

A photograph of a modern, multi-story office building with large glass windows. The building's facade is a mix of grey panels and glass. The 'nmpp ENERGY' logo is prominently displayed on the upper part of the building. In the foreground, there are several tall, slender trees with light purple flowers, and a red car is partially visible on the left. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

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# Annual REPORT

2019-2020

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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The end of fiscal year 2019-20 was marked with significant challenges and uncertainty as the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the country and continues to impact municipalities. But with that uncertainty, there also remained an underlying current that has existed throughout the organizations of NMPP Energy: Working together can lead to significant achievements.

The year was filled with many successes from each of the NMPP Energy organizations, ranging from providing cost-based, valued services to wholesale energy supply and advocacy for member communities stretching across six states.

Here are just a few of the highlights of the 2019-20 fiscal year from the NMPP Energy organizations:



## Nebraska Municipal Power Pool

- NMPP continued its active collaboration efforts with other regional entities, sharing best practices and seeking opportunities to benefit member communities.
- More than 40 utilities continued to participate in NMPP's Electric Distribution System program, which proactively assists in maintaining a reliable local electric system.
- New NMPP members included the City of Battle Creek and Village of Stratton in Nebraska, bringing NMPP's total membership to nearly 190 communities.



## Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

- The MEAN Board of Directors took a significant step in approving a resolution laying out a vision to a carbon neutral power resource portfolio by 2050. In the coming years, staff will be working with the MEAN Power Supply Committee to advance this vision while still maintaining a reliable and competitive wholesale energy supply.
- The Board also approved a 3.2 percent decrease in MEAN's overall targeted revenue requirement for fiscal year 2020-21 for its wholesale power participants, marking the fifth straight year the Board has approved lowering its targeted revenue requirement.
- MEAN continued to work with its power participants to achieve renewable energy goals. The Board approved the extension of a power contract that allows the City of Glenwood Springs, Colo., to achieve its 100 percent renewable energy goal. This is the second community MEAN has successfully worked with to achieve such a goal.



## National Public Gas Agency

- The NPGA Board approved a natural gas supply agreement with the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia that locks in gas at a discounted rate for the benefit of members.
- Staff continued its efforts to find value opportunities through Asset Management Arrangements through interstate pipelines.
- NPGA welcomed the City of Fort Morgan, Colo., as a new full member, which provides the City with representation and voting rights on the Board.



## Public Alliance for Community Energy

- ACE maintained a nearly 21 percent of market share in the annual Nebraska Choice Gas program as it continued its mission of serving as a not-for-profit, community-owned supplier.
- The ACE Board approved a \$400,000 distribution to member communities through its revenue return program, bringing the overall total to nearly \$2.8 million in distribution funds returned to ACE communities since ACE formed.
- Along with community marketing efforts, ACE also recognized ACE Project of the Year awards and supported communities through its community clean-up program.

These are just a few of the accomplishments during the year that were made possible through the dedicated individuals serving on governing boards and committees of each of the organizations. The strength of NMPP Energy has always been its dedicated member representatives who are willing to serve and propel the organizations forward as well as talented staff who possess a devotion to serve our member communities.

Thank you for taking the time to review NMPP Energy's 2019-20 Annual Report. I hope it serves to provide you with a glimpse of some of the activities of each organization throughout the year.



**ROBERT  
POEHLING**

Executive Director  
CEO

# NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL POWER POOL

## Utility-Related Services

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool provides utility-related services to 188 members. Services include electric distribution system assistance, cost of service utility rate studies, utility/business software, utility safety training, advocacy, education and regulatory assistance.

### 2019-20 Board Officers

**President: Darrel Wenzel**, chief executive officer, Waverly (Iowa) Utilities

**Vice President: Jeff Wells**, city manager, Fort Morgan, Colo.

**Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Hawks**, city administrator, North Platte, Neb.

## Highlights

### Training program for member utilities

NMPP's Utility Training Program held sessions for participants from more than 30 utilities in the program at three locations across Nebraska. Two six-hour sessions were held each in Lincoln, Broken Bow and Sidney. A representative from Kansas Municipal Utilities assisted with the training sessions.

NMPP's training program was revamped in 2019 making it more streamlined while making it available to municipal utilities across NMPP's large regional footprint.

### Transformer workshop held

A transformer workshop was held at Western Nebraska Community College's Powerline Construction and Maintenance Lab in Alliance, Neb. for NMPP member utilities. The session was attended by 25 individuals from 12 communities along with 18 students from WNCC.

It was geared toward new apprentice lineworkers looking for in-depth information regarding transformers and journey level lineworkers needing a refresher course. Topics included theory and basics, parts and operation, nameplates, parallel transformers, windings, ratios and polarity, making connections and fusing.

### Champion businesses program

The NMPP Board approved Halker Consulting, LLC as a new Champion business during the fiscal year. The program included 32 total Champion businesses that support NMPP Energy's efforts to provide products and services to members. A full list of Champions is at [www.nmppenergy.org/champions](http://www.nmppenergy.org/champions).

### NMPP welcomes Stratton, Battle Creek as new members

The Village of Stratton, Neb., and the City of Battle Creek, Neb., became NMPP members during the year. Stratton is located in Southwest Nebraska and Battle Creek is located in Madison County in Northeast Nebraska. NMPP's membership during the year included 188 communities. A full list of members is at [www.nmppenergy.org](http://www.nmppenergy.org).

### Annual Typical Bill Survey

NMPP's Engineering services staff completed its 36th annual Typical Bill Survey for participating member and non-member utilities.

The survey includes electric, water and wastewater retail rates. There were 145 utilities participating in the electric bill survey and more than 150 utilities participating in the water and wastewater bill surveys.

The composite data reflect ranking of typical bills by utility for each rate service class and usage level. The survey is helpful in providing benchmarks for where utilities stand among other regional municipal utilities.

### Electric Distribution Services

NMPP served 41 utilities through its Electric Distribution Services program, which provides hands-on utility expertise and assistance to member utilities in proactively maintaining reliable local electric distribution systems.

Services under the EDS program includes meter verification audit, infrared system scan, overall EDS system review, general consulting and member support, training and instruction.

### Regulatory/Environmental report assistance

Through its Energy Information Administration Reporting Service, staff completed more than 50 reports for more than 20 member utilities to fulfill regulatory and environmental reporting requirements.

These reports include forms EIA 860 (Annual Electric Generator Report), EIA 861 (Annual Electric Power Industry Report) and EIA 923 (Annual Report Plant Operations Report).



### Expanding energy efficiency programs

NMPP staff administered an expanded menu of energy efficiency programs on behalf of the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska. Three new residential programs were added to the existing LED Commercial Lighting Program for long-term power participants of MEAN.

The residential programs added included financial incentives for the purchase and installation of programmable thermostats, tune-up service maintenance on residential air conditioning units and home insulation. For fiscal year program results, see the MEAN section.

### Utility Cost of Service Rate Assistance

NMPP continued its strong efforts in assisting utilities with Financial Planning, Cost of Service/Rate Design service. Staff managed more than 100 service agreements including electric, water and wastewater studies. This cost-based service remains a vital tool in utilities' efforts to remain financially healthy in their community.

### PowerManager Software

Through its partnership with Salt Creek Software, NMPP continued to provide its suite of PowerManager software for utilities and municipalities. There were 184 software users during the fiscal year and more than 90 percent of users were under NMPP's Value Support Plan (VSP), which ensures users are operating with the most current version of software. Staff, along with Salt Creek Software staff, handle anywhere from 300-500 support calls per month for VSP participants.

Approximately 100 participants attended the annual PowerManager Refresher and Training Courses during the year.



The Nebraska Energy Efficiency Partnership group meets quarterly to share best practices from regional utilities.

### NMPP hosts Energy Efficiency Partnership group

NMPP hosted the quarterly meeting for the Nebraska Energy Efficiency Partnership group during the summer. The session was used to share best practices, provide updates of participating utilities. The group included representatives from the Nebraska Public Power District, Lincoln Electric System, Omaha Public Power District and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

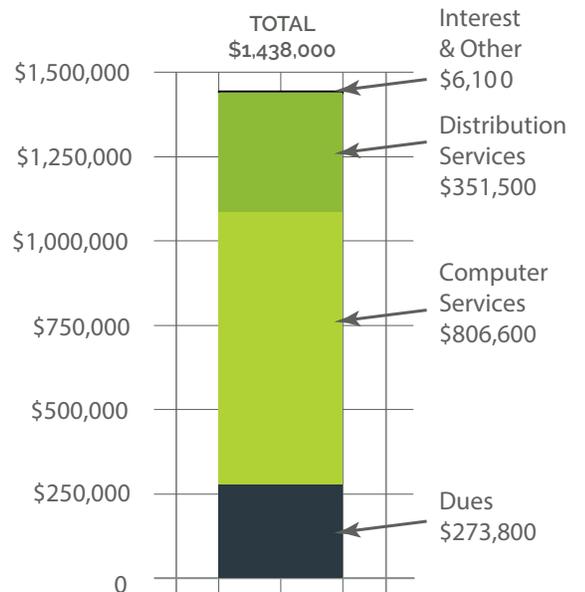
### Collaborative Opportunities

Staff remained active within several statewide and regional entities and utilities to maintain and strengthen relationships to seek collaborative opportunities for services for its members.



A well-attended transformer workshop was held in Alliance, Neb., focusing on training for new apprentice line workers.

## NMPP Revenue Sources



# MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY OF NEBRASKA

## Wholesale Electric Supply

Formed in 1981, the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska includes 69 participating municipal utilities in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming. It provides wholesale electric supply and related services.

### 2019-20 Board Officers

**Chair:** Tom Goulette, city administrator/utility superintendent, West Point, Neb.

**Vice Chair:** Tom Ourada, city administrator, Crete, Neb.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Darrel Wenzel, chief executive officer, Waverly (Iowa) Utilities

## Highlights

### Board approves Carbon Neutral Vision by 2050

The MEAN Board of Directors approved a resolution laying out a vision to a carbon neutral power resource portfolio by 2050. The resolution authorizes MEAN's staff to collaboratively work with the MEAN Power Supply Committee to construct policies around resource planning, portfolio optimization and emissions reduction to support future actions to achieve the 2050 carbon neutral goal.

The formation of the plan will be initiated in MEAN's 2022 Integrated Resource Plan, which details MEAN's future resource needs and performs evaluations to determine the preferred resource plan. MEAN updates its Integrated Resource Plan every five years.

As a member-driven organization, there is a desire from member communities to build upon MEAN's clean energy portfolio and environmental stewardship. MEAN's member communities will work together to navigate how to achieve this goal while still maintaining a reliable and competitively priced wholesale energy supply.

### Board approves rate decrease

The Board of Directors in January approved a 3.2 percent decrease in MEAN's overall targeted revenue requirement for fiscal year 2020-21 for its wholesale electric participants. The targeted revenue requirement is the total net revenue required to cover MEAN's cost of operation.

MEAN's rate structure includes two main components for collecting revenue: An energy rate (usage) charged for electric energy sales and a fixed cost recovery charge.

As part of the overall decrease in the targeted revenue requirement, the Board also approved no increase in MEAN's energy rate for long-term (Schedule M) and 10-year (Schedule K) wholesale electric participants. The energy rate for MEAN's wind-generation resources decreased 6.5 percent and the total Fixed Cost Recovery Charge was unchanged. The new rates took effect April 1.

It is the fifth straight year the MEAN Board has approved lowering its targeted revenue requirement.

### \$2.9 million credit allocated to participants

The MEAN Executive Committee approved a \$2.9 million credit that was allocated among its eligible long-term (Schedule M) and limited-term (Schedule K and K-1) wholesale electric participants. The credit was the result of MEAN's positive financial results for the 2019-20 fiscal year that ended March 31.

### Working with members to achieve renewable energy goals

The MEAN Board of Directors approved the extension of a wholesale power contract to the City of Glenwood Springs, Colo., which allows the City to attain its 100 percent renewable energy goal.

The 10-year contract replaces a 10-year contract that was set to expire in 2022. Through the contract, the City secures enough electric generation production from renewable resources to meet the City's annual electric usage. Glenwood Springs' energy portfolio mix includes renewable energy from MEAN's renewable energy resources as well as its federal hydro allocation from the Western Area Power Administration.

MEAN's wind resource pool includes energy from six wind facilities in Nebraska and South Dakota. Glenwood Springs is the second community served wholesale electricity by MEAN that has attained its 100 percent renewable energy goal. MEAN worked with the City of Aspen, Colo., to fulfill its goal in 2015.

Other communities that increased their wind energy subscriptions during the year included Gunnison, Colo., and Oxford and Benkelman in Nebraska.

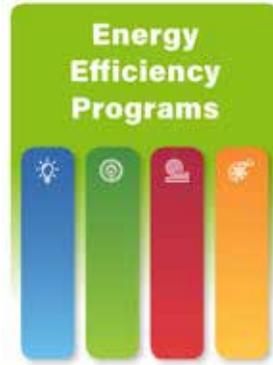


MEAN member Glenwood Springs, Colo.



**Expanding energy efficiency programs**

In partnership with its long-term power participants, MEAN implemented a suite of energy efficiency programs for retail customers. The three new retail-level programs provide cash incentives for smart thermostats, attic insulation and cooling system tune-ups. The programs were added to MEAN's ongoing Commercial LED Lighting Program, which continued for the fifth year. A few of the program results included:



- More than \$90,000 in approved projects with an estimated total energy savings of 1,800 megawatt-hours annually
- 85 overall projects
- 11,510 light fixtures retrofitted
- 27 MEAN communities participated during the year and a total of 40 MEAN communities have participated since 2017

**Streamlining MEAN's governance**

The MEAN Board continued its initiative to streamline its governance structure after nearly 40 years of operation. The end-result of the initiative will phase out the MEAN Management Committee and retain the MEAN Board of Directors as MEAN's sole governing body. As part of the initiative, certain policies and agreements were updated, consolidated or terminated.

Legislative Bill 858 was introduced by Sen. Dan Hughes on behalf of MEAN into the Nebraska Legislature to address the restructuring effort. It would amend the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, which was established in 1981. The bill was advanced to final reading before the Legislature went into recess.



The MEAN Board formed a Governance Committee in 2018 to help guide the transition, which is expected to be complete in 2021.

**MEAN joins SPP's Western Imbalance Energy Service**

MEAN joined the Southwest Power Pool's Western Energy Imbalance Service Market (WEIS) which will balance electric generation and load regionally and in real time for participants in the Western Interconnection. The market is set to go live in February 2021.

The market will centrally dispatch energy from participating resources throughout the region every five minutes. MEAN has power resources and serves load to several participating communities in the Western Interconnection.

The decision to join the new market followed months of analysis and evaluation by staff and the MEAN Board. MEAN has experienced efficiencies that a regional power market can create and looks forward to the benefits the new market can bring its participating communities. As a market participant, MEAN will have a voice in the market's evolution and operations.

**Brad Hans named director of wholesale electric operations**

NMPP Energy Executive Director Bob Poehling in January announced Brad Hans as the new director of wholesale electric operations for MEAN. Hans takes over for Tim Sutherland, who retired in March after a 28-year career with MEAN and the NMPP Energy organizations.



Hans served as deputy director of wholesale electric operations for MEAN since 2014. Prior to that he served as manager of transmission for MEAN.

**New and extended power contracts**

The Town of Center, Colo., entered into a new five-year power contract which began in April 2020. The City of Lake View, Iowa extended its five-year power contract through May 2024.

### Maintaining reliability of local generators

MEAN participants' annual reliability testing of local generators continued to be high with a first-time passing rate of more than 96 percent. These units serve as part of MEAN's energy capacity portfolio and serve as backup electric generation for the respective communities that have committed total capacity and energy output of their units to MEAN.

### Expanding opportunity for local renewable projects

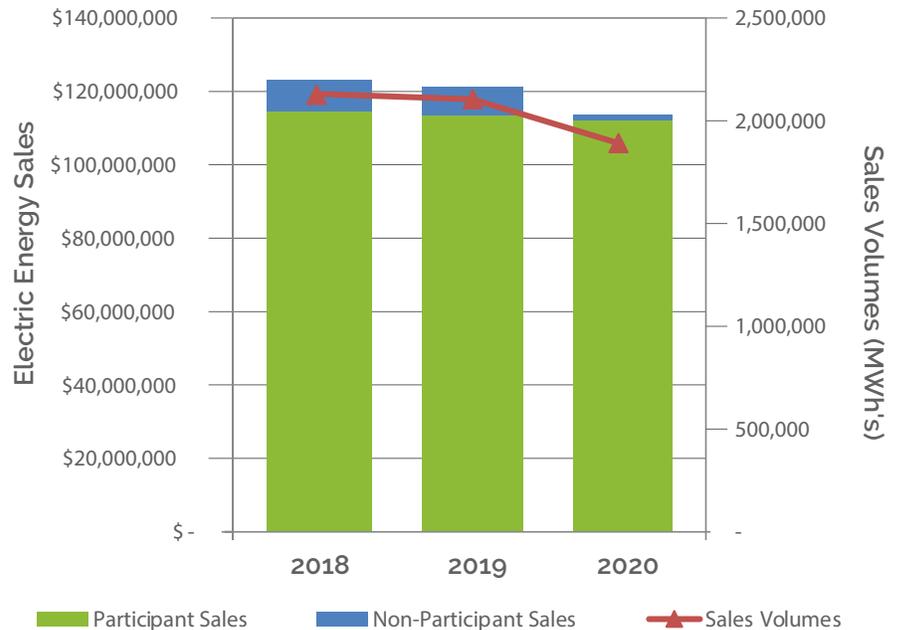
The MEAN Executive Committee approved raising the cap on MEAN's Renewable Distributed Generation Policy from two percent to five percent of the participant's three-year historical average annual kilowatt-hour load served by MEAN or 100 kilowatts, whichever is greater.

The policy allows for the integration of smaller, local renewable projects for MEAN limited-term and long-term total requirement participants while still fulfilling obligations under MEAN's total requirements power supply contracts. The policy is part of MEAN's Asset Management Policies and Procedures.

### Collaborating to assist local electric system operations and maintenance

To assist its participants with local electric system operations and maintenance, MEAN facilitated a collaboration with Great Plains Power, based in Grand Island,

## Electric Energy Sales



\*Detailed information regarding MEAN's sales volumes and operating revenues is available on page 6 of MEAN's Audited Financial Statements ([www.nmppenergy.org/annual/reports](http://www.nmppenergy.org/annual/reports)).

Neb., to perform utility work for several MEAN/NMPP utilities including the Nebraska communities of Chappell, Bridgeport, Beaver City, Shickley, Fairmont and Mullen. Great Plains Power performs work on substations, overhead and underground distribution and transmission systems.



Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska board meeting.

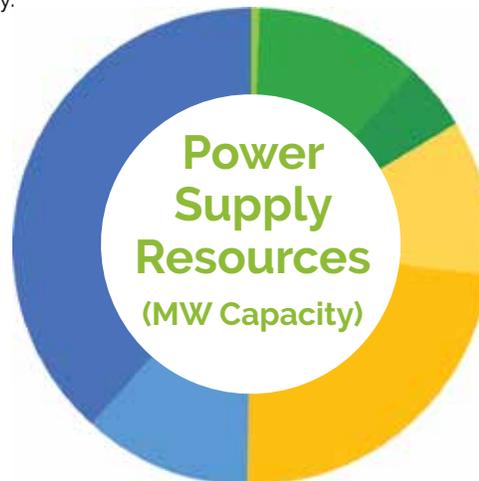
## Power Supply Resources

MEAN's power supply system consists of owned, leased and purchased power supply resources. MEAN adheres to a strategic and integrated resource plan that includes a variety of resources providing stable and economical power and energy to MEAN's participants.

As a joint action agency, MEAN works with its member municipalities and other nonmember participants to meet the unique power supply needs of each community. The total requirements contracts require MEAN to supply, and obligates the participants to purchase, all capacity and energy in excess of each participant's firm power and energy allocations from Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). MEAN has also adopted a Renewable Distributed Generation Policy which allows participants to utilize limited output from qualifying renewable generation resources to offset energy supplied by MEAN and acknowledges that participants' end-use customers may use behind-the-meter generation to serve their energy needs.

The chart below shows the composition of MEAN's operational resource portfolio in terms of nameplate capacity. This operational portfolio includes all MEAN resources, participant WAPA allocations, and Designated Network Resources used to serve the total of MEAN's participants' loads. Resources that MEAN sells to third parties to serve load external to MEAN are not included in the values below.

Included in hydro are MEAN's hydro contracts, hydro resources owned by MEAN participants and MEAN participant WAPA allocations. Hydro displacement consists of a displacement agreement MEAN has with WAPA. MEAN receives hydroelectric generated energy in Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC) from capacity in the agreement. Under a bilateral settlement schedule, MEAN pays Southwest Power Pool (SPP) for the related energy for WAPA's customers in SPP. MEAN also provides an equal amount of capacity to WAPA's customers in SPP from various MEAN contracted resources. MEAN does not receive Renewable Energy Credits for this resource. Participant generation, which is typically used only as a stand-by resource for emergencies, is what comprises the oil/gas category.



\*MEAN does not receive Renewable Energy Credits for this resource.



# NATIONAL PUBLIC GAS AGENCY

## Wholesale Natural Gas Supply

The National Public Gas Agency provides wholesale natural gas supply to 13 member communities in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska and five customers in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

### 2019-20 Board Officers

**Chair:** Chris Anderson, city administrator, Central City, Neb.

**Vice Chair:** Bob Lockmon, utility superintendent, Stuart, Neb.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Randy Woldt, city administrator, Wisner, Neb.

## Highlights

### Board approves new gas supply agreement

The NPGA Board approved a 30-year gas supply agreement with the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia that locks in natural gas at a discounted rate through a prepaid gas transaction with Citigroup.

The transaction, priced in November 2019, achieved a discount projected to save approximately \$53,000 annually for NPGA members.

The agreement came after NPGA staff and the Board researched several gas supply contract options with interested third parties.

### Optimizing Asset Management Arrangement opportunities

Throughout the year NPGA sought opportunities to work with wholesale gas suppliers to secure Asset Management Arrangements (AMA) with the goal of delivering savings to NPGA members served by their respective interstate pipelines.

An AMA extracts value from capacity rights on an interstate pipeline. Under an AMA, unused capacity is marketed and sold, creating value back to the NPGA members served by that pipeline.

NPGA began a trial agreement with a new wholesale supplier for NPGA members Auburn, Neb., and Superior, Neb. that are served by the Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline and renewed an AMA that benefits members Lyons, Pender and Stromsburg, Neb., served by Northern Natural Gas Pipeline.

### NPGA welcomes Fort Morgan, Colo., as new member

The City of Fort Morgan, Colo., joined NPGA as a new member during the year. The City of approximately 11,000 residents was previously a wholesale natural gas customer of NPGA. As a full member, the City has representation and voting rights on the NPGA Board.

The City is also an active participant in other NMPP Energy organizations as it receives long-term wholesale power supply from the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) and is active on the MEAN Board of Directors as well as on the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool Board of Directors and other committees.

### NPGA advocates for members impacted by pipeline rate case

NPGA joined a natural gas shippers group to advocate for three of its members impacted by an interstate pipeline rate case filed by Northern Natural Gas. The NPGA members of Lyons, Stromsburg and Pender in Nebraska are served by the interstate pipeline.

The initial filing included a 91 percent increase in the rates the communities pay for transportation. The overall impact to the three communities is estimated at approximately 10 percent of each of the community's total gas bill. Interim rates, which are approximately a 77 percent increase for transportation, were implemented Jan. 1, 2020, subject to a refund once a ruling by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is issued.

NPGA continues to stay engaged, through its involvement with the shippers group, to advocate for its member communities.



**Board reviews natural gas purchasing strategy**

The NPGA Board reviewed its natural gas purchasing strategy with the primary objective of utilizing commercial arrangements customary in the natural gas industry to mitigate commercial risks arising from natural gas operations. NPGA's current commodity swaps extend into fiscal year 2022.

**Natural gas year in review**

Relatively mild weather, record domestic natural gas production and above-average storage levels contributed to a dramatic drop in natural gas prices, with Henry Hub spot pricing dropping 34 percent on average from fiscal 2019 to fiscal 2020.

The combination of mild weather and abundant gas supply was notably apparent in the months of December and January, with pricing in those months down 45 percent from the prior year.

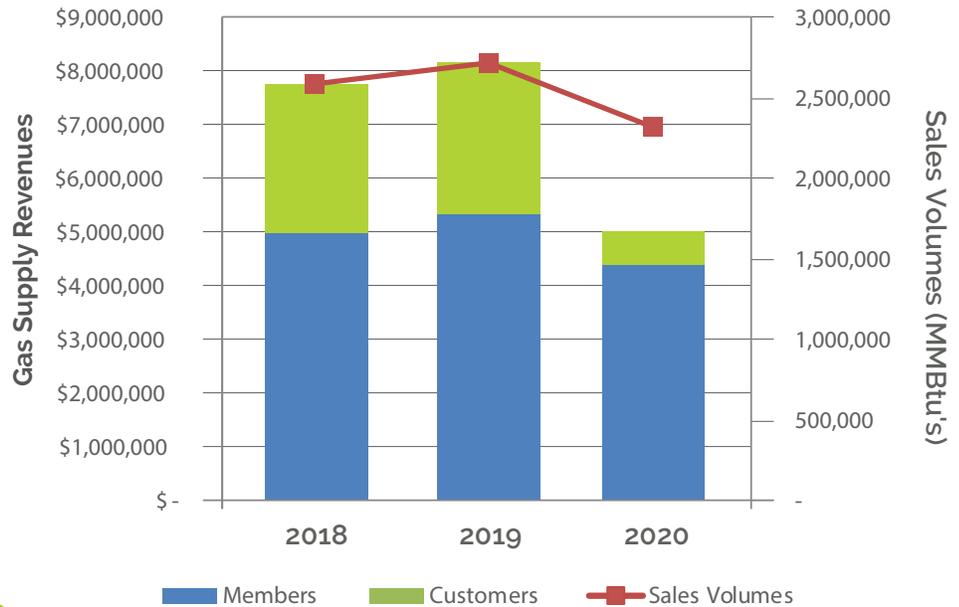
U.S. natural gas consumption increased by 3 percent and set a record in calendar year 2019, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). The EIA also noted natural gas-fired power generation reached an all-time record of nearly 1.6 million GWh in 2019, up 8 percent from 2018.

As of March 31, 2020, working gas in underground storage was significantly higher than the prior year, ending the fiscal

year 17 percent above the five-year average compared to a 17 percent deficit at the end of fiscal 2019. At fiscal year-end, the NYMEX forward curve predicted fairly flat natural gas prices for fiscal year 2021.

At the end of fiscal year 2020, about one-third of the nation was under some type of "shelter-in-place" order with many additional people working from home due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. Residential energy use had not changed much while industrial and commercial use was down sharply. Curtailments in the global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) market were also being experienced, particularly terminals in China and other parts of Asia and Europe.

**Gas Supply**



\*Detailed information regarding NPGA's sales volumes and operating revenues is available on page 5 of NPGA's Audited Financial Statements ([www.nmppenergy.org/annual/reports](http://www.nmppenergy.org/annual/reports)).



National Public Gas Agency board meeting.

# PUBLIC ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY

## Retail Natural Gas Supply

ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy, is a community-owned and not-for-profit retail natural gas supplier to 75 member communities in Nebraska. ACE serves as a competitive supplier in the Nebraska Choice Gas program and as an advocate for its member communities and natural gas customers in the program.

### 2019-20 Board Officers

**Chair:** Andrew Devine, city administrator, Albion, Neb.

**Vice Chair:** Jeremy Tarr, electric superintendent, Broken Bow, Neb.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Mike Palmer, electric superintendent, Sidney, Neb.

## Highlights

### Choice Gas campaign review

The 2019-20 Choice Gas campaign was ACE's 22nd year providing competitive pricing and pricing options to Nebraska Choice Gas customers. ACE remains the only community-owned and not-for-profit supplier in the program.

ACE garnered more than 18 percent of selections, including the previous year "multi-year" selections, early sign-up customers and selections made during the Choice Gas two-week selection period in April. It was one of the more competitive campaigns with six natural suppliers competing on pricing. Despite the highly competitive campaign, ACE maintained nearly a 21 percent market share.

### ACE provides feedback at Choice Gas Workshop

ACE staff and Board Chair Andrew Devine participated in a Choice Gas program workshop held in September by the Nebraska Public Service Commission to review the program. It was the first time in the history of the program such a workshop was held.

The workshop included Commissioners, Commission staff, Black Hills Gas Distribution as Choice Gas Administrator, the Nebraska Public Advocate, and representatives from all six suppliers currently participating in the program.

Topics addressed included customer education, annual reports, and the code of conduct, but a bulk of the focus was on current marketing practices and an extended marketing period that is conducted using delegation agreements to get selection commitments from customers.

The Choice Gas Program is built upon an annual two-week selection period held in April that customers may choose their natural gas supplier. In recent years, the use of delegation agreements from January through March has significantly increased, leading to more confusion among customers within the program.

ACE believes the dedicated two-week selection period in April provides customers with the most competitive options. ACE continues to stay engaged in the process of evaluating the overall program and any potential program changes to advocate for customers.

### Providing schools competitive pricing through CJUMP

ACE continued to provide competitive pricing to schools through its Choice Joint Utilities Management Program. The program, which included 47 schools during the year, provides customized, competitive natural gas pricing by strategically purchasing gas during different times throughout the year.



**Board approves \$400,000 distribution**

In January, the ACE Board of Directors approved distributing \$400,000 to member communities through ACE's revenue return program.

Since forming in 1998 ACE has returned nearly \$2.8 million back to its Nebraska member communities. The funds are used in various ways to benefit each ACE member community.

**ACE awards Projects of the Year**

ACE presented annual Project of the Year awards to Ord and Loup City, Neb. The communities submitted project nominations and winners were selected through online social media voting in two population categories.

Ord's winning project was its Anderson Island Picnic Shelter and Loup City won for its upgrades to the Sherman County Senior Center. Each community received a plaque and \$200 to be used toward a future betterment project.

**Supporting community clean-up efforts**

ACE supported more than 20 community clean-up events in ACE member communities. ACE supported new and existing clean-up events by providing equipment, safety vests and a financial donation to volunteer groups for their efforts in keeping their community clean.

**Community marketing efforts**

As a community-owned organization, ACE member communities play a role in grassroots marketing and education in their respective communities regarding ACE and the Choice Gas program. Communities continued this effort during the year by using several marketing and educational tools such as newsletter articles, infographics and marketing materials to share information to local residents.



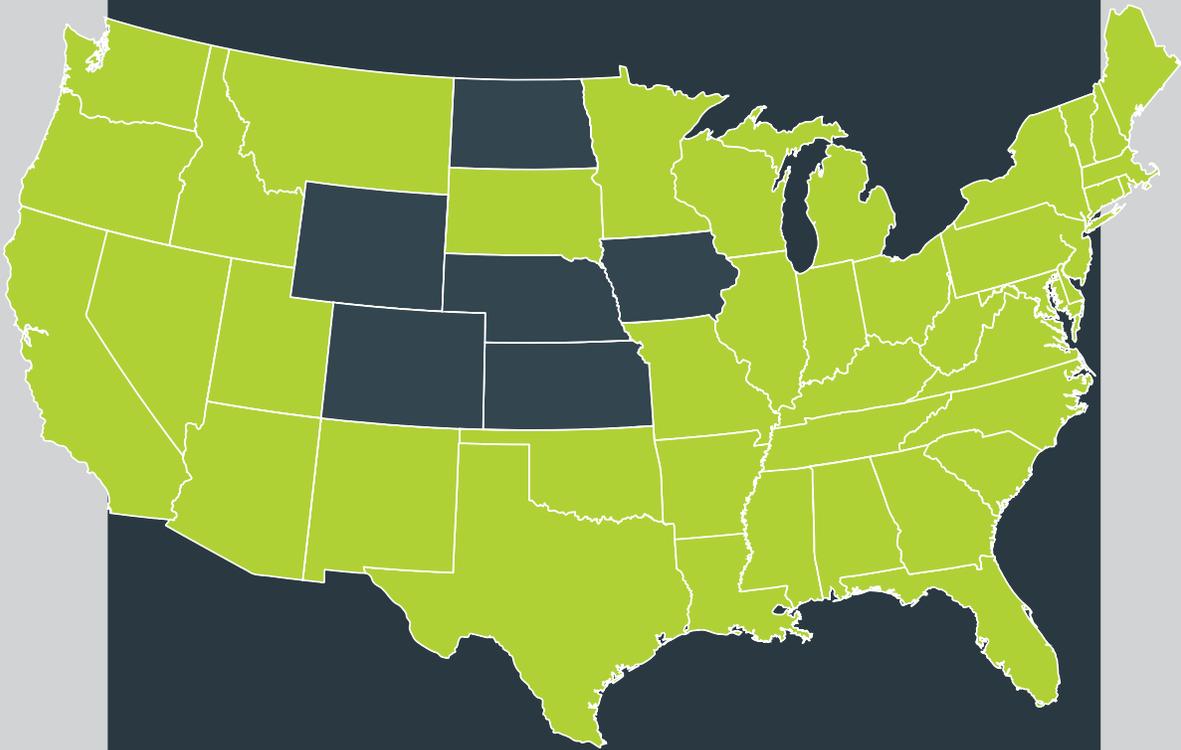
*The Anderson Island Picnic Shelter in Ord, Neb., and the Sherman County Senior Center in Loup City, Neb., were recipients of ACE's Project of the Year awards.*

*Girl Scouts participate in the ACE-supported community clean-up event in Alliance, Neb.*

# nmpp ENERGY™

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Based in Lincoln, Neb., the organizations of NMPP Energy serve 188 municipal utilities in six states.



Address: 8377 Glynoaks Dr., Lincoln, NE 68516

Toll Free: 800-234-2595

Phone: 402-474-4759

E-mail: [info@nmppenergy.org](mailto:info@nmppenergy.org)

Web : [www.nmppenergy.org](http://www.nmppenergy.org)

