



Our Net Zero Vision

Our commitment at NorthWestern Energy is to provide our customers and communities reliable, affordable and responsible critical energy infrastructure and essential service. Because of the special places we are privileged to serve, environmental stewardship is core to who we are and what we do. That's why we've made a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality in our electric and natural gas operations by 2050.

"NorthWestern Energy begins this transition to an even cleaner energy future building on the considerable progress we have already made," said Brian Bird, NorthWestern Energy President and Chief Operating Officer. "Our total portfolio of electric generation is 56% carbon free, which is higher than the electric utility average of about 40%. Our natural gas system has a leak-per-mile rate that is better than the industry average thanks to our investments in pipe infrastructure and leak detection capabilities. We have the tremendous honor to be the stewards of this critical energy infrastructure that delivers safe and reliable energy to our region. Now is the time to raise the bar and start the transition to Net Zero 2050."

Learn more about our commitment to net zero emissions by 2050 at NorthWesternEnergy.com/netzero.

Report osprey nests built on power lines

NorthWestern Energy has installed hundreds of platforms where ospreys can safely build nests away from power lines.

However, this time of year when ospreys return to Montana, we often see nests being built on power lines. This can cause power outages and even fires, and the nests' proximity to energized equipment puts the birds at risk of electrocution.

If you see an osprey nest on a power pole, please report it by calling us at 888-467-2669 or filling out the online form at NorthWesternEnergy.com/customer-service/safety.

When NorthWestern learns of an osprey nest on one of our poles, we implement the Avian Protection Plan, which includes removing the nest if it does not have osprey or osprey eggs in it and in some cases providing an alternative platform for the osprey.



Secure baling twine to protect ospreys

Baling twine is often found in osprey nests, but it can be deadly to hatchlings and adults who become entangled in it. It's unclear why ospreys are so attracted to baling twine, but the best way to prevent it from ending up in nests is to pick up all baling twine and store it in buildings or containers with secure lids.

The Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society offers a twine collection and recycling site where you can drop off baling twine. For more information, visit yvaudubon.org/baling-twine-recycling/

New guidelines focus on sustainability

In 2019, a group of NorthWestern Energy employees proposed the company take steps to make our offices and operating divisions more environmentally friendly and sustainable. Their efforts led to the formation of a cross-functional committee and ultimately the development of Sustainable Procurement and Practices Guidelines.

NorthWestern officially adopted these guidelines in January. The objective of the guidelines is to give preference to products and services that are environmentally preferred. The guidelines provide concrete points of focus for our sustainability efforts. Our new guidelines call for purchasing products that contain recycled content and avoiding items that cannot be reused. They encourage eco-friendly cleaning products, reusing and recycling technology equipment and striving to reduce unnecessary energy use in our offices and work locations.

Call before you dig

April 29 is National Arbor Day. Planting a tree is a great way to celebrate, but before you begin any digging project be sure to call 811 or visit call811.com.

Call at least two full business days before you start any digging project to allow time for all underground utilities to be marked.

Even on your property and in your yard, damages caused by hitting an underground utility can be expensive and even deadly. Once utilities are marked, be sure to hand excavate within 18 inches on each side of markings.

If you ever hit a gas line, call 911 and NorthWestern Energy immediately. Even minor damage to a pipeline can result in future leaks.



Plan before you plant

A healthy tree might live for a century or more, so be sure you're planting the right tree in the right place.

- Before you plant a tree, know where overhead power lines are located and plant at least 20 feet away. Trees that grow taller than 40 feet should be planted more than 35 feet away.
- Be sure trees are also planted at least 20 feet away from buried gas lines. Roots can become tangled around pipelines causing damage, and if the tree should blow over, it can damage the pipeline if the roots become entwined and pull up the pipeline.
- If your yard has a ground-level transformer (a large, green, metal box), be sure to leave room for our crews to access the transformer. Plant your shrubs at least 10 feet away from the front, and 2 feet away from the sides and back.