



# Annual **Report**

**2020-2021**





Nebraska Municipal Power Pool  
**NMPP**  
Utility Services

Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska  
**MEAN**  
Wholesale Electric

National Public Gas Agency  
**NPGA**  
Wholesale Natural Gas

Public Alliance for Community Energy  
**ACE**  
Retail Natural Gas

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NMPP | MEAN | NPGA | ACE

- Member Driven
  - Service Driven
  - Economic Value Driven
  - Values Driven
  - Staff Driven
- 

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# Weathering the challenges of 2020-21

## Pulling Together while Working Apart

*The organizations of NMPP Energy endured unprecedented challenges in fiscal year 2020-21 ranging from the COVID-19 global pandemic to February's record-setting extreme weather event that forced controlled blackouts across the region and led to financial impacts to many communities. Through it all, the organizations of NMPP Energy weathered the storm, adapted and continued to provide valuable services to our member communities.*



**Robert Poehling,**

*Robert P. Poehling*

Executive Director,  
NMPP Energy



As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the country in March 2020 and into the spring and summer, utilities and municipalities in the NMPP Energy region and across the nation responded to the crisis on multiple fronts, keeping municipal employees as safe as possible while ensuring electric and natural gas systems remained reliable to keep the lights on and homes and businesses heated.

Many utilities voluntarily implemented policies to temporarily eliminate utility disconnections during the pandemic as well as close offices and encourage online or drop box bill payment to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Colorado and Iowa issued mandated utility disconnection orders as most utilities were already voluntarily suspending disconnection policies. Many utilities in Nebraska and Wyoming voluntarily suspended disconnections.

The regional wholesale electric markets where the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) operates took steps to ensure continuous operation of the regional electric grid, maintaining sufficient capacity to serve electric load. The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and MidContinent Independent System Operator (MISO) reported shifts in electric load patterns and a slight reduction in load across their systems during the first few weeks of the pandemic as people transitioned to working remotely.



The NMPP Energy building closed in March 2020 as the pandemic hit. After in-house training, most staff worked remotely from makeshift home offices with the goal of providing the same level of services to member communities as if the office was fully open. Travel and in-person meetings remained suspended to further protect employees and member communities.

A survey was developed and distributed among MEAN participants regarding utility responses to the pandemic, including activity related to disconnection policies and keeping personnel safe.

Virtual meetings became the new norm over the course of the year, including organizational board and committee meetings. Although there was a technology learning curve to overcome, the transition to a fully digital environment was achieved smoothly as the year moved forward.

Early in the pandemic, staff took to the road to deliver more than 300 gallons of hand sanitizer to more than 70 NMPP member communities for use by essential workers, including utility crews. NMPP's Mutual Aid Program stood ready to assist member

utilities needing assistance whether through workforce disruptions or other emergencies.

Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) staff adapted to working remotely during the 2020 Nebraska Choice Gas selection period. Training was held remotely for staff and the two-week selection period was held as originally scheduled April 10-23.

Amidst the enormous challenges and chaos brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an underlying resiliency among the NMPP Energy membership and entire country. As vaccines began to roll out across the nation in 2021, we are planning for staff to return to NMPP Energy offices this summer.

Despite all the challenges thrown at us during 2020-21, there were many accomplishments as highlighted in this year's Annual Report. I'm thankful for the strong leadership shown this year by our board and committee members of each of our organizations. Through their leadership, the NMPP Energy organizations were able to weather the storm that was fiscal year 2020-21. Thank you for looking through this year's report and be safe as we move forward.



NMPP

# Nebraska Municipal Power Pool

*Formed in 1975, the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool is the utility-related services organization of NMPP Energy, providing nearly 200 member communities a variety of valuable services across Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming.*

## NMPP Board of Director Officers 2020-21

- **President: Darrel Wenzel, chief executive officer, Waverly (Iowa) Utilities**
- **Vice President: Mike Palmer, electric superintendent, Sidney, Neb.**
- **Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Hinton, electric superintendent, Kimball, Neb.**

## Mutual Aid Efforts

NMPP's Mutual Aid Program was active during the year, providing coordination assistance for several events, including in the communities of Fairmont, Broken Bow, Shickley, Trenton, Wisner, West Point, David City, Pender, Oxford and Arnold in Nebraska and Haxtun, Colo.



## Utility Training Opportunities

Due to meeting size and travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the safety and vendor training program normally offered during January, February and March in Sidney, Broken Bow and North Platte were postponed to Fall 2021.

NMPP partnered with Northeast Community College to assist in facilitating a Job Training and Safety Program for approximately 20 member communities at a lower cost than was previously available.

To further assist members with training, NMPP made a scholarship program available for all NMPP Members that is available for the reimbursement of registration/tuition fees for qualifying electric utility training programs. This scholarship is paid out of the New Initiatives Fund and has provided over \$13,000 in education assistance to members.

## Utility Cost of Service/ Rate Design Activities

NMPP continued its strong efforts in assisting utilities with Financial Planning, Cost of Service/Rate Design service. Staff managed approximately 60 service agreements including electric, water and wastewater studies.

Especially during the challenges of the 2020-21 fiscal year, this service remains a vital tool for utilities to remain financially healthy in their community. Staff also conducted a few financial plan analyses for member communities..

## Air Emissions Federal Regulatory Assistance

NMPP continued to assist member utilities with federal air emissions reports, including completing 65 reports for 31 communities. Reports included U.S. Department of Energy's EIA-860, 861 and 923 report filings and various Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy filings.

## Electric Distribution Services

NMPP continued to serve 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.

## PowerManager Software

NMPP and Salt Creek Software's PowerManager Software served more than 180 software users, with 95 percent of users participating in NMPP's Value Support Plan that ensures the best support and most current software.

A software refresher course virtual conference was held during the year with more than 90 participants attending.

A new PowerManager website (www.powermanagerplus.com) was developed and went live during the year. The site, along with a new logo, was updated with a modern look to better serve existing and prospective customers.

Home About Products Value Support Plan News and Events Contact Us



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### Value Support Plan

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### Who uses PowerManager Software?

PowerManager software is used by hundreds of municipalities and utilities around the U.S.



### News

The latest news and Events regarding PowerManager and its users. [Click here.](#)

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### Potential AMI Service

Staff developed a business plan for a potential Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) service for members. The service would include joint-purchasing equipment and a shared Meter Data Management system with other utilities to lower costs through economies of scale and ongoing administration and monitoring of the system. Staff continues to gauge interest among members for the service.

### Net Metering Service Assistance

NMPP's Net Metering Service program included 26 communities during the year. The program provides assistance related to policy and guidelines regarding applications and procedures to allow interconnection, metering and billing of qualifying customer-owned energy resources. The program was developed in 2016 and provides three tiers of service, depending on the needs of the municipality.

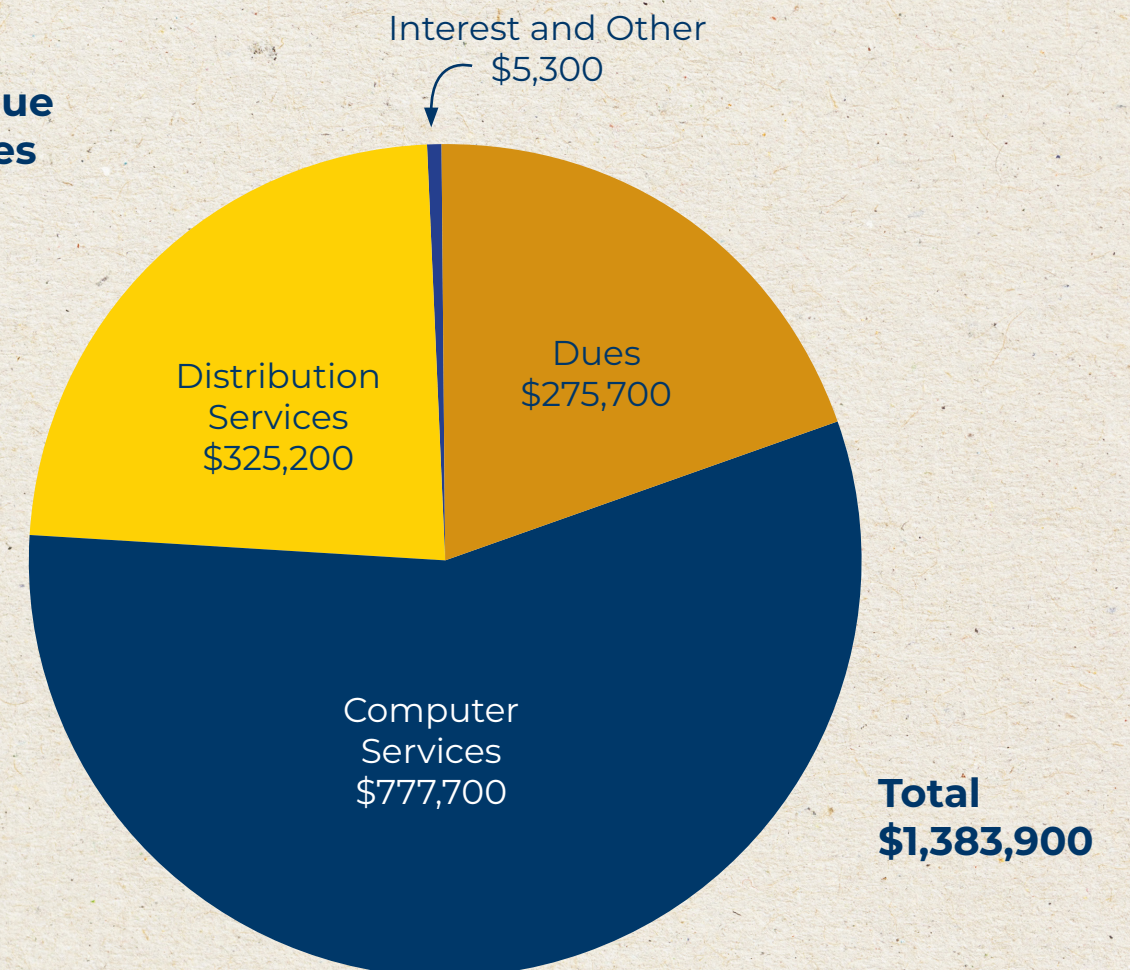
### Champion Businesses Program

The NMPP Board approved six new Champion businesses during the year: ABP Engineering, Allo Communications, Quanta Technology, Inc., ARC Consulting, Farabee Mechanical, Inc. and THG Energy. The program currently includes 32 total Champion businesses that support NMPP Energy's efforts to provide products and services to members.

### Terrytown Becomes Member

The NMPP Board welcomed the City of Terrytown, Neb., as a new NMPP member during the year. The City also joined ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy. As a member, the City is eligible for NMPP's menu of cost-based services. With the addition of Terrytown, NMPP's current membership stands at 190 communities.

### NMPP Revenue Sources





MEAN

# Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

*Formed in 1981, the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska provides wholesale power supply and related services to 69 participating communities in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming.*

## MEAN Board of Director Officers 2020-21

- **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**

## Wholesale Electric Rates Remain Stable

The MEAN Board of Directors approved no increase to MEAN's energy rates or fixed cost recovery charge as part of its total revenue requirement for fiscal year 2021-22. The action continued a trend over several years of declining or stable energy rates and fixed cost recovery charge, which are MEAN's two primary components for collecting revenue.

## Board Approves Credit to Participants

Based on MEAN's overall positive financial results for the fiscal year, the MEAN Board approved a \$1 million credit related to MEAN's Fixed Cost Recovery Charge (FCRC) to be allocated to long-term (Schedule M, K and K-1) participants based on the total 2020-21 FCRC paid by participants.

## Working Toward a Carbon Neutral 2050 Vision

During the year the MEAN Board continued working toward its recently adopted carbon neutral 2050 vision. The Board, in January 2020, approved a resolution laying out a vision to a carbon neutral power resource portfolio by 2050.

The resolution authorizes MEAN 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 vision. The MEAN Finance and Power Supply Committee held a workshop during the year that focused on the 2050 carbon neutral vision, rate setting philosophy, rate impact of resource planning, debt strategies and refunding considerations.



## MEAN Board Approves Power Agreement Extensions

The MEAN Board approved wholesale power contract agreement extensions with the Villages of Trenton and Snyder in Nebraska during the year. Trenton's new contract is set to run through 2031 and Snyder's contract will run through mid-2026.

## Advancement of Governance Restructure Initiative

The MEAN Governance Review Committee continued its multi-year effort to streamline and simplify MEAN's governance structure after nearly four decades as an organization. Part of this effort included the passage of LB 858 in the Nebraska Legislature. The bill updates the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, which updates the governance of MEAN. The bill's passage paved the way for the MEAN Board to approve bylaw changes that improve governance and organization operations for MEAN's Board meeting quorum and voting.

A workshop was held during the year to facilitate discussions regarding modernization of MEAN's Total Power Requirements Power Purchase Agreement, known as Service Schedule M. The goal is to update terms due to industry changes and MEAN's policy/procedure changes.



## February Extreme Weather Event Response

The Southwest Power Pool regional transmission operator issued a series of Energy Emergency Alerts over several days in mid-February as a large arctic mass of extreme cold temperatures covered nearly all of SPP's entire 14-state footprint. SPP implemented controlled outages across its regional footprint to prevent much more severe uncontrolled cascading blackouts. Market prices for electricity and natural gas were extremely volatile due to high demand and curtailed supply due to weatherization challenges, loss of imports from neighbouring regions and lack of wind generation and forecast uncertainty.

Staff worked diligently responding from an operational, communication and member relations perspective to serve impacted MEAN participants.

- Staff continually monitored grid conditions during a fluid situation with a priority to distribute and expedite emergency information to MEAN participants.
- After the event, staff reviewed lessons learned, looking at external communication systems and reviewing effectiveness with the goal of improving processes going forward.

## WEIS Market Goes Live

The Southwest Power Pool's Western Energy Imbalance Service (WEIS) market went live in February 2021. The market balances electric generation and load regionally in real time by centrally dispatching energy from participating resources every five minutes for its participants in the Western Interconnection. MEAN and several other regional utilities are participants in the market. By participating in the WEIS, MEAN is looking to gain efficiencies and reduce costs for its members.

## MEAN Evaluating Membership in SPP RTO West

In late 2020 MEAN joined several regional utilities in signing letters of intent to evaluate membership in a proposed expansion of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO) into the Western Interconnection. An SPP Brattle study found that the move would be mutually beneficial and produce \$49 million a year in savings. SPP anticipates its wholesale electricity market, resource adequacy program and other regionalized services can help western members achieve renewable energy goals, reinforce system reliability and leverage new opportunities to buy, sell and trade power.

## Maintaining Reliability of Local Generators

MEAN participants' annual reliability testing of local generators maintained its high first-time passing rate at above 98 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.



## Providing a Suite of Energy Efficiency Programs

MEAN completed its second year of administering a suite of energy efficiency programs for retail customers in partnership with its long-term power participants. The 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 sixth year. Program highlights include:



### Commercial LED Projects

More than \$58,000 (50 projects) in approved commercial LED light projects with an estimated total energy savings of 2,200 megawatt-hours annually. The top three categories for commercial LED lighting projects were retail businesses, municipal buildings and schools.



### Residential Projects

There were 34 residential projects completed, including 14 smart thermostats, 15 cooling tune-ups and five attic insulation projects.



### Total Projects

Overall, there were 84 total projects completed by 42 MEAN communities during the year.



## Goulette Earns Dedicated Service Award

Tom Goulette, city administrator/utility superintendent for the City of West Point, Neb., was presented with MEAN's Rudy Hultgren Dedicated Service Award. The award is presented annually to an individual of a MEAN member utility who has displayed commendable efforts in promoting the use of public power and its ideals. The award is a memorial tribute to Rudy Hultgren, a utility consultant and well-known and respected citizen of Lyons, Colo., who played an active role in community service and leadership. Goulette has served as utility superintendent for the City since 1993 and took over city administrator duties in 2001. He has been active on the MEAN Board of Directors and several MEAN subcommittees for many years. Currently, he serves as the chair of the MEAN Board.



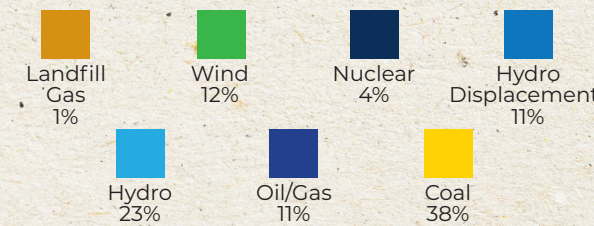
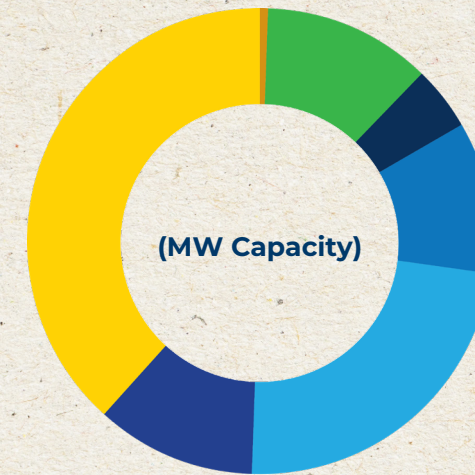
## Risk and Compliance Activities

MEAN continued to formalize its Enterprise Risk Management Program (ERM). The project is in the second phase of a four-phase process focusing on identification, assessment, mitigation and implementation and monitoring of risk management. The MEAN Risk Management Team, comprised of management level employees, began to meet monthly to review risk issues related to MEAN. The MEAN Risk Oversight Committee meets in conjunction with the other MEAN committees on the day prior to the Board of Directors' meeting.

For North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) purposes, MEAN operates in the Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) Regions. MEAN has participated in training for NERC's Align software change which impacts how MEAN will receive and respond to NERC compliance requests. MEAN received and responded to three NERC Alerts during the fiscal year.



## Power Supply Resources



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

MEAN's power supply resources consist of owned, leased and purchased power supply. This portfolio includes all MEAN resources, participant Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) allocations and Designated Network Resources used to serve the total of MEAN's participants' load.

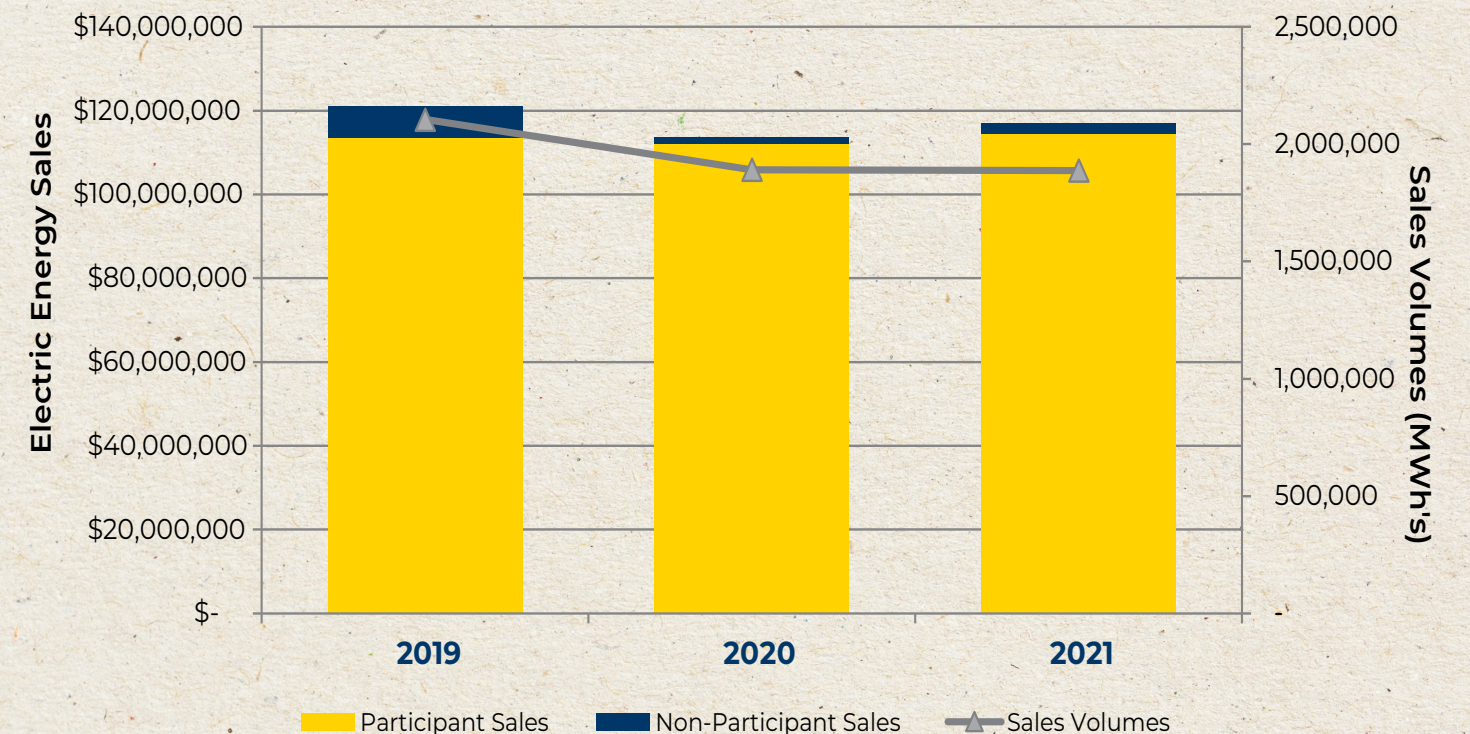
**Hydro** - In addition to MEAN contracts, includes resources owned by MEAN participants and MEAN participant WAPA allocations.

**Hydro Displacement** - Under the displacement agreement with WAPA, MEAN receives hydroelectric generated energy in WECC from capacity in the agreement. Under a bilateral settlement schedule, MEAN pays 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.

**Coal** - Includes owned (18%) and purchased energy (20%) through contracts.

**Oil/Gas** - Participant generation, which is typically used only as a stand-by resource for emergencies.

## 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)).



NPGA

## National Public Gas Agency

*Formed in 1991, 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.*

### NPGA Board of Director Officers 2020-21

- **Chair:** Chris Anderson, city administrator, Central City, Neb.
- **Vice Chair:** Bob Lockmon, utility superintendent, Stuart, Neb.
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Randy Woldt, city administrator, Wisner, Neb.

### Impacts from February's Extreme Cold Weather Event

The extreme cold weather event in February 2021 significantly impacted several NPGA member communities. The unprecedented weather event lasted several days, causing natural gas supply constraints throughout the region. Nationally, gas supply production dropped nearly 20 percent as usage soared to record levels. Natural gas that had been selling for \$3 per MMBtu spiked to \$300 to \$600 per dekatherm or more during the five-day stretch, leaving many utilities forced to purchase gas under extreme market conditions to keep gas flowing to residents.

NPGA's diverse natural gas portfolio includes pre-arranged gas purchases, storage gas, and monthly gas purchases on the first-of-the-month spot market. All of NPGA members' anticipated monthly gas usage was purchased prior to Feb. 1. However, the extreme weather event caused the usage of many impacted members to more than double, forcing natural gas purchases to be

made during the extreme weather event on the intraday market, where prices were astronomically higher.

The combined overall financial impact to affected NPGA members was more than \$3 million.

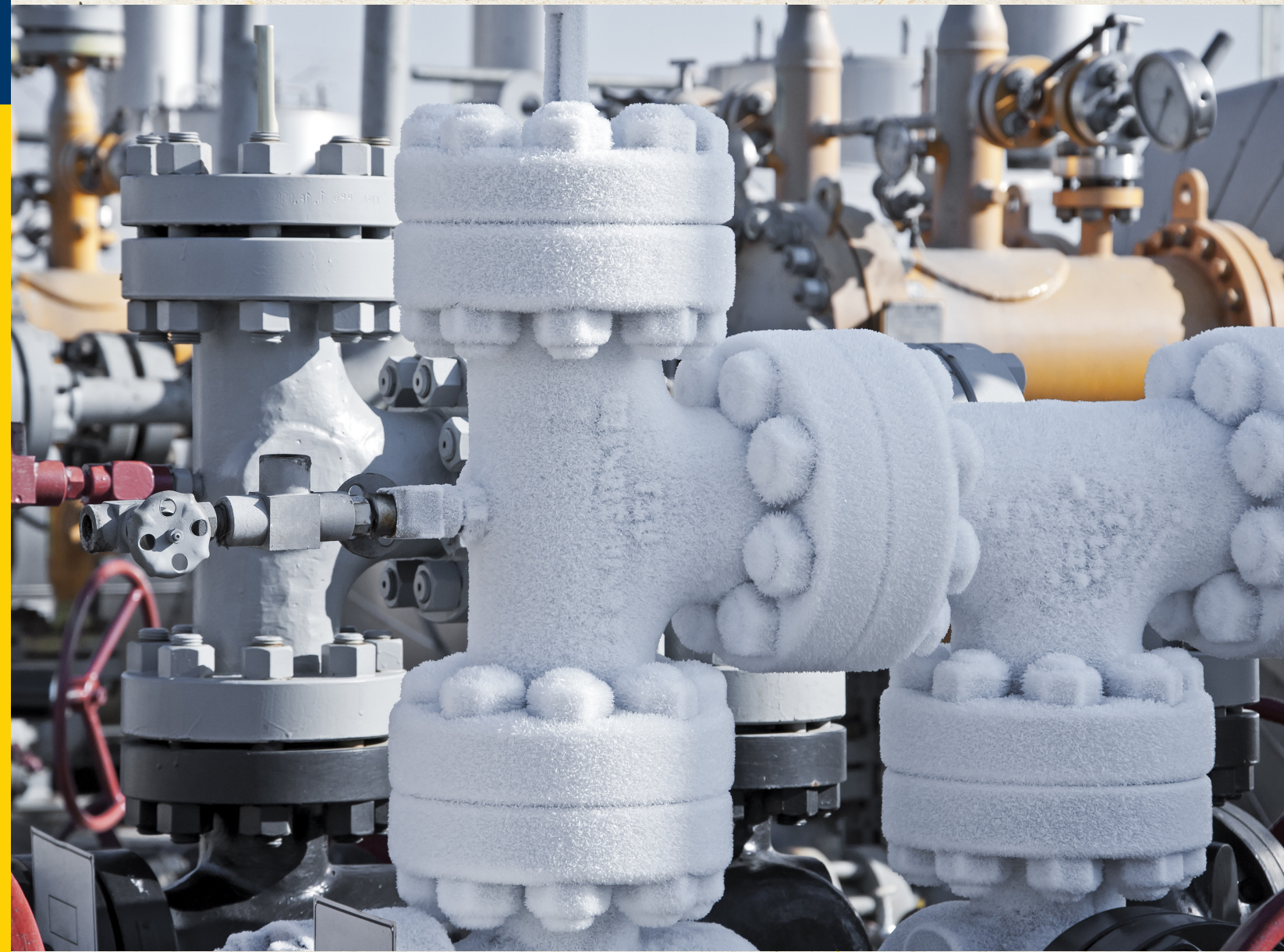
NPGA staff continually communicated with members, suppliers, and pipeline representatives to manage critical gas supply during the event. Following the event, the NPGA Board of Directors held special meetings to discuss the financial impacts to individual member communities and strategies moving forward. NPGA provided testimony to the Nebraska Legislature's Urban Affairs Committee and worked with the committee to develop legislation that was passed by the legislature to provide funding for emergency aid to municipalities impacted by exorbitant natural gas bills.

### Savings Through Gas Supply Management Program

NPGA's Gas Supply Management Program led to combined cost savings of approximately \$150,000 for NPGA members throughout the year through Asset Management Arrangement (AMA) activity. The program uses Asset Management Arrangements to extract value from capacity rights on interstate pipelines. Under an AMA, unused capacity is marketed and sold, creating value back to the NPGA members served by that pipeline.

### Hedging Policy Review

The NPGA Board reviewed its hedging policy throughout the year. The Board developed a comprehensive plan to purchase natural gas swaps to fulfill hedging parameters established by the Board. NPGA's hedging policy is used to manage forward exposure to commodity price risk utilizing financial swaps for a portion of its future natural gas volumes.





## City of Walsenburg Joins NPGA

The City of Walsenburg, Colo., became a member of NPGA, signing a total requirement gas supply agreement. The City was a wholesale gas supply customer of NPGA since 1996. Now as a full member, the City has representation and voting rights on the NPGA Board.

Also, the City of Walden, Colo., approved becoming a level-purchase plan participant. NPGA's level-purchase plan is designed to lessen exposure to natural gas market volatility by layering in gas volume hedges over time.

## Pipeline Advocacy Efforts for NPGA Members

Staff was active advocating for NPGA members with multiple pipeline rate cases during the year. Staff actively worked with the Midwest Region Gas Task Force to advocate for NPGA Nebraska members Lyons, Pender and Stromsburg regarding the Northern Natural Gas rate case. NPGA participated in the Southern Star Shippers Group regarding the Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline rate case.

NPGA members Auburn, Kan., and Superior, Neb., are served by that pipeline.

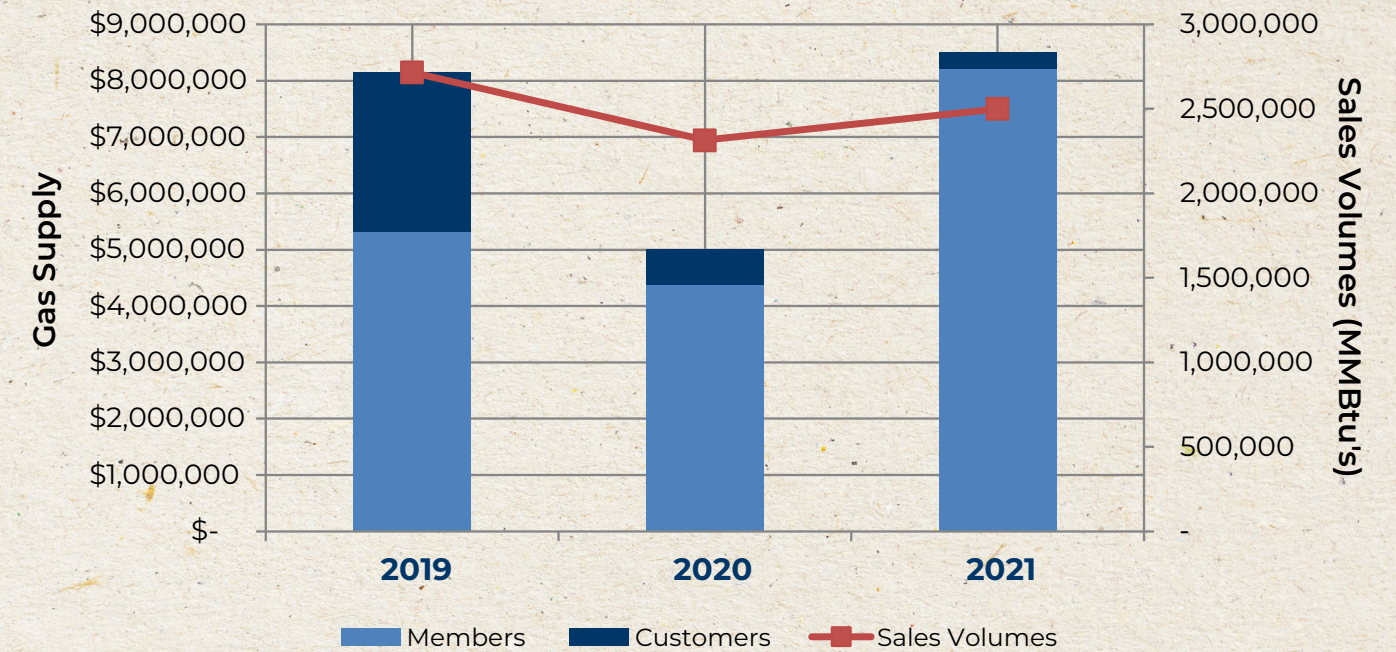
## Natural Gas Market Year in Review

Prior to the February 2021 extreme cold weather event and the resulting skyrocketing natural gas prices, natural gas prices for 2020 were some of the lowest prices in decades. Spot prices at the national benchmark Henry Hub in Louisiana averaged \$2.05 per million British thermal units (MMBtu). Prices started the 2020 year relatively low due to mild winter weather leading to lower demand. Lower consumption due to the COVID-19 pandemic offset lower production, keeping prices low.

The Henry Hub price averaged \$1.66/MMBtu in June 2020, the lowest monthly price in decades. Prices increased in the second half of the year because of lower natural gas production and an increase in liquified natural gas (LNG) exports.

U.S. consumption of natural gas decreased among residential, commercial and industrial users, but usage rose in the electric power generation sector, reaching a record high of 31.6 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in 2020.

## Gas Supply



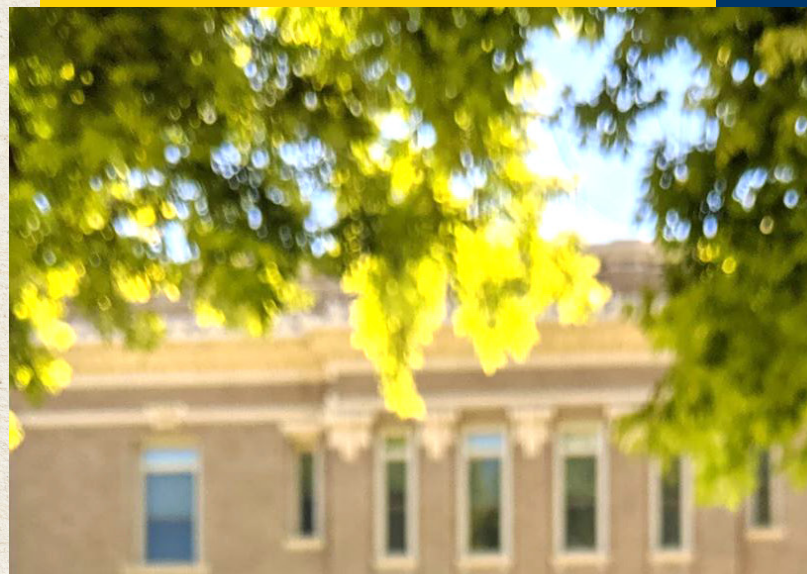
\*Detailed information regarding NPGA's sales volumes and operating revenues is available on page 5 of NPGA's Audited Financial Statements ([www.NMPPEnergy.org/annual/reports](http://www.NMPPEnergy.org/annual/reports)).





# ACE Public Alliance for Community Energy

*Formed in 1998, ACE, the Public Alliance for Community Energy, is the community-owned retail natural gas supplier in the Nebraska Choice Gas program.*



## ACE Board of Director Officers 2020-21

- **Chair: Andrew Devine, city administrator, Albion, Neb.**
- **Vice Chair: Jeremy Tarr, city administrator, Plainview, Neb.**
- **Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Palmer, electric superintendent, Sidney, Neb.**

## ACE Board Approves Revenue Distribution

The ACE Board of Directors early in 2021 approved a revenue distribution of \$400,000 to its member communities through ACE's revenue return program. Through the program, the ACE Board may vote to return revenue to its member communities. With this most recent distribution, ACE has returned more than \$3.2 million back to its Nebraska member communities. The funds are used in various ways to benefit each ACE member community.



## ACE Participates in Choice Gas Workshop

ACE participated in the Nebraska Public Service Commission's summer workshop focusing on the Choice Gas program. The workshop was held to gather input from Black Hills Energy as administrator of the program as well as participating natural gas suppliers, including ACE. Key discussion points were the elimination of a pre-enrollment period and expansion of the program's selection period.

## Nebraska Choice Gas Program Changes for 2021

Significant changes were implemented during ACE's 2020-21 fiscal year regarding the Nebraska Choice Gas program for the 2021 selection period. The changes included extending the previous two-week enrollment period to five weeks and one day (March 18-April 22, 2021). Marketing by natural gas suppliers was not allowed until the enrollment period began. ACE was supportive of the changes in order to provide a more positive and less confusing experience by Choice Gas customers.

## 2020-21 Choice Gas Selection Results

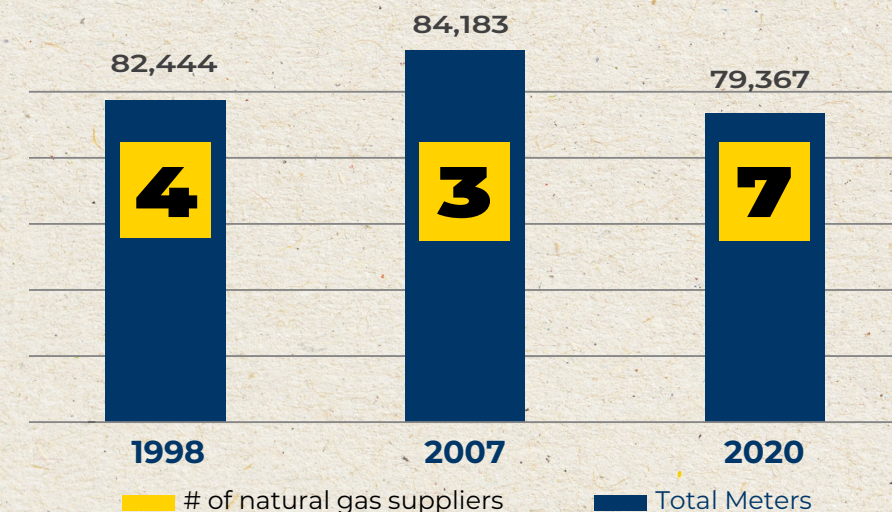
The 2020-21 Choice Gas campaign was ACE's 23rd year providing competitive pricing and rate options to Nebraska Choice Gas customers. The COVID-19 pandemic hit the U.S. just weeks before the selection period, forcing staff to adapt quickly to working remotely. ACE overcame the logistical and technological challenges and maintained its track record of excellent customer service and providing competitive pricing.

ACE captured more than 14,000 total accounts for nearly 18 percent of overall

selections, including the previous year "multi-year" selections, early sign-up customers and selections made during the two-week selection period. With a record seven natural gas suppliers, competition on pricing was fierce for customers.

The trend of fewer overall customer meters in the program continued in 2020-21. The program had more than 84,000 overall metered accounts in 2007 when there were three natural gas suppliers competing for customers. In 2020-21 there were 79,367 overall meters with seven suppliers competing on price for customers.

## Nebraska Choice Gas Program





## New Website and Rebranding Initiative

In March 2021 ACE unveiled its new website and rebranding initiative in time for the 2021 extended Choice gas selection period. The website ([www.ACEenergy.org](http://www.ACEenergy.org)) is mobile friendly, allowing for intuitive viewing on mobile devices and tablets. The new site incorporated Choice Gas price quotes and selection capabilities for retail and commercial customers.

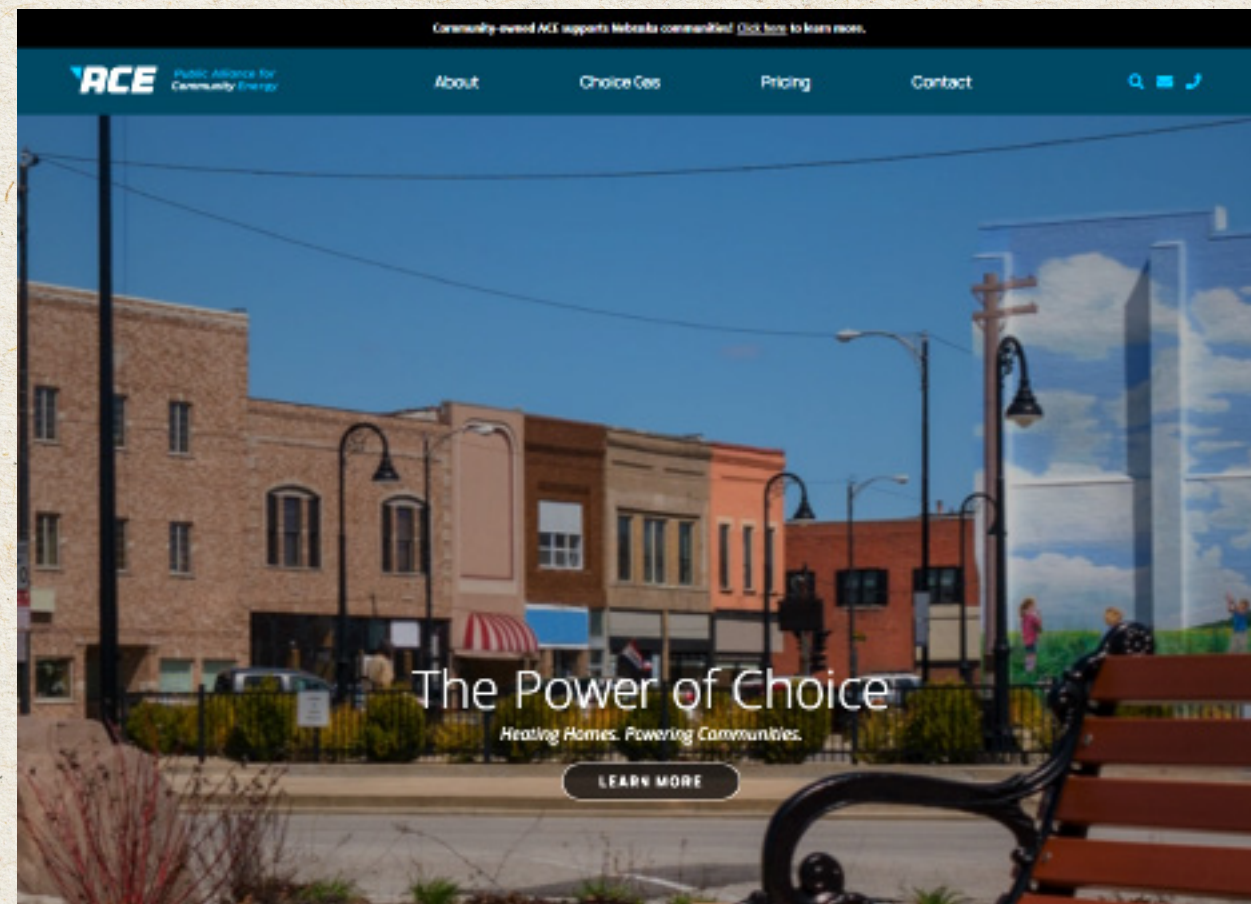
The modern-looking website features information on the benefits of community-

owned ACE and focuses on the significant community impact ACE has in its member communities throughout Nebraska. It features video testimonies from ACE representatives, a section of Frequently Asked Questions, a video library on a variety of ACE-related topics and the latest ACE news. Extensive work on the backend of the site was completed to integrate with customer pricing.

As part of ACE's rebranding effort, a new modern-looking ACE logo was unveiled that incorporates a forward-looking image with an emphasis on ACE's community focus.



Public Alliance for  
Community Energy



## ACE Projects of the Year

ACE awarded Projects of the Year to the City of Franklin and City of Alliance in Nebraska. Franklin used its ACE funds to renovate its local ballpark. Renovations included new red dirt, sprinklers and turf. New backstop fencing was installed along with a new batting cage. Alliance used its ACE funds to help fund an expansion of its Rolling Prairie Disc Golf Course. The community-supported project included expanding the nine-hole disc golf course into an 18-hole course in an area surrounding Laing Lake.

The winning projects were determined through voting on ACE's social media channels in two population categories. The projects were awarded a plaque and \$200 to be used toward a future community betterment project.

Other nominated projects included the City of Ravenna's digital marquee and trailer, City of Atkinson's Mill Race Park campground electrical upgrade, Village of Oxford's community pool LED lighting and Beaver City's Pioneer Log Cabin update.



## Community Clean-up Efforts

ACE supported more than 35 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.

communities regarding the benefits of ACE and the Choice Gas program. These efforts included disseminating various educational materials, including open houses and other knowledge sharing events for local residents.

## Community Marketing Efforts

As a community-owned natural gas supplier, ACE member communities play a key role in marketing and education in their respective

## Terrytown Becomes ACE Member

ACE welcomed the City of Terrytown, Neb., as a new member community, raising ACE's membership to 75 member communities throughout Nebraska. As a member, Terrytown will have a voting representative on the ACE Board of Directors and be eligible for any distribution through ACE's revenue return program.





**nmpp**  
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