

# FEC® POWER

## Source

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## Make Energy Efficiency Part of Your New Year's Resolutions

Thankfully, no matter if you live in an apartment or house, there are several steps you can take to make your home more energy efficient. Doing so can reduce your energy usage and improve your comfort. Getting the job started isn't always easy, especially if you're not entirely sure where to begin. To help you build up your resolve, we've put together a list of New Year's Resolutions for energy efficiency in the home:

### 1) Switch Out Incandescent Bulbs (and CFL Bulbs) for LED Bulbs

- A 60 watt incandescent bulb that puts out about 800 lumens (brightness) will cost about \$7.50 a year using the bulb 3 hours a day.
- A 14 watt CFL that puts out the same amount of lumens, meanwhile, will cost about \$1.75 over the same amount of time.
- A comparable 8 watt LED bulb with superior light quality, will cost only about \$1 over the same period.
- \*If you have CFL bulbs, start learning more about LED bulbs and color temperature so you'll know the best ones to buy when your CFL bulbs burn out. Cheap CFL bulbs have a lifespan of about 2-5 years while EnergyStar LED bulbs last up to 20,000 hours or 18 years (burning 3 hours a day). Become familiar with the product's energy "nutritional" label on the box. The label will help you determine brightness, wattage, color, and the bulb's rated life expectancy.



Incandescent

**USES MOST  
SHORTEST LIFE**



CFL

**USES LESS  
LONGER LIFE**



LED

**USES LEAST  
LONGEST LIFE**

### 2) Seal Drafts and Cold Spots

Check entry doors for signs of drafts where cold air can leak into your home. This includes tightening loose door hinge screws and replacing worn, loose, or missing weatherstripping. Weatherstripping kits for doors and windows are inexpensive, and blocking drafts will help make your home feel more comfortable and keep it warmer.

Another thing you can do is to buy an inexpensive infrared thermometer and use it to detect temperature differences that indicate where drafts might be getting in, such as outlets,

light switches, or window frames.

### 3) Install Thermal-Backed Drapes and Curtains

In a typical single-family home, 25% to 35% of the heat is lost through windows at night. Insulated drapes can cut this loss by 25%. Opening these during the day lets in the warming sunshine. In summer, close the curtains on west facing windows to keep out the sun's intense summer heat.

### 4) Kill the Energy Vampires and Zombies

An energy vampire is anything like a power brick for a game console, battery charger, or any other kind of wall wart. These are inexpensive AC adapters that use transformers (induction coils) to convert wall current into low voltage DC. Even if you turn off the device or gadget, these power supplies stay on.

An energy zombie is any appliance that isn't ON,

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*Manager's Message...***Lance R. Adkins, GM****What is 30 by 30?**

**L**ast year I was invited to attend a regional meeting of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, held in Tucumcari. One of the featured topics was a presentation on a new federal initiative called the “30 by 30 Land Preservation Program.” In January of last year, President Biden issued Executive Order 14008 entitled “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.” In Section 216 of the Order, President Biden directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030. One primary goal of 30 by 30 is to set aside some 680 million acres of our Nation’s lands to be permanently preserved in its natural state, and to prevent the commercial use of these lands and their resources. Today, commercial leases on public lands are a critical component supporting our national economy and provides significant employment opportunities.

On August 25, 2021 New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued Executive Order 2021-052, endorsing the federal 30 by 30 program. Further, Governor Grisham expanded the federal program to include an additional 20 percent of lands and/or water resources to be designated as climate stabilization areas. Governor Grisham’s Order directs the Secretaries (or designees) of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Environment Department, Department of Agriculture, Office of the State Engineer, Indian Affairs Department, and the Directors (or designees) of the Department of Game and Fish and the Outdoor Recreation Division (collectively the “30 by 30 Committee”), to review and utilize existing authorities, funding, and programs within their respective Departments or Offices to support and implement programs designed to conserve, protect, and enhance lands and natural environments across the State.

While the goals identified in both Executive Orders sound great; and several hunting and outdoor recreation organizations initially endorsed the program, assuming additional lands would be open to recreational use, the Orders are long on promise and short on details. For Farmers’ Electric Cooperative (FEC), how will a transition from private land ownership to federal/state ownership and/or control impact FEC’s electric operations? At FEC, we are already keenly aware of the impacts of the Lesser Prairie Chicken across a significant portion of the Cooperative’s service territory through additional regulation, restrictions, and costs to extend and maintain lines, even across privately owned land.

In consideration of these concerns, the Board of Trustees (Board) of FEC have approved a formal Resolution stating our opposition to the Federal 30 by 30 Land Preservation Program and New Mexico Executive Order 2021-052. As stated in the Resolution, the Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, and cost-effective. It is critical that policies and goals that come from these Executive Orders be further defined and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities. FEC also opposes the use of global climate change as an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 by 30 and State program objectives.

Further, the Board maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired or imposed to fulfill the 30 by 30 program, and/or State program objectives, be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment of full, fair market value for all rights

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## EFFICIENCY RESOLUTION *from* PAGE 1

but it's also not OFF. Such devices linger in "standby mode" waiting for you to push a button to bring them to life. What's "standby mode?" Any remote-controlled device must use a tiny bit of electricity to power its receiver circuit so it can pick up a signal to turn on at your merest whim. The zombie horde includes, TVs, cable boxes, home theatre systems, game consoles, Blu-ray players, wireless printers and scanners, and more.

How do you beat back these ravenous energy monsters? Simply control them by using timers, smart power strips that turn off when levels fall to standby levels, smart outlets you can control with your smartphone, or just turn off the power to those that are plugged into a multi-outlet strip/surge arrestor.

### 5) Air Seal Your Attic

Air sealing means sealing electrical and plumbing holes in walls, between floors, and even in the lighting fixtures and wiring in your attic. This stops the flow of air from your home's conditioned living space out of your home, which can save an average of 11% or more off your energy costs. In particular, seal around the soil stack, lighting junction boxes, and install insulated covers for recessed lighting fixtures.

### 6) Add More insulation to Your Attic

By increasing the insulation amount from R11 (about 3 inches) to R49 (roughly 12" of cellulose or fiberglass batts), homeowners can save about \$300 a year on their heating and cooling bills. Needless to say, preparing for the job is of key importance, so make sure your attic has been thoroughly air sealed before you begin. Even though insulating is expensive, the job can be completed in stages. Simply begin by insulating over area that gets the most use and then build out from there.

### 7) Seal Your Duct Work

Unsealed or un-insulated ductwork loses up to 20% of the energy from your heating, ventilation, and air conditioner (HVAC) system. Worse still, if you

have unsealed return duct work passing through crawlspaces, your furnace may be blowing mold, mildew, and fungus spores throughout your home.

Sealing your duct work with aluminum duct tape or duct sealing mastic ensures that your HVAC system will blow the conditioned air where it's supposed to go. Sealing the return ductwork as well means the system will be able to pull air more efficiently from all the rooms of your home.

### 8) Stop Warm Air from Going Up the Flue

Fireplaces in winter might add warmth and charm to a room, but when they're not in use, you could be sending heated air out of your house

— even if you have closed the flue. Install a chimney-top damper that fully seals your chimney. It looks much like a hatch and uses a heat-resistant gasket. Another solution is to use an inflatable fireplace damper balloon or plug that gets stuffed up inside the chimney to reduce drafts.

### 9) Inspect Your Windows

Repair worn or cracked window glazing on older wood sash windows. Look for signs of moisture damage and rotten wood. If you discover a window that can't close properly or has damage to the window frame or sill holding the window in place, then it's time to replace it with one that's Energy Star qualified. Energy Star windows block solar heat gain in the summer, reflect radiant heat indoors during winter, and are designed to resist condensation problems. Powder-coated aluminum, high quality storm windows are a cheaper alternative to new windows.

### 10) Fix that Dripping Faucet

A leaky faucet that drips one drop per second will waste over 27,000 gallons of water in a single year. You probably wouldn't let a leak go for a full year, but it certainly puts a new perspective on that dripping noise! Save some water and preserve your sanity by fixing any leaky faucets in your house.



30 BY 30 from PAGE 2

and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion. It is critical that federal and state agencies analyze and consider the impacts of such land acquisitions and regulations on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of FEC's membership. FEC has sent copies of our Resolution to area governmental entities as well as state and federal agencies. We encourage other area organizations concerned about protecting private property rights to consider how best to express their concerns to elected officials locally, here in New Mexico, and to our federal congressional delegation.

A copy of the full FEC Resolution can be found on the FEC website, [fecnm.org](http://fecnm.org) under *News and Events*

### Scholarship Applications Available Now!

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541 or by going online to [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org). All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.



### New Mexico Youth Tour Cancelled

# 2022

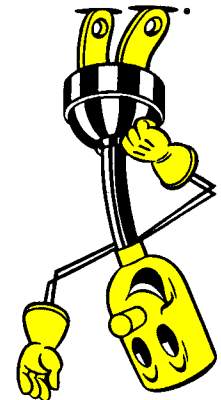


From a statement released by the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA): "At our November 2021 Board meeting, the Board of Directors voted to cancel our participation in the 2022 Government-in-Action Youth Tour due to health and safety concerns of our youth"

**Don't Delay! Deadline for Applications is February 1, 2022!**

As in the past, there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the "Graduating High School Student Application" or the "Returning College Application." Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org).

This year, the FEC Board of Trustees has authorized (63) \$1,000 scholarships and (1) \$2,000 Glenn Holland Memorial scholarship.



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