

# Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth set for March



HEAT THE STREETS RUN & WALK FOR WARMTH

SATURDAY, MARCH 1  
ZONE 6 AKSARBEN VILLAGE

Registration is open for the 18th annual Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth. Co-hosted by OPPD and Metropolitan Utilities District, the event is Saturday, March 1, at Aksarben Village in Omaha.

Participants will begin at Zone 6 in Aksarben Village. Events include timed 5K and 10K runs and an untimed, two-

mile walk. The timed events will begin at 9 a.m., with the untimed walk to follow at 9:15 a.m. A virtual option is also available at a location of your choosing.

## We need your help!

Our Energy Assistance Program (EAP) depends on the generosity of individual donations, fundraisers and sponsorships.

That is why the annual Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth is so important.

While there is a year-round need for assistance, the event is held during cold winter months to bring attention to those forced to make difficult decisions about where their money goes – food, medicine or heating and cooling their homes.

## Registration

- Visit [HeatTheStreetsOmaha.com](http://HeatTheStreetsOmaha.com).
  - Discounts are available for those who register before Jan. 31, 2025. Children under 12 walk for free, but must still register.
- The money raised is split equally between OPPD and M.U.D.'s energy assistance programs.

## IMPACT THIS YEAR



Administers M.U.D. and OPPD funding through 35 local non-profits with 46 access locations in 13 counties



OPPD's Energy Assistance Program disbursed \$356,749 in utility assistance to 954 households

**BECOME A SPONSOR OR DONATE TODAY**  
[HeatTheStreetsOmaha.com](http://HeatTheStreetsOmaha.com)



## FEBRUARY BOARD MEETINGS

**All-committee meeting:** Tuesday, Feb. 18 (see [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting) for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 20, 5 p.m. (see [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting) for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on [oppd.com/BoardMeeting](http://oppd.com/BoardMeeting).

# Outlets

## OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.



## Easy, inexpensive ways to boost your home's comfort



Now that winter is here, many of us are making some changes in our homes to stay warm.

You're probably familiar with some of the most common seasonal changes people make at home: Switching the direction of your ceiling fans, having your furnace inspected by a licensed HVAC technician, lowering your ther-

mostat when you leave the home, sealing your ductwork and balancing your airflow.

But you can take additional steps to stay cozy while keeping your energy costs under control.

### Thermostat temperature

Set the thermostat to a temperature that will keep you comfortable, then work out accommodations from there. Put on a sweater, use a blanket, use a space heater in smaller areas.

### Using a space heater

The cost to set your thermostat just one degree higher could increase your natural gas usage by as much as 3%. This can add up. Using a space heater on low as needed can keep

you comfortable without having to waste energy heating the rest of your home.

### Add it up

One caveat to using a space heater, as with anything that uses electricity, is to be mindful of the amount of time you use it. Make sure you lower the thermostat if it's just you in the home in a small area, and only use a space heater when you need it.



## Rate proposal aims to maintain reliability, resiliency

OPPD's new customer rate proposal seeks to promote a reliable, resilient power supply in the midst of record growth, new planning-reserve margin requirements and extreme weather that drove up costs this year.

The \$2.3 billion Corporate Operating Plan for 2025 includes an average rate increase of 6.3% across all customer categories. Residential customers would see an average 8.4% increase.

The proposal would help OPPD modernize and fortify the system

that serves all customers against future stresses, including the kind of extreme weather that struck eastern Nebraska earlier this year.

Severe winter storms, floods, tornadoes and hurricane-force winds battered OPPD's service territory in 2024. The costs to serve customers during those big weather events account for approximately one-quarter of the proposed rate increase.

The proposal would also help OPPD keep pace with unprecedented new demand for electricity. That demand

is growing at a time when the Southwest Power Pool has imposed larger planning-reserve margin requirements on its members, including OPPD, to ensure regional reliability.

The COP also paves the way for new technology to give customers more precise and timely information about outages.

The monthly impact on an average residential customer bill of \$113 would be approximately \$9.44, starting Jan. 1.

## What you need to know about portable home generators

Portable engine generators can provide reliable power for a variety of applications. But safety should always come first.

These generators usually run on gas or diesel, but models are available to run on propane or natural gas. Wherever and whenever grid power is available, power outlets on such units

allow a person to plug in all sorts of electric-powered tools and appliances.

By design, portable generators should only connect with smaller selected appliances or lamps. They cannot operate in parallel with the grid. And you should never connect them directly to your home's wiring

system without a proper transfer switch. Significant safety hazards can result, including for OPPD's line workers.

For more information, check out OPPD's home generator page at [oppd.com/outages/generators](https://www.oppd.com/outages/generators).

**7"x 2.5" AD SPACE AVAILABLE IN 2024** Proceeds benefit EAP. For details, please email [gpschulte@oppd.com](mailto:gpschulte@oppd.com).

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