuffer.

For recommendations to save as much as 30% energy on charging devices, consider ENERGY STAR®'s list of certified products, including rechargeable batteries (such as the AA kind) and chargers.

Blankets

There's nothing comfier than a micro fleece blanket on a cold winter morning. It's also one of the easiest and most inexpensive gifts you can buy for your family, allowing you to turn down that expensive furnace and still keep the family cozy and in high spirits.

LED Bulbs

Just in case you haven't noticed, hardware stores are now selling standard LED bulbs for less than ever before. In addition, they come in almost any color and type you can fathom. And unlike CFLs and old incandescent light bulbs, some LED bulbs last so long that they could literally light a toddler's lamp through high school, all while saving 75%-80% more energy than incandescent bulbs. So, consider putting some upgraded LED lighting under the tree.



Photo by Jess Bailey on Unsplash

Consider giving energy efficient gifts this holiday season. They can be useful and help your loved ones reduce their carbon footprint and energy bill.

Energy-Efficient Power Strips

Your entertainment system and holiday tree might be doing more than just lighting up the room at night. Even when turned off, many electronics can still run up your electric bill, sipping electricity when idle. Maybe it's not the most exciting gift, but a simple fix to cut down on seeping energy is a power strip with auto shut-off technology. If the one you buy lacks this feature, making a habit of flicking the off switch can still save approximately \$100 a year, according to [ENERGY STAR](#). This idle electricity use accounts for roughly 8% of household electricity costs.

The Nebraska Energy Quarterly is funded, in part, by the [U.S. Department of Energy through the State Energy Program](#).