

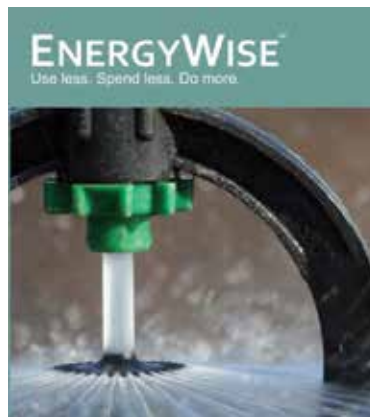
Irrigation Newsletter 2017

Updating or making repairs? You may qualify for a rebate

In ag businesses you need to use resources efficiently. Repairing or upgrading your irrigation system can increase efficiency, but did you know it may also qualify for a rebate from Dawson PPD? EnergyWise rebates are based on the reduction of electrical demand (horsepower) and energy consumption savings after improvements.

The rebate program for irrigation systems may cover the following types of improvements:

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Demand charges are unchanged; energy charges increase in 2017

Dawson PPD’s board has approved a change in rates for the 2017 irrigation season. The fixed charges on the bill, based on the horsepower or demand, will remain the same for this season. There will be a three percent increase in the energy charges.

“The increase in energy charges is the same for all rate classes,” explains Gwen Kautz, Dawson PPD General Manager. “We were able to make cuts to our budget and delay some projects, but in the end we need the rate increase to cover our costs.”

This is the second year of increases to the energy charge. In 2016, the energy charge increased by one percent. Prior to that, the last rate change to energy charges was in 2013. Demand charges have held steady for the past four years.

Load management option	2017 Demand charge per horsepower	2017 Energy charge per kilowatt hour	2016 Energy charge per kilowatt hour
Uncontrolled	\$53.72	9.80¢	9.51¢
One-day control	\$48.72	9.18¢	8.91¢
Two-day control	\$43.72	8.55¢	8.30¢
Three-day control	\$38.72	7.93¢	7.70¢
Four-day control	\$33.72	7.30¢	7.09¢
Six-day control	\$28.22	5.75¢	5.58¢
Standby	\$22.50		

District adopts power quality standards

Although Dawson PPD has had power quality rules, the board recently adopted a formal policy in February.

Power quality is a set of electrical “boundaries” that allow a piece of equipment to function as intended. Customer-owned equipment can affect the power quality for neighboring customers. The policy addresses many of these situations. It includes:

- Dawson PPD is not responsible for property damage due to loss of phase. Loss of phase protection is encouraged for three-phase loads.
- If a customer’s use of electric service is intermittent or causes unusual fluctuations, the customer may be required to furnish, install and maintain equipment to limit disturbances.
- Full voltage starting in excess of 75 horsepower (nameplate) shall not be permitted for new or replacement motors. A solid state reduced voltage (SSRV) or variable frequency drive (VFD) controller is required.
- Proper installation and operation of required motor controller equipment is the customer’s responsibility.

A full copy of the policy is available on www.dawsonpower.com under the ‘About’ tab.

Start preparing for irrigation season to Ensure a smooth start-up

Prior to irrigation season, Dawson PPD recommends that simple steps be taken to assure that your well and system are safe and ready for operation. A visual inspection of the following items should be done before energizing the irrigation system:

1. **Grounding and bonding:** A proper ground rod should be installed and connected to the main electrical panel. All connected electrical panels should be bonded to the main panel.
2. **Covers and casings:** Inspect all electrical boxes for missing or loose covers and screws. Water should not be able to contact any electrical connections.
3. **Wires and entry points:** Take a close look at exposed wires for possible damage to the outer insulation. Also, inspect the entry point where a wire enters an electrical box to make sure it is still secured in place by a proper clamp.
4. **Disconnects:** If your system has an electrical disconnect of any kind, flip the switch to make sure that it operates.

If you see any possible electrical issues that may be hazardous, contact your irrigation technician or electrician before pushing the start button.



Public power means local control



Dawson Public Power District is guided by a locally elected board of directors. They oversee the District's financial well being, policies and rates. The directors are (front row, from left) Pat Hecox, vice president from Gothenburg; Paul Neil, president from Cozad; Joe Jeffrey, Lexington; Dan Muhlbach, treasurer from Pleasanton; (middle row) Page Peterson, Gothenburg; General Manager Gwen Kautz; Brad Brodine, Elm Creek; (back row) Rodger White, Hershey; Dave Dwiggin, Gibbon; Craig Wietjes, Riverdale; Bill Henry, North Platte and Bob Kennicutt, Eddyville.

Qualify for a rebate... Continued from page 1

Energy Efficiency Improvements: This area includes repairs and upgrades to the well, such as bowl and pump replacement; upgrading from a fossil fuel motor to an electric motor.

Variable Frequency Drive (VFD): Typically used on systems with corner arms or on systems running on hilly terrain.

Rebate applications are available on the Dawson PPD website. Restrictions may apply. Your irrigation system contractor and the experts at Dawson PPD and NPPD will assist you with completing the appropriate application.

If you have an irrigation project that improves energy efficiency, contact Dawson PPD at 800-752- 8305 or visit our website at www.dawsonpower.com for more information.

Don't put safety on autopilot

While a GPS system can help with accuracy and consistency, it does not mean that safety can be put on autopilot. Power poles may not be correctly plotted in the system, reinforcing the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the tractor and equipment and ready to take action if necessary.

Keep these electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of the large size, height, and extensions. Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines. A driver's vantage point from the cab may not be sufficient.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines at all times, in all directions.



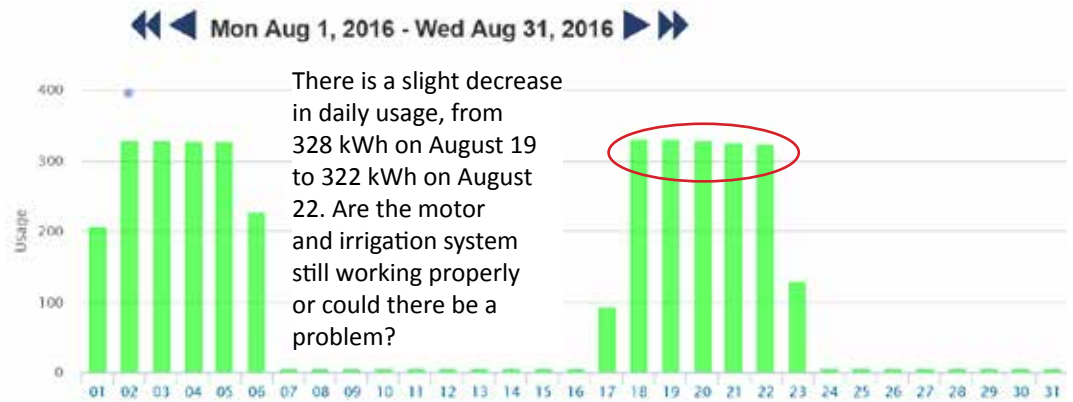
Monitor energy use with the SmartHub app

Dawson PPD irrigation customers are billed for energy use at the end of the irrigation season. But have you ever wanted to see how much energy an irrigation system uses on a monthly basis? Or how about on a daily or hourly time frame? This is possible with the use of the SmartHub app on your home computer or on your mobile electronic device.

SmartHub is easy to use. Sign up for access to your Dawson PPD account online at www.dawsonpower.com or download the SmartHub app on your mobile device.

SmartHub could help optimize farming operation profits.

If you are interested in using the SmartHub tool, but don't feel comfortable with the technology contact Dawson PPD for assistance. We can help you over the phone, or stop by the Lexington office for a hands on lesson.

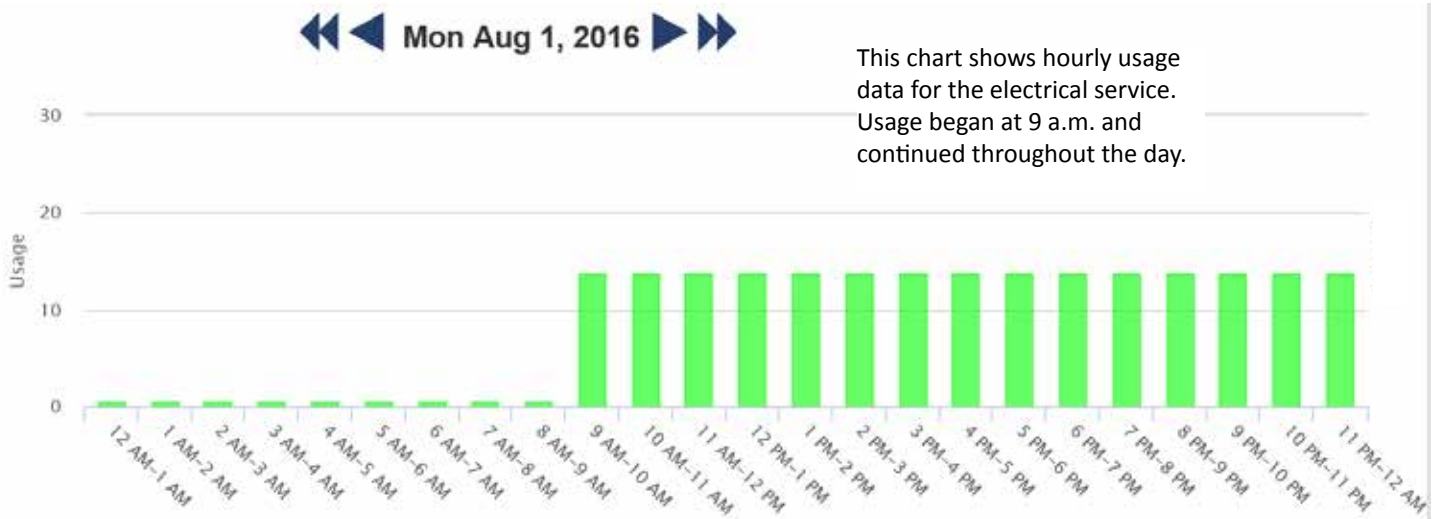


Data — when you need it

The “My Usage” tool in SmartHub shows energy consumption on a monthly, daily or even an hourly basis.* It can be used for:

- **Budgeting** - know how much energy was consumed before the bill arrives
- **History** - see the exact time and dates the irrigation motor was running
- **Troubleshooting** - review hourly consumption for possible higher or lower power draw
- **Improvements** - see details in energy use after upgrades/repairs to the system

**Energy data is not available on a “live” basis, but can be seen just a few hours after consumption.*





No waiting lists:

Tell us about your irrigation projects

Dawson PPD no longer has waiting lists for irrigation construction. Call our engineering department if you need a new service or upgrade: 308-324-2386 or 800-752-8305.

Important dates:

March 15 - Control options need to be chosen. Changes made after March 15 will result in an additional charge. If you have not notified Dawson PPD, you will continue on the option you had at the end of the 2016 irrigation season.

April 25 - Horsepower fixed charges are due

November 27 - Energy charges are due

In this issue:

- 2017 rates
- Power quality policy
- Energy usage available on our app
- GPS: Don't put safety on autopilot
- Rebates available for energy efficiency improvements