

# FEC® POWER

## Source

Vol. 26 No. 06s

Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer

## Money-Saving Tips for Summer Energy Bills

*Stay cool while saving energy and lowering your electric bill this summer with these energy-saving tips:*

**K**eep your window coverings closed during the day, especially on the east side in the morning hours and west side during the afternoon and evening hours. This helps prevent heat gain.



- Use a smart programable thermostat to control your home's temperature and use less energy while you're away.
- Use ceiling fans to help circulate air. Make sure they are rotating in a counterclockwise direction to create a comfortable downdraft. When you are going to leave a room for a time, turn them off.



- Schedule a yearly checkup and maintenance on your A/C unit by a competent HVAC contractor. Check and replace air filters regularly – at least every two months.

• Operate your thermostat efficiently. The smaller the difference between the outdoor and indoor temperatures, the less energy you will use.

- Use your bathroom fan to remove heat and

humidity after a shower or bath. Believe it or not, this is its primary intended use.

- Wash full loads of clothes and dishes. For the most part, an appliance like a clothes washer or a dishwasher will use the same amount of energy whether they are full or half full.
- On sunny days, line dry your clothes (they'll smell really good)
- When possible, wash clothes with cold water. Modern laundry detergent is formulated to work well in cold water.
- Avoid using the oven and stove by grilling outdoors or opt for a small indoor appliance like a microwave, air fryer, or indoor grill like a George Foreman Grill©
- Turn off lights when not in use



By applying these low-cost or no-cost energy saving tips, you will have a better chance at beating the heat this summer. Additionally, when winter hits, you'll be better prepared to combat those rising costs and won't be left out in the cold. For more ways to save, visit [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov).

Message from the CEO....



**Antonio Sanchez, Jr., CEO**

## ESG - Three Corporate Criteria of Importance

**E**nvironmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria are of increasing interest to companies, their investors and other stakeholders. With growing concern about the ethical status of quoted companies, these standards are the central factors that measure the ethical impact and sustainability of investment in a company.

**Environmental** – Here at FEC, we strive to minimize our impact to the environment by complying with the Energy Transition Act’s renewable portfolio standards. In 2021, FEC’s energy sales to our members were comprised of approximately 35% of generation created from renewable resources as provided by our wholesale power provider, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc. Our current requirement is 10% so we’re well above this minimum. In 2025, this changes to 40% but FEC expects to reach this standard earlier than required.



FEC works hard to comply with state and federal environmental, health and safety regulations in varying areas, including polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) management and spill prevention, control and countermeasure plans. FEC has an Avian Protection Plan in place that confirms our commitment to work cooperatively towards the protection of migratory birds. This includes a commitment by FEC to balance its goal of providing reliable electrical service in a cost-effective manner with the regulatory requirements protecting avian species, as well as the need to obtain and comply with all necessary permits, monitor incidents of avian mortality, and make reasonable efforts to construct and alter infrastructure to reduce the incidence of avian mortality.

**Social** – FEC supports and helps to improve the communities we serve and live in. The seventh Cooperative Principle, “Concern for Community,” says cooperatives work for the sustainable development of our communities through policies supported by the membership. The most important thing FEC does for the communities in which we serve is provide them with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. This is the foundation of our rural economies we serve, and it helps our members remain operational. In addition, FEC provides various rebates to our members. These consist of water heater and heat pump conversions from gas or propane to electric, the addition of insulation to a member’s residence, window retrofits with an energy star® rating, conversions from fluorescent lighting to LED as well as new, residential construction or additions that comply with FEC’s energy efficient guidelines.

See ESG on PAGE 3

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### POWER SOURCE

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We are on-call 24 hours each day, 365 days each year, to serve your electric power needs

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**Fort Sumner**  
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**Santa Rosa**  
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ESG from PAGE 2

FEC and its Board of Trustees also believes in supporting both our youth and other qualifying applicants. Through 2021, to further the education of its members, the Farmers’ Electric Education Foundation has successfully awarded 1,383 scholarships, totaling \$1,031,730. These monies come from donations and unclaimed capital credits.

**Governance**—FEC is a cooperative; owned by the members they serve. FEC has been member-owned and member-led for 84 years! FEC is a democratic organization, controlled by our members (Board of Trustees), who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote). As a cooperative, FEC strives to provide safe, reliable and affordable electrical service to the members they serve.

Until next month,

**Antonio Sanchez, Jr.**

**LIHEAP Still a Good Option for Energy Assistance**

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded state administered program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills. LIHEAP can help you stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. By doing so, you can reduce the risk of health and safety problems (such as illness, fire, or eviction).



To apply for LIHEAP go to [www.hsd.state.nm.us](http://www.hsd.state.nm.us). You can also call the New Mexico Human Services Department at 1 (800) 283-4465. Someone there can start the application process with you.

If you have a utility balance, have not applied for funds this year, and your household income falls within LIHEAP parameters, we urge you to apply today. There is a good chance they will be able to help you.

**DIYers:**  
**HOW SAFE IS YOUR WORKSHOP?**

Make these tips standard practice in your workshop:

<p>Inspect tools for damage before using them</p>	<p>Inspect cords and plugs for signs of wear</p>
<p>Use electrical outlets equipped with GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters)</p>	<p>Keep floors and areas as clean and dry as possible</p>
<p>Ensure cords are not a tripping hazard</p>	<p>Use a clamp or vise to secure whatever you are working on</p>
<p>Use the right tool for the job</p>	<p>Wear proper clothing for the task; avoid loose clothing or jewelry</p>
<p>Make sure your work area is well-lit</p>	<p>Use heavy-duty, properly rated extension cords</p>

## In the Cooperative Spirit, We Could Use Your Help...

Lately, we have noticed a few electric vehicles (EVs) driving around our service area. Someone asked a few days ago, “how many EVs do you think are owned and operated by our membership?” Those in the meeting all looked around at each other with blank faces. All we heard was crickets.



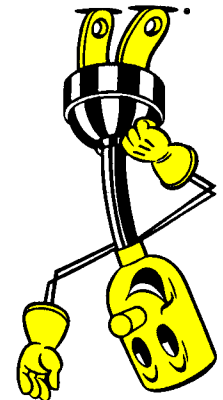
Therefore, we are reaching out to you all. If you own an EV or plug-in hybrid vehicle (HEV), or are considering ownership, we’d like to know. There are several reasons why this information (data) would be helpful:

- Which are more popular in our service area, EVs or HEVs?
- When are people doing most of their charging?
- What is their daily commute?
- Would a rate design around time-of-use be helpful to our EV and HEV members?

These are just the tip of the iceberg on things that might come out of our ability to know what’s out there. The more we know about our members’ needs, wants, and desires, when it comes to a daily commute vehicle, the better we may be able to assist them and help make their decision the best choice for them; whether the purchase has already been made or they are still “just looking.”



So, if you have an EV or HEV or are considering making that investment sooner than later, please take a few minutes out of your day and call us. Ask for someone in the Member Services Department **(800) 445-8541**. We would love to send you a quick 3-minute survey. If you are one of those shopping or thinking about it, we are always willing to answer any questions you might have about EVs or HEVs.



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