

FEC® POWER

Source

Vol. 25 No. 01

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Heating During the Winter Months Accounts for Approximately 75% of Your Bill

In just a short couple of weeks, we will be entering the coldest part of the winter heating season. This can put a real strain on the household budget. Much like air conditioning in the summer, heating can account for up to 75% of your energy bill during the coldest months. There are ways to keep these costs in check.

Take Advantage of Heat from the Sun

- Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home; close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Cover Drafty Windows

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce heat loss and cold infiltration. Kits can be found at most home-improvement stores.
- Install tight-fitting insulating drapes or blinds or both on windows.

Adjust the Temperature

- When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable; usually around 68°.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back as much as 10° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating portion of your bills. A smart programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature.
- If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate set-

ting or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with heat pumps.

Find and Seal Leaks

- Seal the air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes (plumbing penetrations), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.



Maintain Your Heating Systems

- Schedule service for your heating system if you haven't had it serviced in a while. Just like a car, they run better after they have been thoroughly tested and maintained.
- Furnaces/air handlers: Replace your filter once a month or when needed.

Reduce Heat Loss from the Fireplace

- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm, conditioned air to escape right up the chimney.
- If you don't or never plan to use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue. You can burn candles in it for ambiance.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- If you do use the fireplace, if possible, install tem-

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Manager's Message...**Lance Adkins, GM**

Skeleton Creek Wind Project Now complete; Adds 250 MW of Wind Energy to WFEC Resource Mix

In a recent press release, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), together with a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, announced the completion of the first phase of the largest project in the country to combine wind energy, solar energy, and battery storage at the same location. Skeleton Creek Wind began generating 250 megawatts (MW) of wind energy for customers on Dec. 16, 2020.

WFEC, Farmers' Electric's wholesale power supplier, is a generation and transmission cooperative that provides essential electric service, primarily generation and transmission services, to 21 member cooperatives, Altus Air Force Base and other power users. As a member/owner of WFEC, Farmers' Electric joins with other, small distribution cooperatives and together we are able to achieve the scale necessary to develop generation resources at competitive prices.

Long recognized as a leader in renewable energy development, WFEC has developed several renewable energy projects in New Mexico, including wind and solar development in the Farmers' Electric service area. In a statement by Gary Roulet, chief executive officer for WFEC, "we are excited to add an additional 250 MW of clean, reliable and environmentally friendly wind energy from Skeleton Creek; this is another milestone on our evolution towards increasing zero-carbon energy. Further, "when we add the solar energy and battery storage components of this project, we'll be able to make more affordable, renewable energy available to customers for more hours of the day, even when the wind isn't blowing, and the sun isn't shining."

WFEC's Skeleton Creek Project, located in Oklahoma, will be a combination of wind, solar and energy storage, and is the first of its kind announced in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). The SPP is the regional electric grid that includes eastern New Mexico and 13 other states in the central U.S. covering 546,000 square miles. When fully operational, Skeleton Creek is also expected to be the largest co-located wind, solar and energy storage project in the U.S.

Following this initial development of wind resources, the next two phases of the project are expected to come online by the end of 2023 and will include: Skeleton Creek Solar, 250 MW of solar energy; and Skeleton Creek Storage, 200 MW, 4-hour battery energy storage project. After completion of the solar and energy storage phase of the project, WFEC's planned generation portfolio will consist of 623

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See **NEW RENEWABLES** on **PAGE 3**

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. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Deadline Quickly Approaching!

Applications must be postmarked by
February 1 or delivered to an
FEC office by end of business, Monday,
February 1, 2021!



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.

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

NEW RENEWABLES from PAGE 2

MW of solar generation, 957 MW of wind generation and 268 MW of hydroelectric generation

In addition to the clean energy it generates, the Skeleton Creek Project is expected to stimulate the local economy through the creation of hundreds of construction jobs, and through millions of dollars in lease payments to landowners and tax payments to local communities. Skeleton Creek Wind supported approximately 200 jobs during the construction phase and expects to support 150 jobs during the construction of the solar and energy storage site. It is estimated that the Skeleton Creek Project(s) will provide some \$105 million in payments to the county governments over its projected 30-year operational life, and approximately \$90 million in payments to local landowners.

Until Next Month,

Pole Inspectors in Area

Continuing through the end of March and into April, weather permitting, GLS, Ground Line Services out of San Antonio, Texas, will be testing poles for Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) out of the Clovis Substation.

Pole testing is a yearly maintenance program that FEC performs, however, every pole is not tested each year, rather, FEC strives to test each on a ten-year rotation.

This type of maintenance program helps to ensure that FEC can continue to supply the very safest, reliable electricity to our members.

All FEC contractors should be marked as such, "FEC Contractor" on their trucks. They should also, have a letter from FEC on their vehicle dash when parked and working. You may also see some four wheelers in and around these areas as GLS crews use these to get to most of our poles. If you have any questions about pole testing or the pole testers, please feel free to contact the office at (800) 445-8541 and ask for Member Services or Engineering.

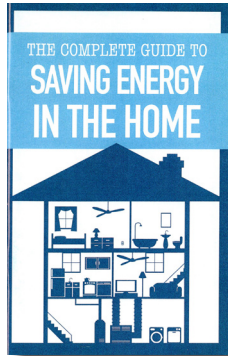


SAVINGS from PAGE 1

pered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.

Lower Your Water Heating Costs

- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, it will help avoid scalding young children or the elderly.
- Flush your electric water heater once a year to purge sediment buildup in your tank. This will allow the water heater to heat water more efficiently and will extend the life of your electric elements and the tank itself.



For these and other energy efficient suggestions, call Farmers' Electric Cooperative today at 1-800-445-8541 or email us at thom@fecnm.org and request your FREE copy of "The Complete Guide to Saving Energy in the Home."



FEC has rebates of \$500 for adding insulation to your attic. Call 800-445-8541 for the exciting details!

#STAYSAFENEWMEXICO

Wear a Mask	Wash Your Hands	Keep A Safe Distance	Be Kind 
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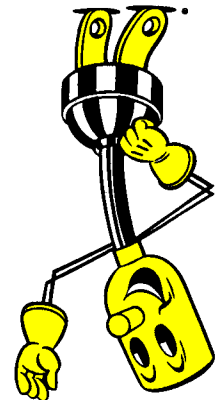
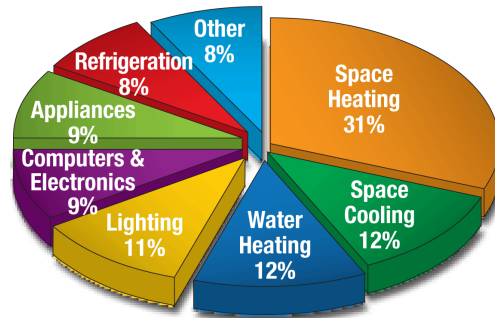


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