

# FEC® POWER

## Source

Vol. 28 No. 09/10

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

## Cold Temps Will Be Here Before You Know It – Be Prepared

Cold temperatures are just around the corner and Old Man Winter is expected to be particularly harsh this year. We understand you, our members, are concerned about the costs associated with staying warm whether you heat with electricity, natural gas, propane, wood, or a combination of these things. Here is a list of tips that can save money and take a bit of a chill off your winter heating bills.

**Lower the thermostat.** Did you know that heating your home can cost up to three times as much as cooling it? Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. For every degree above 68, you risk increasing the amount it cost you to heat your home by 8%. When you're away from home, you can drop the temperature for even more savings.



If you use a heat pump (with electric backup heat), increase the temperature in 2-degree increments to avoid your system from shifting into a more expensive mode (emergency heat strips).

**Seal in the heat.** Make sure all your windows and doors are properly sealed. Additionally, make sure they are shut good and tight. Weatherstripping and caulking can help lock in the heat and prevent cold air from entering. If in doubt, caulk. Even the most novice Do-It-Yourselfer can caulk around a window. There are many short and helpful videos on the internet. Blinds and drapes or curtains can also keep drafts at bay, particularly at night.

**Bundle up.** Cover up under your favorite blanket or throw. Even better, add a cup of something warm to help keep you cozy. Bundling up under a warm blanket will allow you to lower your thermostat even more. Electric blankets and electric throws take undercover time to another level all together. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, electric blankets are more cost-effective than space heaters.



**Use space heaters sparingly.** Space heaters should not be your primary heat source. They should be used as supplement heat. For instance: If you have turned down your primary heat source in the evening and you want to take the chill off, use space heaters as zone heaters. In this case, wherever you are parked, whether you are on the couch or your favorite chair taking in a movie or reading your favorite book, this zone would be ideal for a space heater. Running a 1500W (1.5 kW) space heater for two hours in the evening will cost approximately \$0.33/night. Not bad! However, if you



See **COLD TEMP PREP** on **PAGE 4**

Manager's Message...



**Antonio Sanchez, Jr., CEO**

**“Don’t Put All Your Eggs in One Basket”**

FEC has been participating in strategic planning sessions with Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), our Generation & Transmission entity with whom we have an all-power requirements contract with. These planning sessions pertain to future capacity needs and potential generation projects. One of the most recent discussions involves one of the greatest assets WFEC owns in their generation portfolio, the Hugo Power Plant - a coal-fired power plant with a maximum capacity of 446MW. Although it is fossil-fueled generation, it is dispatchable, reliable, and has helped us in times of need. As you may recall, in February 2021, a major

winter and ice storm (Storm Uri) rolled in that created a lot of planned generation to not be available due to the freezing of natural gas lines and water lines. Wind generation was minimal at this time because there was little to no wind available. Hugo was able to generate power at full capacity and helped to minimize power disruption during this time.

The federal government has implemented new rules that are targeting fossil fuel generation and requiring carbon capture and sequestration that will create net-zero emissions by no later than 2050. Their goal is to create a carbon free footprint with a major focus on renewable energy. The reality of this is that it will create the need for new generation resources to reach these mandates. New generation requires up to six years; from design to full operation for any potential projects that are to be constructed. This involves planning, permitting, easements, purchase of land and equipment, as well as interconnection studies performed by the Southwest Power Pool (regional transmission organization mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure and competitive wholesale electricity pricing). In other words, it will take a lot of time and effort to plan and implement new generation.

An alternative to owning generation is to enter into Purchase Power Agreements (PPAs) with entities that construct and maintain generation assets. These are typically long-term agreements (20+ years) with an agreed upon purchase price for energy. We’ve all heard the proverb, “don’t put all your eggs in one basket.” From a generation portfolio perspective, this would mean, make sure you have variation in the types of power generation that you have access to. We all know that renewables are not reliable at this time because the wind doesn’t always blow, the sun doesn’t shine 24 hours a day and there is not sufficient battery storage available. Therefore, for reliability, we still need fossil fuel generation. FEC’s portfolio is comprised of the various generation assets that WFEC owns and purchases out of the SPP market. WFEC, by legislative action, is required to satisfy FEC’s requirements as mandated by the Energy Transition Act.

Planning for future generation is a very important item on the agendas of all electric utilities. Keeping up with the ever-changing political directives is a challenge to say the least. These changes cannot happen overnight and the drive to do it so quickly can be compared to driving in the fog, at night, at very high speed. Yes, it’s dangerous and destined to end in a wreck if we don’t slow down. FEC has remained engaged at the generation level of discussions as well as at the political level (statewide legislation) in an effort to ensure compliance and assurance that we continue to provide safe, reliable, and affordable service to all our members!

Should you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact us and we’ll do our best to assist you.



**Board of Trustees:**



**Mike West**  
Trustee Dist. 3  
President



**George Dodge**  
Trustee Dist. 4  
Vice-President



**Donnie Bidegain**  
Trustee Dist. 7  
Sec. - Treas.



**Pat Woods**  
Trustee Dist. 6



**Justin Barnes**  
Trustee Dist. 1



**Judy Smith**  
Trustee Dist. 5



**Jubal Pierce**  
Trustee Dist. 2

**POWER SOURCE**

is published bi-monthly by Farmers’ Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Thom J. Moore,  
Editor  
thom@fecnm.org

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

**“After Hours”  
Outage Reporting:  
(800) 445-8541**

All Other Calls:  
**Clovis**  
(575) 762-4466  
**Fort Sumner**  
(575) 355-2291  
**Santa Rosa**  
(575) 472-3971

## Cash-Back Rebates for Energy Efficiency

**F**armers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) offers cash-back rebates for a number of energy efficiency upgrades. Whether it's new construction or a retrofit to an existing home, you may qualify. Here are the current energy efficient rebates available:

### New construction including manufactured homes

Newly constructed homes meeting FEC energy efficient guidelines will receive a rebate of **\$1250**. Home shall have the following insulation values: R-49 (attic) R-38 (cathedral) R-19 (exterior walls) R-8 (slab edge) R-25 (pier and beam floor). The heat pump, both dual-fuel and electric, shall have a 15 SEER or greater rating. If utilizing electric water heating, the water heater shall carry a rating  $\geq$  a .95 EF. If a hybrid heat pump water heater is utilized, the rebate would be **\$1650**.



Newly constructed homes meeting FEC energy efficient guidelines for insulation but utilizing evaporative cooling instead of refrigerated air conditioning are eligible to receive a rebate of **\$750**.

When a geothermal heat pump is utilized for both cooling and heating a home, and this application meets or exceeds the Co-op's energy efficient guidelines on new construction, members are eligible to receive a rebate of **\$1,000/ton** with a **\$5,000** cap per home (same rebate would be available for retrofits to existing homes).

*Because Farmers' Electric wants to move in a more energy efficiency direction, the minimum SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating) for heat pumps, both as a new construction component or as a retrofit, is 15. Any SEER 15 or greater will qualify for the rebate.*

### Retrofits to existing residential accounts

#### Heat Pump

Retrofits including conversions to dual-fuel heat pumps and electric heat pumps (air source with a SEER rating of 15 or greater) will receive a rebate of **\$500**. Also, would include any upgrades from existing heat pumps 12 SEER or lower and/or more than 12 years old.

#### Electric Water Heater

Retrofits including conversions from gas or propane to an electric water heater with a .95 EF or higher will receive a rebate of **\$150**. Upgrades from existing electric water heaters with an .90 EF or lower and/or more than 10 years old will receive a rebate of **\$100**.

#### Hybrid Heat Pump Water Heater

Retrofits including conversions from gas or propane to a hybrid heat pump water heater with a 2.5 EF or higher would receive a **\$500** rebate. Also, would include any upgrades from existing electric water heaters with an .90 EF or lower and/or more than 10 years old.

#### Geothermal Heat Pump

Retrofits or new construction using equipment with a COP rating  $\geq$  3.3 and an EER rating  $\geq$  15.9 will receive a rebate of **\$1,000/ton** with a **\$5,000** cap per home.

#### Mini-Split (Ductless Heat Pump)

Retrofits or new construction using equipment with a 15 SEER or greater rating will receive a rebate of **\$125/ton** with a **\$500** cap per home.

#### Adding Insulation

Retrofits to bring existing insulation R value to at least an R-30. Example: If an existing home has an R-13

See **REBATES** on **PAGE 4**

**COLD TEMP PREP** *from* PAGE 1

run that same space heater as a primary heat source (10 hours a day) it will cost you \$1.65/day or \$50/month. Again, that's for only one space heater.

**Be prepared.** When winter weather hits in eastern New Mexico, monitor conditions closely, and have your home prepared.

- Check your trees: Fallen tree branches are a common cause of power outages. If you see trees growing very near our lines or facilities, call us at (575) 762-4466 and we can determine next best steps.
- Create an emergency kit: Be prepared for emergencies before they happen. Put together an emergency kit for both your home and your auto with items like flashlights, batteries, bottled water, nonperishable foods, jumper cables, emergency mobile cell phone chargers, and blankets.
- Know how to contact Farmers' Electric. We work hard to serve you every day and do our best to keep the lights on, but outages can and will still happen. If you experience a service interruption, call us at (575)762-4466 (Clovis), (575) 355-2291 (Fort Sumner), or (575) 472-3971 (Santa Rosa). If your outage occurs after hours or on a weekend or holiday, please call (800) 445-8541. You can request a nifty refrigerator magnet containing our contact information on it by emailing "I'd like a

magnet." Please include your mailing address. Make that request to: [fec@fecnm.org](mailto:fec@fecnm.org). We will promptly send one in the mail.

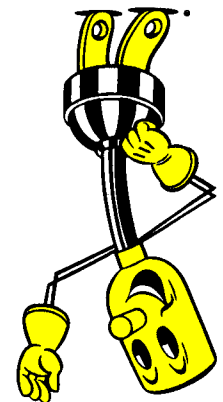
**REBATES** *from* PAGE 3

and 6" of fiberglass batting or 5" of blow cellulose is added, the new value would be approximately an R-30. This member would receive a **\$500** rebate.

**Windows or Storm Windows**

Retrofit new windows or storm windows carrying the energy star® rating will receive a rebate of **25% of total material costs (excluding labor)** with a **\$750 cap** per home. Rebates are limited to those windows or storm windows applied in conditioned space only.

An FEC member can couple these energy efficient rebates with Federal tax credits to make your money go even further! To find out what may qualify for tax credits go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and click on the calculator icon. Once you've done this, in the left column, click on "Tax Credits for Homeowners." If you have any questions about the FEC energy efficiency rebate program, please call (575) 762-4466 and ask to speak to the Energy Guy!



PRESORTED  
 STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 CLOVIS, NM  
 PERMIT NO. 64

**FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
**OF NEW MEXICO**  
 3701 Thornton St., P.O. Box 550  
 Clovis, New Mexico 88102-0550