

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

FARMERS' ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER 2023



Co-ops Power the *Holidays*

New Mexico's rural electric cooperatives spread holiday cheer throughout the year

Page 4

Sierra Electric Cooperative employees volunteer at holiday events at Elephant Butte State Park. PHOTO COURTESY OF SIERRA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Congratulations Lincoln Elementary!



The National Blue-Ribbon School Award is given out by the United States Department of Education annually to those special schools that are high-performing and schools making great improvements in closing achievement gaps between students. The National Blue Ribbon award is the HIGHEST honor a school can achieve. Educators across the country strive to achieve Blue-Ribbon status. This year we are proud to announce our very own Lincoln Elementary School has been chosen as a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School Winner!

The Gallup McKinley County School District would like to Congratulate Lincoln Elementary School for your outstanding students, teachers, staff and administration on your incredible achievement!

You Are All Winners!



We would like to thank the entire Lincoln Elementary Community and fellow Gallupians for coming out and helping us celebrate and we would also like to send our gratitude to our vendors, Quintana Music, Debbie Wilson, Rosco's and Glenn's Bakery for helping to make the Lincoln Blue Ribbon Celebration special!



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enchantment now prints 10 times a year!
 The next issue of enchantment arrives in January.



Take a photo of you holding YOUR MAGAZINE AND WIN!

Take a photo of yourself or someone else with the magazine and email it with a few words about the photo. Include your name, mailing address and co-op name.

One lucky member will win \$20. Submitting your photo(s) gives us permission to publish or post the photo(s) in enchantment, on Facebook and in other media outlets.

Email tcondit@nmelectric.coop

Congratulations to Paula Chamberlain, a Columbus Electric Cooperative member, who read her enchantment magazine at Mattawamkeag Lake in Island Falls, Maine. She and her husband, Alan, have a summer cottage there.

Paula Chamberlain wins \$20!





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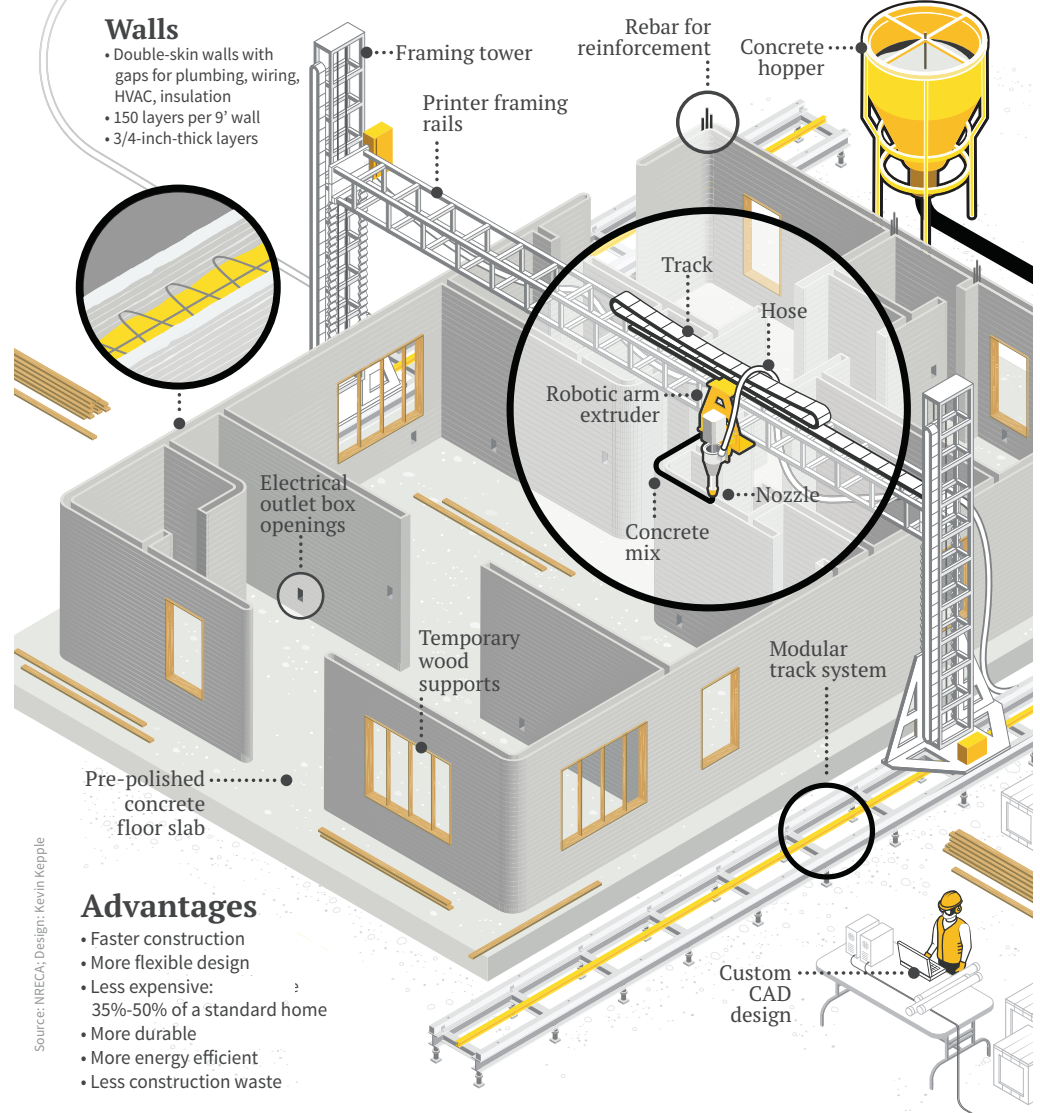
Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees meets at 9 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Clovis cooperative boardroom.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

3D-Printed Houses

As many electric cooperatives work to increase economic development in their regions and attract new employees, some are finding that a lack of available, affordable housing is becoming a major impediment. Among the solutions they're pursuing is 3D-printed structures, which involves using a robotic arm and a concrete extruder to construct walls and foundations quickly and efficiently. Here's how it works.



Advantages

- Faster construction
- More flexible design
- Less expensive: 35%-50% of a standard home
- More durable
- More energy efficient
- Less construction waste



Farmers' Electric Co-op offices are closed November 23-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday, December 22 and 25 for Christmas, and January 1 for New Year's Day.

IMPROVE YOUR FIREPLACE EFFICIENCY

Knowing that you are helping cut utility costs by using a fireplace efficiently might make you feel a little warmer this winter. Using a fireplace for heating a home is nothing new to Americans. Approximately 90% of households in the early 1900s used a fireplace or wood stove as a primary heat source.

However, times have changed, and that number now is less than 2%. But that number has been trending upward the past few years. The increase is due in large part to modern advances in heating appliances along with a heightened interest in eco-friendly solutions—not to mention, some folks enjoy the ambience of a crackling fire.

Fireplaces offset other expensive forms of heat, such as propane, natural gas and electric strip heat. Keep in mind, though, that in many fireplaces, most of the heat from the fire goes up the chimney and out.

Additionally, a fireplace can pull cold air into your home. When a fireplace is not in use and is not well-sealed, it can be an escape route for conditioned air in the winter or summer.

Here are some tips to put your fireplace to work cutting the chill and cutting your heating costs.

USE FIREPLACE INSERTS



One of the best ways to increase fireplace efficiency is to use a fireplace insert.

These advanced wood-burning appliances are built for efficiency with heavy steel and cast iron, which have higher thermal density. Fireplace inserts are placed into an existing masonry fireplace box, which helps retain even more heat. Many models have insulated



glass doors, which retain heat and give the user a view of the fire. (FYI: You can clean your blackened door glass with a mixture of water, vinegar and ash from your fireplace.)

Heat from the fire is trapped in the box and radiates into your home. Models with small, quiet fans help disperse the heat more evenly and add a level of efficiency.



CHIMNEY CLEANING

Cleaning your fireplace and chimney also improves fireplace efficiency.

Soot buildup in the flue lining can hinder the draft, which can impact how well the fire burns. The heat transfer of your fireplace can be lowered significantly because of a higher-than-normal soot layer.

You can clean your fireplace and chimney yourself, but it is a dirty job. Check your local area to find a licensed, professional chimney sweep.



USE DAMPERS

When the fireplace is not in use, it is important to keep the cold out of your home. One way to do this is by closing your fireplace damper.

When burning a fire, the damper needs to remain open. The damper is a hinged metal plate just above the chimney's throat. It controls the flow of air and smoke through the fireplace and up the chimney.

If you couple this damper with a chimney cap damper, which closes at the top of the chimney, the two greatly reduce the amount of air that can enter or leave the flue, especially conditioned air during the summer. The chimney cap damper should remain open during the winter, when a fire is burning or when one might be burned.



SEASONED FIREWOOD

To get the best results, you need to burn the right wood. What does that mean?

For the most efficient fires, whatever the variety of firewood you burn, it's important it is seasoned—in other words, dried.

A fresh-cut tree is full of moisture and can be frustrating to burn. It could cause

creosote buildup on the inside of your chimney, leading to potential chimney fires.

Seasoned wood is dried for six to nine months, which allows the moisture to dissipate. Seasoned hardwood, such as oak, burns hotter and longer and gives off more heat than softwoods, such as pine.





The enchanted CEO

By Charise Swanson

New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives

Celebrating National Co-op Month: The Power of Cooperatives in Rural Communities

October was a month of many hues: the changing leaves, the shorter days, and the onset of cooler nights. It is a special month for us at New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives. It was National Co-op Month, a time when we come together to celebrate cooperatives' spirit, values and impact.

With its expansive landscapes and rural heart, New Mexico epitomizes cooperatives' very need and relevance. These organizations stand as a beacon of hope and progress in areas where other corporations may hesitate to venture.

Why are distribution cooperatives so important, especially to rural communities? The answer lies in the seven foundational cooperative principles.

A Brief Look Back

The cooperative movement traces its beginnings to 1844 in Rochdale, England. Charles Howarth and 27 other artisans laid down seven principles, which—like a compass—have ensured that cooperatives around the world stay true to their mission. By 1874, these principles found their way to the United States, introduced by the National Grange, and formally written down by the International Cooperative Alliance in 1937.

The 7 Cooperative Principles

1. Open and Voluntary Membership: Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control: Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote), and cooperatives at other levels are organized democratically.

3. Members' Economic Participation: Members contribute equitably to and democratically control the capital of their cooperative. Part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence: Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations—including governments—or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Training, and Information: Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected



Columbus Electric Co-op lineworkers visited Animas Public Schools, where students tried on gear, climbed poles, loosened a hotline clamp and more.

representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community: While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

These guiding principles, accompanied by cooperative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity, are the lifeblood of our NM Electric Cooperatives. They are complemented by the ethical values we uphold: honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others.

As we step into November and the beginning of the holiday season, let us take a moment to reflect on the transformative power of cooperation. In New Mexico and beyond, electric cooperatives light up homes, power dreams and—most importantly—build communities. By understanding and embracing the essence of these seven cooperative principles and values, we ensure that the journey ahead remains bright and the path we tread benefits all. Here's to the cooperative spirit: the heart and soul of our rural communities! 🇺🇸

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Kitchen Cooktop Options

By Miranda Boutelle

Q: I'm considering a new stovetop. Can you explain the different options available?

A: I have found that most people who enjoy cooking have strong opinions about their preferred cooking fuel choice: gas or electric. Induction is a newer option for home stovetops, which is growing in popularity.

According to a study by the Electric Power Research Institute, 74% of the energy from an electric range is transferred to food, versus 40% on a gas range. Induction cooktops are the most efficient option at 90% energy transferred to food. For all three, right-sizing pots and pans to the burner is important to avoid wasting energy.

Electric cooktops are a tried-and-true option for many homes. They are typically the most affordable option. Glass top models offer a cleaner look than the traditional coil elements and are easier to clean but tend to be a bit more expensive. The most common complaint about electric cooking is that the heating controls are not as fast or precise.

Many home chefs prefer gas stovetops because you can see the size of the flame, a visual clue that helps you control your cooking temperature. Temperature adjustments are also faster and more precise than on electric stovetops. There are some concerns with safety and indoor air quality associated with gas stoves because gas emissions can be harmful to your health. To help reduce indoor air pollution, always use your exhaust fan when using your gas stovetop. Ideally, your exhaust fan should be vented to the exterior of the home.

Access is also a consideration. Natural gas is typically available in more populated areas, while rural customers might need a propane storage tank installed outside their homes to have a gas stove.

An induction stovetop can offer a higher-end cooking experience than a standard electric stovetop. Some people prefer it to cooking on gas.

Induction stovetops use electromagnetic energy to heat the pan, reducing energy waste. Instead of heating the stove's surface, they heat the pans themselves. Because the pans heat directly, you don't have to wait for the heat to transfer like you do with gas and electric stovetops, resulting in faster cooking times. They also allow for more precise temperature control, which can deliver better results.

Cool burners offer additional safety benefits. You don't have the indoor air quality issues associated with gas, and they won't ignite




Induction stovetops use electromagnetic energy to heat the pan, reducing energy waste. PHOTO BY ELA HANEY/PEXELS

items such as dishrags or paper left on the stovetop.

Induction cooktops are typically more expensive than similar gas or electric models. They also require you to use specific cookware. Stainless steel and cast-iron cookware are both compatible with induction cooktops. Do the magnet test if you want to test your pots and pans to see if they are induction compatible. If a magnet sticks to the bottom of the pan, it will work on an induction stove.

Cooking on induction can take a little time to get used to, but many people have made the switch and enjoy the experience.

If you are remodeling and have a gas range, consider running electrical connections to support an induction cooktop in case you change your mind in the future. Setting up the power supply during a remodel can offer significant savings.

If you are considering making the switch, keep an eye on any incentives for your state or region. A rebate for replacing your gas stove with an electric one may be available under the Inflation Reduction Act, depending on your state and income level. 



Miranda Boutelle has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy. She has worked on energy-efficiency projects from the Midwest to the West Coast. Today, Miranda is chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy-efficiency company.

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Mobility issues affect over 1 in 5 Americans. These individuals, and their loved ones, know how decreased mobility can result in loss of independence, pain and falling hazards. They are often stuck at home, missing out on a variety of activities, in a vicious cycle that diminishes their quality of life. In the past, mobility devices like scooters and power chairs were too heavy and bulky to transport easily. Now, carbon fiber material invented for the aerospace program has been used to create the ultimate mobility device. It's called the Journey Air Elite ... and there's nothing else like it on earth.

At only 26 pounds*, the Journey Air Elite combines lightweight portability with world class performance. It's simple to use joystick and powerful dual-motor drive system enables you to zip around quickly and safely. It's easy to maneuver, never tips, fits easily through doorways, and can go right up to a table or desk.



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The Andromeda Deep Field, photographed by the Hubble Space Telescope in early 2003. COURTESY TOM BROWN (SPACE TELESCOPE SCIENCE INSTITUTE), NASA AND ESA.

Planets Passing Through the Night

Our solar system's two largest worlds inhabit evening skies during the closing months of 2023. During November, Saturn is high in the south as darkness falls. It gradually sinks lower to the horizon, and by the end of the year will set during the mid-evening hours.

Jupiter, meanwhile, is at opposition—directly opposite the sun in the sky—on November 2. It will shine brilliantly throughout most of the night, although by year's end it will set in the west by mid-morning.

A third planet, Mercury, makes a brief appearance in our evening sky in early December, but even at its best will be low in the west during dusk.

Venus gleams brilliantly in our eastern skies throughout these final months of the year, rising up to two hours before the beginning of dawn for most of this time. By year's end, Venus starts to move over onto the far side of the sun and gradually begins sinking lower in the east. It remains visible for the first few months of 2024 before disappearing into the dawn.

The Geminid meteor shower reaches its peak on December 14 and 15. The Geminids are one of the strongest of the

annual meteor showers, and under good conditions can produce up to 100 or more meteors per hour. Since we will be just past the new moon for this year's shower, the conditions should be quite favorable for a good display.

It is conceivable that there could be a strong meteor shower coming from the constellation Andromeda on December 2. However, this is only about five days after the full moon so moonlight would probably interfere with viewing any shower that does occur.

During this time of year, the Milky Way—the combined light of multitudes of distant stars in the plane of our galaxy—arches high in our northern sky through the constellations of Cassiopeia and Perseus and then drops southward in our eastern sky through the constellations of Auriga and Gemini, north and east of the prominent constellation Orion. Along this part of the Milky Way, we are looking out, away from the center of our galaxy. Thus these regions aren't as prominent as the Milky Way regions we see during the summer.

Also in this part of the sky is the large galaxy in the constellation Andromeda

(cataloged under the designation M31). It can be pretty easily seen with the unaided eye from relatively dark sites. M31 is the closest “large” galaxy to our own, at a distance of 2.5 million light-years, and in a few billion years' time will merge with our own. 🌌

Enchanted Journeys

November 4

Edgewood Lions Club 16th Annual Holiday Craft Show

About 50 artists and crafters come together at Edgewood Middle School.

The event runs from 9 a.m. through 3 p.m., A donation of a jar of peanut butter for local food pantries is requested.

For more information, call Debbie Bryan at 505-922-5782.

ALL-NEW mobility technology

Introducing the world's lightest mobility scooter with anti-tip technology

The So Lite® Scooter is easy to transport and almost impossible to tip over.

Like millions of older Americans, I struggle with mobility. For years, I watched my quality of life slip away, as I was forced to stay home while friends and family took part in activities I'd once enjoyed. I thought I'd made some progress when I got a mobility scooter, but then I realized how hard it was to transport. Taking it apart and putting it back together was like doing a jigsaw puzzle. Once I had it disassembled, I had to try to put all of the pieces in the trunk of a car, go to wherever I was going, and repeat the process in reverse. Travel scooters were easier to transport, but they were uncomfortable and scary to drive, I always felt like I was ready to tip over. Then I found the **So Lite® Scooter**. Now there's nothing that can hold me back.

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a scooter that's designed with seniors in mind. They created Electronic Stability Control (ESC) that makes it virtually impossible to tip over. If you try to turn too quickly, the scooter automatically slows down to prevent it from tipping over. The battery provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the **So Lite® Scooter** is the most portable scooter ever—but it can hold up to 275



*Do not attempt

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- Lightweight yet durable
- Folds and locks in seconds
- Easier to operate

pounds—yet weighs only 40.8 pounds without the battery! What's more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat, trunk or even on an airplane. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. Best of all, it's designed with your safety in mind, from the newest technology and superior craftsmanship. Why spend another day letting your lack of mobility ruin your quality of life? Call now and find out how you can get a **So Lite® Scooter** of your very own.



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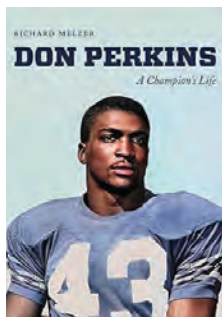


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**Don Perkins:
A Champion's
Life**

Richard Melzer—distinguished author and regents professor emeritus of history at the University of New Mexico's

Valencia Campus—offers an intimate and comprehensive exploration of the life of Don Perkins. Don was an iconic athlete who left an indelible mark on both the University of New Mexico and the Dallas Cowboys.

Richard delves into the complexities of Don's life—the racial discrimination, personal loss and injuries sustained during his football career—as well as his many triumphant moments in sportscasting, public speaking and even amateur theater.

Despite his extraordinary life, Don remained a humble and beloved figure. Richard delivers a fitting posthumous tribute to this remarkable individual.

By Richard Melzer
University of New Mexico Press
Available at Amazon.com



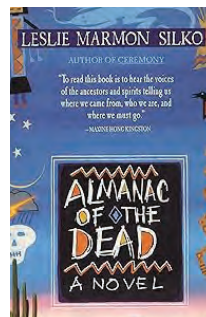
Tumble

This captivating young adult novel follows the journey of Adela Ramírez, a 12-year-old girl living in New Mexico with her mom. Adela faces a life-altering decision when

her stepfather, Alex, seeks to adopt her, leading her to grapple with her feelings about her biological father giving up his parental rights.

As Adela embarks on a quest to uncover her father's identity and the reasons behind his disappearance, readers go headlong into a heartwarming and adventurous journey filled with mystery, family dynamics and personal growth. The book was picked as New Mexico's Great Read in the children's category in the Library of Congress's 2023 National Book Festival.

By Celia C. Pérez
Kokila
Available at Barnes & Noble



**Almanac
of the Dead**

Leslie Marmon Silko's iconic "Almanac of the Dead" is both sweeping and monumental as it traverses time and cultures, weaving a complex tapestry of

characters and narratives.

At its heart is the enigmatic Seese, a survivor of the volatile world of drug dealing. Seese embarks on a journey back to the Southwest in search of her missing child. Along her path, she encounters Lecha, a renowned psychic burdened by the consequences of her fame in her duty is to transcribe the ancient Native American Almanac of the Dead, a painful record of her people's history.

Leslie's work is a grand exploration of the clash between Native American traditions and contemporary society, spanning five centuries and encompassing themes of resistance, identity and the endurance of cultural heritage. With a MacArthur Fellowship supporting her, Leslie experimented with unconventional characterization, infusing her novel with many original and colorful characters.

Her approach breathes life into the historical narrative, creating a story that feels alive and bound by a different sense of time and history. The work is an enduring testament to her position as a significant contemporary Native American writer.

By Leslie Marmon Silko
Penguin Books
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ADOBE STOCK PHOTO
BY MOTIZOVA

SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



Centuries ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest— but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

We found a limited supply of turquoise from Arizona and purchased it for our *Sedona Turquoise Collection*. Inspired by the work of those ancient craftsmen and designed to showcase the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features



a unique, one-of-a-kind matrix surrounded in Bali metalwork. You could drop over \$1,200 on a turquoise pendant, or you could secure 26 carats of genuine Arizona turquoise for **just \$99**.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you aren't completely happy with your purchase, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

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Jewelry Specifications:

• Arizona turquoise • Silver-finished settings

Sedona Turquoise Collection

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ABOVE: Farmers' Electric participates the Clovis Christmas light parade.
TOP: Sierra Electric staff help light 2,000 luminaries at Elephant Butte State Park.

Co-ops Power the Holidays

New Mexico's rural electric cooperatives spread holiday cheer throughout the year

Story by Dixie Boyle

The holiday season in New Mexico is a festive time of sharing the seasonal traditions—lighting luminaries, Christmas caroling, making biscochitos and posole, stringing Christmas lights and eating turkey with family and friends. The season is also a time of giving and sharing with those less fortunate.

New Mexico's Rural Electrical Cooperatives, generally known for supplying electricity and fixing power outages, also help with community events during the holiday season. It donates to food banks, families in need, Toys for Tots, veteran programs and food and clothing drives. They also participate in community events like Christmas light parades.

Sierra Electric Co-op staff and members spend endless hours helping to light more than 3,000 luminaries each holiday season at Elephant Butte State Park on the second Saturday in December. Luminaries line paths on the beach leading to campsites where people congregate to enjoy the lights while partaking in posole, cocoa, cookies and holiday greetings. All donations received at the event go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Employees of Roosevelt Electric Cooperative in Portales donate money out of their pockets each year to a family in need identified by the local school system. The employees purchase food, clothing and presents so the family can enjoy the holiday season.

Most co-ops participate in community annual Christmas light parades by decorating their bucket trucks and company vehicles with colorful displays.

Farmers' Electric Co-op in Clovis has gone all-out for the annual light parade for more than 30 years. They participate in the



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Otero County Electric hosts a trunk-or-treat event. Central New Mexico Electric participates in a local light parade. Central New Mexico Electric hosts a trunk-or-treat night for Halloween.

Christmas Light Parade every year, which they have won at least 20 times. The co-op enjoys friendly competition with other community businesses.


Not only do electric cooperatives donate time to community events throughout the year, they also sponsor many events. They sponsor education foundation scholarships and contribute to the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, allowing high school students to visit Washington, D.C. New Mexico co-ops also sponsor a yearly safety coloring contest, career fairs and student internship programs. Northern Rio Arriba Electric Co-op, in Chama, hosts an annual golf tournament to raise scholarship money for local high school students.

Cooperatives also provide aid to one another in times of need. Northern Rio Arriba Electric was a drop-off point for food, clothing and supplies for those impacted by of the Calf Canyon/ Hermits Peak Fire.

Trunk-or-treat tailgating parties have become a popular trend. Many of the state's rural electric companies open their parking lots to children, providing a safe location for them to receive

Halloween candy. These events offer another way for electric cooperatives to connect with their communities.

A full agenda of holiday events is planned throughout New Mexico this holiday season. The small town of Madrid lights up the town during the holidays, as does Ruidoso's Festival of Lights Parade. Tularosa had one of the first luminaria tours in the state, and the event continues to grow, as does Taos' Yuletide festivities and Gallup's annual light parade.

From Albuquerque's historic Old Town & Country Club Luminaria Tour to Carlsbad's Christmas on the Pecos, the holidays in New Mexico are a magical time for sharing holiday traditions with family and friends. 

Change Your Clocks; Change Your Batteries

The first Sunday in November—November 5 this year—marks the end of daylight saving time, when we set our clocks back one hour. It is also a great day to change the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors—even if the batteries are not dead.

If you do not have smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, your family is at risk. The detectors loudly warn you if smoke or gas is present in your home so you can get out.

Carbon monoxide is a clear, odorless

gas that is deadly but hard to detect. If you don't have a detector, it is unlikely you will know if your home has a CO leak.

Carbon monoxide does not come just from cars. Gas furnaces or stoves are also potential sources.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers these tips:

- Properly adjust gas appliances.
- Use electric space heaters, not gas space heaters.
- Install an exhaust fan, vented to the outdoors, above a gas stove.
- Open flues when wood-burning fireplaces are in use.
- Choose properly sized woodstoves with tight-fitting doors certified to meet EPA emission standards.
- Every year, have a trained professional inspect, clean and tune up your central heating system, including furnaces, flues and chimneys. Repair leaks promptly.
- Do not idle your car inside the garage. ^e



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Power Pole Clutter

Flyers, satellite dishes, posters, basketball hoops, decorative lights, even hunting stands. You name it, someone has tried to staple, nail or tie it to a power pole. Here's a quick look at the dangers and pitfalls associated with unauthorized pole attachments.

Illegal

Many state and local laws and the National Electrical Safety Code prohibit any unauthorized items on poles. Utilities can face fines if these attachments aren't removed.



Pole Damage

Even small holes can allow moisture and insects past the pole sealant, which can shorten the life of the pole or weaken it and cause it to fall in a storm.



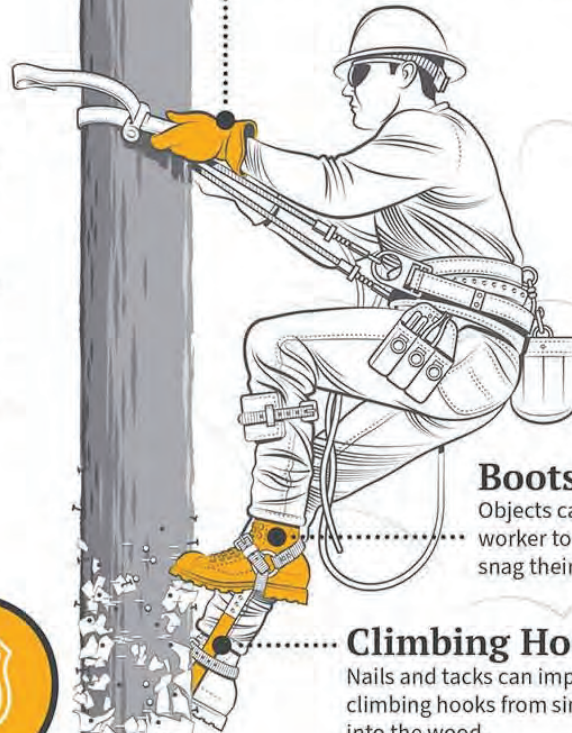
Hinders Repairs

Posters and flyers can hide identifying markers on poles and slow repair work.



Gloves

Staples, tacks and nails can puncture a lineworker's insulated rubber gloves and expose them to electric shock.



Boots

Objects can cause a worker to fall if they snag their boots.

Climbing Hooks

Nails and tacks can impede climbing hooks from sinking into the wood.



Dangerous

A person who gets too close to energized lines while attaching an object can be electrocuted.



Distraction

Some materials posted on poles, like mirrors or holiday decorations, can be a distraction to drivers.

Source: NRECA; Design: Jeff Dionise



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Holiday-Inspired Treats

Each holiday season is an opportunity for chefs of all ages to shine as family meals and gifts are lovingly prepared.

Stumped with what to bring as a side dish to celebrations? Try our green beans and squash as an alternative to customary green bean dishes. It's easy to prepare, and studies show green beans benefit heart health as well as vision. Squash is high in antioxidants and rich in calcium.

Wondering what to do with all that leftover turkey? Our BBQ sweet and tangy turkey sliders pack in a little spice as well as a delightfully different taste after Thanksgiving fare.

We didn't forget *enchantment* magazine's fifth annual Gifts-From-The-Kitchen recipe offerings with hearty pumpkin bread with maple cream cheese glaze. Pumpkin bread is a staple at holiday gatherings and is wonderful as a gift in prepared canning jars.

Happiest of holidays!



Sue Hutchison was born and raised a block from the freeway in Southern California. She had an early start with industrial, large-scale cooking before age 20. She's always been both a beach bum and at home in the kitchen, where she enjoys making new creations.

BBQ Sweet & Tangy Turkey Sliders

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 package sweet Hawaiian dinner rolls | 1½ cups applesauce |
| 3 cups cooked, shredded turkey | 1 cup apple juice |
| 1 tablespoon chili powder | ½ teaspoon dried thyme |
| 1 teaspoon paprika | 1 cup prepared barbecue sauce |
| 1 yellow onion, sliced thin | 1 cup grated cheddar cheese |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced | 1 cup grated mozzarella cheese |

Spray the crock of a slow cooker with cooking spray. Place turkey, spices, onion, garlic in crock and gently stir to incorporate.

Pour applesauce and apple juice on top and gently stir. Add barbecue sauce on top of the turkey mixture.

Cover crock and set slow cooker to low. Cook 3-4 hours. To serve, split dinner rolls and layer cheddar cheese, turkey mixture and mozzarella cheese on each. Serve warm.



Green Beans and Squash

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 2 tablespoons butter | 1 medium red shallot, wedge-sliced |
| 1 20-ounce bag frozen green beans | 1 teaspoon dried basil |
| 1 10-ounce bag frozen squash, or 1 large fresh yellow squash, sliced thin | ½ teaspoon dill seed |
| | ½ teaspoon salt |
| | ½ teaspoon pepper |

In a heavy skillet, melt butter. Add squash and cook until soft. Add green beans, shallot, basil, dill seed, salt and pepper. Stir to incorporate. Cook until beans are softened and fragrant. Serve warm.



Pumpkin Bread with Maple Cream Cheese Glaze

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bread | 1 cup chopped walnuts, if desired |
| 3½ cups flour | Prepared whipped topping, if desired |
| 1 teaspoon salt | Glaze |
| 2 teaspoons baking soda | 3 ounces cream cheese, softened |
| 1 teaspoon baking powder | 1 teaspoon maple flavoring |
| 2 tablespoons pumpkin pie spice mix | ½ teaspoon vanilla extract |
| ½ cup water | 2 cups powdered sugar |
| 2½ cups sugar | 3 tablespoons heavy cream |
| ⅔ cup vegetable oil | |
| 4 eggs, slightly beaten | |
| 2 cups canned pumpkin | |

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Prepare two loaf pans with baking spray and dust with flour.

In a large bowl, stir flour, salt, baking soda, baking powder and pumpkin pie spice mix until mixed.

In a smaller bowl, mix water, sugar, vegetable oil, eggs and pumpkin with whip. Mix until smooth.

In two additions, mix pumpkin mix into flour mix, using whip until well incorporated.

Stir in walnuts and divide batter into prepared loaf pans. Bake for 50-60 minutes or until bread is risen and a toothpick comes out clean.

While the bread is baking, prepare glaze. Using a hand mixer, blend cream cheese until smooth. Add maple and vanilla flavoring.

Slowly mix in powdered sugar until smooth. Add enough cream to make the glaze pourable.

Remove baked bread and cool on wire rack for 10 minutes before inverting and removing the loaves from their pans. Slice, add glaze and serve warm. Dust with nutmeg, if desired.

To create gifts: Crumble one slice pumpkin bread into the bottom of a wide-mouthed canning jar, drizzle glaze and layer with whipped topping. Create two layers, affix lid and add desired décor.



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FOR SALE - DIAMOND PLASTIC 6", 80 PSI, PLASTIC IRRIGATION PIPE, 924 feet at \$3.25 per foot. NRCS EQUIP approved. Call 575-613-0976 for more information.

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CUERVO, 0000 1 AND 2 MESITA PASS ROAD, MESITA RANCH SUBDIVISION, TRACT 9, SOLD (143.36 acres, \$1,350,000) and **TRACT 10 SOLD** (140.02 acres, \$830,000). Opportunity for competitive horse sale. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. **www.bigmesarealty.com**

TUCUMCARI, 0000 QUAY ROAD, 63.4, two one acre lots sold together, \$12,500. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

TEXICO, 2436 STATE ROAD 108, 7.2 acres with two story home and three car detached garage. Carpet and flooring upgrades. \$210,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

HISTORIC HOME/BUSINESS IN LINCOLN, NM, 5-bedroom, 2-bath home totally renovated, 3,450 sq. ft. Prior to Covid was operated as a small restaurant, gift shop and B&B. Turn-key operation. 2.56 acres with water rights. Contact Lincoln County Realty at 575-808-0607 for more information.

ONE OF A KIND!!! This manufactured home has a great spacious floor plan, on 1.6 acres with many very large shade trees, a shop and is fenced for your pets or animals. Tape and texture walls and decorative cabinet accents in the entry and hallway set this home apart. City water and natural gas connected, septic tank. There is also a solid fiberglass green house!! Located at 101 Salado Road in Capitan, NM. Call Rye for your showing at 575-430-0777 or the office at 575-258-8656. www.ziarealestate.com

OLD RAMAH POST OFFICE FOR SALE OR RENT. Heart of Indian country. Main street location. Beams, plank floors and wrap around old style portal. On demand hot water heater, gas heat. Well and city water. Used as a trading post, real estate office, food market. Perfect for art gallery or coffee shop. Insulated shipping container on included adjacent lot. \$195,000. or make offer. Call 505-470-0450 for more information.

CHAMA, COMMERCIAL ZONED, US 64/84 FRONTAGE. Custom Swedish Cope full log home, 2,680 sq. ft. on 1.46 acres. Retail/office with live/work possibilities. Excellent access. \$539,500. Call 505-249-4415 for more information.

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Vehicles

FOR SALE - '64 CHEVY TRUCK, new tires, rebuilt engine and transmission. Needs assembly. All original body parts available. \$4,000. ALSO, 2021 FORD F-150 LARIAT, 21,000 miles, fully loaded. \$48,000. Call 505-788-2311 for more information.

1997 FORD EXPLORER. Located in the Moriarty area. \$2,500. Call 505-553-1643 for more information.

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CLASSIC VEHICLE PROJECTS AND ENGINES - 1953 Ford F-100 with flathead V8 complete but needs restoration; 1956 Ford F-100 cab and front end, has rebuilt 296 Y-block and automatic transmission, good for parts or can be restored; 1979 Chevy cab and front end, clean frame; 1977 Chevy 250, 6 cylinder, engine complete with 3-speed transmission; 1957 Ford 296 Y-block, needs to be rebuilt; 1972 TransAm hood. Call Andy at 505-753-4271 for more information.

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FOR SALE - 2019 COUGAR FIFTH WHEEL, kept in barn. Call 575-742-6500 for more information.

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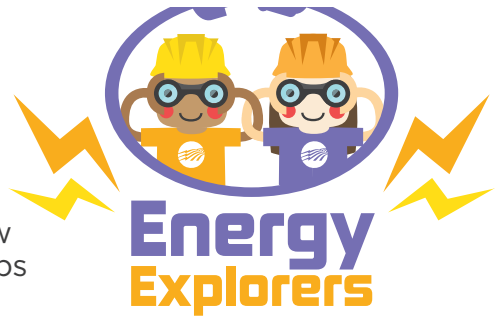
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THE STEPS TO RESTORING POWER

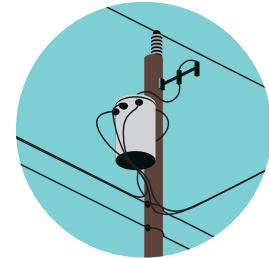
When the power goes out, line crews work hard to restore electricity as quickly and safely as possible. To ensure the process is done efficiently, line crews follow specific steps to restore power. Can you order the steps below to match how power is restored?

Hint: Check your work in the answer key.



STEP #

Tap lines are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers that are either mounted on utility poles or placed on pads for underground electric service.



STEP #

Distribution power lines are inspected. These are the lines you typically see on the side of the road that deliver power to communities.



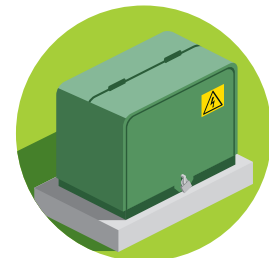
STEP #

Large, high-voltage transmission lines are inspected for damage. These power lines deliver large amounts of electricity over great distances.



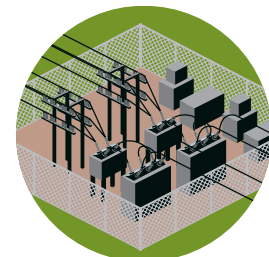
STEP #

Service lines are inspected. These are the power lines that run **between the transformer and your home.**



STEP #

Distribution substations are inspected. These facilities lower the voltage of power, then send power to distribution lines.



Answer Key: 4, 3, 1, 5, 2



SMART WAYS TO SAVE

Use new technology to improve energy efficiency and lower electric bills

By Franklin Thurlow

Electricity is such a large part of our daily lives that we use it without thinking about it. Whether switching on a light to see better, plugging in our phones to charge, starting a load of laundry or turning on the TV to watch our favorite shows, we rarely realize how often we use electricity—until our electric bill arrives. It never feels good to pay for something you don't remember using, but there are solutions to lower your electric bill.

A common lament of homeowners is

their electric bills still seem high when they aren't home actively using electricity. Remember, even when the house is empty, appliances still use electricity.

"Heating and cooling are typically the highest energy use in a home. Thermostat settings are a good area to address, as that's something people can easily control," says Miranda Boutelle, chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group. "The Department of Energy has recommendations for vacation settings that work well."

Installing a smart thermostat is one

way to get the most energy savings. The device takes the guesswork out of setting the thermostat by allowing users to enable vacation mode, which turns the thermostat up or down a few degrees while running the heat or air conditioner at regular intervals. Smart thermostats can be programmed to adjust throughout the day, making it an easy way to save energy when you're away from home.

If you have a manual thermostat, setting the temperature 5 degrees warmer in the summer or cooler in the winter than you normally do will have the same effect.

"Essentially, you don't want to heat the home or to cool the home more than necessary when you're not there," Miranda says. "You don't need to heat or cool for comfort."

When talking with neighbors about electric bills, people are sometimes confused about why their bills are higher than those near them. Many factors contribute to the amount of energy used in individual homes.

"A lot of people don't know or pay attention to their energy use, especially if they have auto pay or equal pay billing," Miranda says. "So they may think it's lower than it is."

A neighbor isn't necessarily the most reliable comparison. The number of people in the household, how often they're

A smart thermostat paired with a smartphone app can help you manage the energy used to heat or cool your home, which can help you save energy and money. PIXABAY
PHOTO BY KAROLINA GRABOWSKA

home, the appliances they run and the size of the house all factor into the amount of kilowatt-hours—a measurement of electricity—used each month.

“Instead of comparing to your neighbor, I recommend comparing your energy use from the previous years or the previous months while considering changes in weather and lifestyle,” Miranda says. “Focus on the kilowatt-hours used rather than the cost, and that will help you understand your energy use.”

Another area of confusion for homeowners occurs during the changing of seasons. Even without an adjustment to the thermostat, electricity use can go up.

“Even if your thermostat stays at a constant temperature, the change in weather outside causes the heater or air conditioner to work harder to maintain your thermostat set point,” Miranda says. “So even if you don’t change a thing, it runs longer to keep things heated or cooled, using more energy.”

Recommended thermostat settings are 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer. If this is uncomfortable, consider each degree you raise the thermostat in the summer and lower in the winter can save 3% or more on heating and cooling costs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Coming in as the second-highest energy user in a typical home, your water heater is another great place to find savings. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends a setting of 120 degrees. Most water heaters also have a vacation mode, which helps save more when you are away.

If you have any questions regarding your bill, don’t hesitate to contact your electric utility.

“The spirit of public power utilities is to help their consumers as much as possible,” Miranda says. “So don’t feel hesitant about reaching out.” 📧



APPS

to Help Save Energy

There are many reasons people are interested in cutting back on energy consumption. Some are primarily motivated to save on their monthly energy bills, while others may be more concerned about reducing their carbon footprints.

Regardless of your interest in using less energy, several smartphone apps can help.

Smart thermostat apps. Yes, to use a smart thermostat app, you must purchase a smart thermostat. But heating and cooling make up a large portion of the average home’s energy consumption, so saving on heating and cooling can greatly impact bills. Smart thermostats and accompanying apps are handy and promote energy-efficient behavior—and these devices have become much more affordable. You can buy an Energy Star-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, saving you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. The device will quickly pay for itself, and you’ll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home. Plus, controlling the thermostat from anywhere can equate to real savings.

Energy cost calculators. If you want to reduce energy use at home, knowing your consumption is important. Energy cost calculators can help pinpoint your energy use with a few simple steps and identify areas to save. The concept is pretty simple: plug in the wattage of your various

appliances and how often you use them to see which are using the most energy. Most energy cost calculator apps are free and can be downloaded to any Apple or Android device. If you browse the app store, you’ll find multiple energy cost calculator apps, but most are similar in functionality. Read the apps’ reviews and download the one that best aligns with your energy-efficiency goals.

JouleBug app. If you’re competitive and enjoy gamifying, the JouleBug app is right up your alley. JouleBug makes energy conservation simple and fun through personal tasks and badges earned within the app, group challenges you can tackle with friends and communities you can join to learn about local sustainability efforts. The JouleBug app is free and can be downloaded to Apple or Android devices, and it’s an easy tool to make saving energy fun.

These are just a few apps that can help you find new energy-saving ways. Smart lightbulbs are typically paired with apps for convenient control of home lighting; smart plugs also come with apps to help you control how you power everyday devices and electronics.

Whether you use an app or not, saving energy is always a smart idea that can help you save money on your monthly bills and reduce your carbon footprint.

Shining a Light on *Electricity*

Knowing which appliances use the most energy can empower you to save money

By Tolu Omotoso

You are not alone if you have ever received your energy bill and wondered, “Which home appliances use the most energy?”

A few years ago, after being away for a lengthy trip, I arrived home to a typical energy bill. I was surprised because I expected a lower bill after being away from home. This led me to an enlightening journey in search of answers.

I started my quest on the Energy Information Administration’s website—specifically, the Residential Energy Consumption Survey.

According to EIA, a typical U.S. home spends more than \$2,000 annually on energy bills. On average, more than half of household energy consumption is for two energy end uses: space heating and air conditioning.

This impressed on me the importance of adjusting my thermostat while I’m away for extended periods. It truly makes a difference on our monthly bills.

I learned water heaters tend to be the third-largest energy user at 13%, followed by lighting, which accounts for about 12.5% of the average energy bill.

Once I understood the factors driving my energy consumption, I was able to change some of my habits and



save money by using helpful devices, such as smart thermostats, water heater controllers and smart power strips.

Several factors affect the amount of energy a household uses, including geographic location and climate, the number of people in the home, the type of home and its physical characteristics. The efficiency of energy-consuming devices and the amount of time they are used also impact home energy consumption.

To save energy and reduce your monthly bill, the

following tips can help:

- Use Energy Star-rated appliances and devices.
- Replace old, inefficient equipment. For example, if your air conditioner, furnace or water heater is more than 10 years old, it likely is using a lot more energy than necessary. A newer model may end up saving you money in the long run.
- Use appliances with efficiency in mind. Only wash full loads of clothes or dishes. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the oven.




A smart or programmable thermostat, such as this model from ecobee, can help you manage energy used to heat or cool your home. That helps save energy and money. PHOTO BY SEAN D./UNSPASH



Electricity is essential for everyday life. When we think about all the ways we consume energy and actively try to be more efficient, we can lower our monthly bills. PHOTO BY BRUNO/PIXABAY

- Set your thermostat to scale back heating or cooling when you are asleep or away. When you are in the home and active, the Department of Energy recommends setting it to 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter. Aim for settings as close to those as possible to save energy.
- Use energy-efficient LED bulbs. They use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last 25 times longer.

- Plug electronics into a smart power strip, which allows you to designate “always on” for devices that need to maintain a network connection and cut power from devices such as speakers and TVs when they are not in use.

With a little extra attention to how you use energy in your home, you will be well on your way to a path of energy savings—and lower energy bills. 

When Shopping, Look for Energy Star Label

The key to making energy-efficient choices is to shop for the government-backed Energy Star label. The symbol for energy-efficiency information makes it easy for consumers and business owners to make well-informed decisions when it comes to buying products that save them money and protect the environment.



Since 1992, Energy Star and its utility, local, state, commercial and industrial partners have helped American families and businesses save 5 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity, avoid more than \$500 billion in energy costs and achieve 4 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas reductions.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ensures each product that earns the Energy Star label is independently certified to deliver efficiency performance and savings.

Americans bought more than 300 million Energy Star-certified products and more than 300 million Energy Star-certified lightbulbs in 2020. An average of 800,000 Energy Star-certified products were sold every day in 2020, bringing the total to more than 7 billion products sold since 1992.

Many utilities participate in incentive programs for Energy Star consumer products, offering discounts or rebates for qualified purchases.

Replacing older heating and cooling equipment with a properly sized and installed Energy Star-certified heating, ventilation and air conditioning system can save the average consumer about \$160 a year. Energy Star-rated smart thermostats can add another 8% to annual savings, and a heat pump water heater rated under the program can shave \$330 from annual utility costs.

Over the life of the program, every dollar EPA has spent on Energy Star has resulted in nearly \$350 in energy cost savings for American businesses and households. In 2020, Energy Star and its partners helped Americans save more than 520 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity and avoid \$42 billion in energy costs.

Ratings are updated regularly to account for design changes and improved efficiency. To access online tools and learn more about efficient appliances, home entertainment and personal communications devices, visit energystar.gov.

youth art

January Topic:

Happy New Year! Draw something you want to do in 2024!

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+ SAVE WITH AN AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP

The newest air-source heat pumps can be up to 300% more efficient than electric baseboard heat. They work in cold weather and can reduce your propane usage by 80% or more.

+ UPDATE YOUR ELECTRICAL PANEL

When increasing your home's energy efficiency, keep in mind that it may require a service panel upgrade. As you receive quotes for electrical equipment always be sure to ask for a load calculation to ensure your electrical panel can handle the new equipment.

To learn more about rebates and incentives for electrification programs, contact your local co-op or public power district. Visit us at www.tristate.coop/electrifyandsave



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