



Dear Customer,

I hope the latest issue of Energy Connections finds you well. We're excited to launch a new design and format for your bill insert. Our goal with Energy Connections is to provide you with updates on what's happening at NorthWestern Energy and how it impacts you, along with important safety messaging and tips for using energy wisely. A new item that we're excited to include in each issue is a recipe from one of our 1,200 employees, along with a featured story on that employee and the work they do at NorthWestern Energy.

I'm honored to kick off the recipe series with one of my favorite fall meals - Pumpkin Coconut Curry with Chicken and Butternut Squash – along with a little information about myself. I work as the content development specialist at NorthWestern Energy, which means that I have the privilege of capturing and sharing the amazing work that goes on behind the scenes at NorthWestern. That means I often tag along with our crews on some of their most exciting work days, whether that's restoring power after a storm or snowmobiling to a remote power line in the middle of winter. I gather information in the field and then pass it on to our customers through brochures, flyers, social media and Energy Connections.

When I started at NorthWestern almost a year ago, what struck me most about my new job was how friendly all of my colleagues are. I'm excited to introduce a few of them to you here. Please reach out if you have questions, comments or story ideas for Energy Connections. You can find me at news2@northwestern.com. And be sure to follow along on social media. NorthWestern Energy is on Facebook (@NorthWesternEnergy), Twitter (@NWEinfo) and Instagram (@NorthWesternEnergy).

Thanks for reading!

Elin Madison



Pumpkin Coconut Curry with Chicken and Butternut Squash

INGREDIENTS

- 1 small butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cut into 1-in. cubes
- 3 Tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 lb boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/2 onion, sliced
- 1 Tablespoon minced ginger
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 2 plum tomatoes, diced
- 1 15-ounce can pumpkin puree
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable broth, low-sodium
- 1 13-ounce can coconut milk, not sweetened
- 2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 large pinch cayenne powder
- 1/2 lime, juiced
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro, plus extra for garnishing
- cooked rice, for serving

DIRECTIONS

- To roast butternut squash, place on a sheet pan, toss lightly with olive oil, salt and pepper, and roast at 450F until caramelized and fork-tender.
- Heat 2 Tablespoons olive oil in a large Dutch oven over high heat. Add chicken and cook on high heat until browned on all sides. Remove chicken and set aside.
- Reduce heat to medium-high and add remaining 1 Tablespoon olive oil to Dutch oven. Add onion and ginger.
- Cook for a few minutes until onion is soft. Add garlic and cook for about one minute more.
- Add tomatoes and pumpkin puree to pan. Cook for about 8-10 minutes, until puree is lightly browned.
- Add broth, coconut milk, curry and cayenne powders; bring to a boil and simmer for 10 minutes. Add chicken and butternut squash and simmer for 10 minutes longer.
- Stir in lime juice and cilantro. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve over rice.

CONTACT US

MONTANA

Customer Contact Center (888) 467-2669
 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F
 Emergency 24/7 Service
 Call Before You Dig 811
 Energy Efficiency (800) 823-5995

NEBRASKA

Customer Contact Center (800) 245-6977
 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F
 Emergency 24/7 Service
 Call Before You Dig 811

SOUTH DAKOTA

Customer Contact Center (800) 245-6977
 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F
 Emergency 24/7 Service
 Call Before You Dig 811

PAYMENT

Automated Phone
 Payment Option: (800) 218-4959
 (via checking, savings, or money market account)
 SpeedPay Automated
 Phone Payment Option: (877) 361-4927
 (via credit card account)

NorthWesternEnergy.com



We are proud of the diversity in the communities we serve. To better serve the needs of some of our customers, we translate important customer information into two languages: Spanish and Karen.

Estamos orgullosos de la diversidad en las comunidades que servimos. Para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de algunos de nuestros clientes, traducimos información importante del cliente a dos idiomas: español y karen.

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LOOK INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON:

- South Dakota State Fair
- Teacher Resources
- Employee Feature & Recipe
- Furnace Inspections
- Halloween Safety Tips
- Phantom Powers

SOUTH DAKOTA/NEBRASKA OCTOBER 2019



There's no time like Fair time

The South Dakota State Fair is the official end-of-summer party for many customers in South Dakota, and this year did not disappoint. NorthWestern Energy is a proud longtime supporter of the fair, and this year was no different. We have been the namesake of the NorthWestern Energy Freedom Stage for more than 10 years, and we felt like it needed a bit of a face lift for 2019. We designed and installed new framing structures, updated graphics and also honored a former employee, Warren Lotsberg, in the renovation.

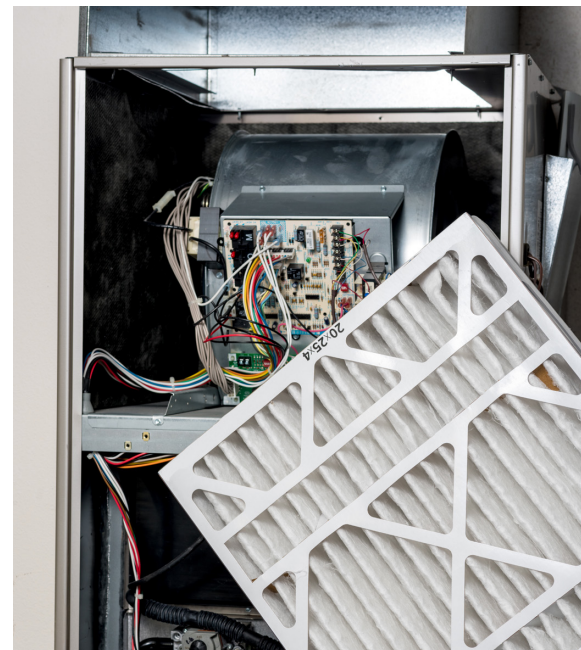
Our linemen also got into the action offering bucket truck rides. After several years of not offering rides, we brought them back, and it was a major hit with old and young alike. PUC Commissioner Kristie Fiegen and Governor Kristie Noem took advantage of the opportunity to take a 65-foot ride up in the bucket and visited with our linemen about their career.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by and said hi. It was great to see all of you at the South Dakota State Fair.

Is your furnace ready for winter?

When was the last time you had your furnace inspected? Can't recall? That means it is time for an inspection. You should have all natural gas appliances, furnaces, vents, flues, chimneys and gas lines in your home or business inspected every year or two by a qualified industry professional. In addition, stock up on furnace filters and change them monthly.

Remove all flammable material from the area surrounding your furnace and any heat sources. Make sure all curtains are up and away from heat vents or heat appliances. If possible, look under your heat source for things like pieces of clothing, toys or paper. Also, be sure to follow manufacturer instructions for the care and use of gas appliances and equipment.



Teachers, enter win a \$100 gift card!

NorthWestern Energy offers free classroom teaching materials focusing on electric and natural gas safety. After ordering the materials, you can fill out a survey to be entered to win a \$100 gift card or one of two \$50 gift cards. Enter by Dec. 31 for the fall semester drawing.

To order, visit <http://northwestern.electricuniverse.com/order-page.html>



Have a happy and safe Halloween!

Here are a few tips to celebrate Halloween safely:

1. Don't go trick-or-treating alone. Kids should go with an adult and/or in large groups.
2. Wear bright colors or attach reflective material to costumes to make sure drivers see you.
3. Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them.
4. Walk, and don't run, from house to house.
5. Look both ways before crossing the street. Use crosswalks wherever possible.

Beware of energy vampires and phantom loads!

Many electronics, such as computers, TVs, stereos and cell phone chargers, continue to draw power even when they are switched off. This is known as energy vampires, phantom energy loss or standby power.

Vampire loads cost the average home about \$200 a year in energy costs, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. And this wasted energy is enough to power about 11 million homes.

Advanced power strips are a great way to combat phantom energy loss. Advanced power strips look just like conventional power strips, but have built-in features designed to reduce the amount of energy used by many electronics. Advanced power strips shut off supply power to devices that are not in use.

These power strips are designed primarily for home entertainment centers and home office areas where there are typically many consumer electronics plugged into a power strip. Advanced power strips offer a variety of features. For example, if you often fall asleep watching TV, look for a strip with a timer. That way you can turn off your TV automatically based on a pre-set schedule. Other advanced power strips use motion sensors or remote controls.

If you don't have an advanced power strip, unplugging your appliances is another way to prevent phantom energy loss.

This Halloween, protect yourself from ghosts, goblins, energy vampires and phantom loads, and enjoy the treat of energy savings all year round.

