



# PUBLIC POWER FACT SHEET

## What is public power?

Public power utilities are not-for-profit local institutions that provide electricity as an essential public service at a reasonable cost. Public power utilities are supported by customer revenues, not taxes. In fact, public power utilities provide substantial payments in lieu of taxes to state and local governments. In Nebraska, more than \$100 million has been paid to local governments (PILOT, lease payments, transfers).

## Who does public power serve?

- More than 3,000 community-owned electric utilities serve 90 million people across the U.S.
- There are public power utilities in 50 states, but Nebraska is the only state where 100% of the customers receive their electricity from a community-owned utility.

## What are public power's unique benefits?

- **Community-focused.** Public power means that customers have a voice in decisions made by their utility. We are owned and accountable to the people we serve. The governance structure for each utility varies — some are governed by the city council and others are controlled by a utility board whose members may be elected or appointed by the city council or mayor.
- **Low cost.** Electric rates in Nebraska are highly competitive. In 2023, Nebraska's average retail electricity cost was 9 cents per kilowatt-hour, placing it sixth lowest in the nation.
- **Reliable.** Community-owned utilities' rates pay for maintenance and reinvestments in important infrastructure needs.
- **Good neighbor.** Community-controlled electric utilities are committed to conservation, environmental stewardship and safety. We work to meet the needs of long-term community goals.
- **Transparency.** Public power systems are subject to sunshine laws (open meetings and public records).