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# POWER SOURCE



"Owned By Those We Serve"

January 2012 Vol. 16 No. 01

## Hybrid Water Heater Give-A-Way!



In an effort to promote the advantages of the hybrid water heater, Farmers' Electric Cooperative is having a contest to give away a Ruud/Rheem air-source heat pump water heater!

The Ruud hybrid water heater has over TWICE the efficiency of standard electric water heaters! It has the same connections as standard electric models, making installation fast and easy. The Ruud hybrid water heater works much like a refrigerator in reverse. The heat pump extracts the heat from warm air, intensifies the heat with a compressor, delivers the heat to the water, and exhausts the cooler air.

For best heat pump operation, the temperature in the location where the water heater is to be installed should average 40 degrees or above. Choose a warm installation site like an attic, garage, or basement. Because a heat pump tends to cool the area where it is located, any type of air-source heat pump will work more efficiently in a warm location. These water heaters will need 1,000 cubic feet of air space around it (approximately 10x10x10 ft. room or larger).

Because it is over twice as efficient as standard electric water heaters and carries a 2.0 Energy Factor (EF), the Ruud can heat your water for as little as \$286 per year. The user-friendly touch pad allows the homeowner to select the water temperature range and choose the highest

efficiency setting for their hot water demand. The Ruud hybrid is ENERGY STAR® rated.

Ok, enough about the Ruud hybrid! Now let's talk contest! If you are a homeowner and living within the FEC service area, and want a chance at winning one of the coolest water heaters ever, sharpen your pencil and put on your thinking cap! We know it's been a while for some of you, but it's time to write a theme! In 300-500 words, write a paper entitled, "What Electricity Means to Me and My Family." These papers will be judged in-house by a panel of FEC employees. The winner gets a Ruud/Rheem hybrid water heater valued at \$1500! Second and third place will receive Energy Certificates valued at \$200 and \$125 respectively.

FEC carries the Ruud/Rheem hybrids to sell to our members for \$1500. However, they qualify for a \$500 cash-back rebate! FEC also carries a line of Rheem/Marathon water heaters with special pricing. These qualify for a \$150 cash-back rebate!

Good luck on the contest!



*\*Heat pump water heater underwritten by: Gorman Distributing Co., Inc. of Albuquerque (a Ruud/Rheem distributor)*

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*Manager's Message...*

Lance Adkins, GM

**CSAPR Delayed... For Now**

**B**ack in November I reported on the approaching start-date of a new federal regulation that would drastically change the way electricity is generated in our region and increase the cost of electricity for consumers. This rule, known as the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), is intended to reduce power plant emissions blamed for poor air quality in the eastern half of the nation. Following a lengthy hearing process, power plants in Texas and twenty-six eastern states were included in the rule's requirements for year-

round emission reductions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO2). Power plants located in New Mexico are not included in this specific rule at this time. As the bulk of power purchased by Farmers' Electric (FEC) is generated by plants located in Texas, members of FEC were certain to see costs begin to rise in early 2012. Utilities across this region and nation challenged the EPA and asked for a rehearing on the new regulations.

I am pleased to report that on Dec. 30, the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit issued a stay of the January 1 implementation of CSAPR. Primarily, utilities were concerned with the short time allowed between the time the rule goes into effect and when substantial emission reductions were required to begin, less than six months later and much sooner than new control equipment could be installed. According to our current wholesale power supplier, Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), compliance with the rule would require reducing operation of Texas-based coal-fired power plants and rely upon older, more expensive natural gas-fired plants. In addition, SPS was concerned that reliance on the older plants would have placed significant strain on their generating resources which could reduce system reliability.

While the court's ruling stays implementation of the rule until the court has a chance to review the merits of the case, utilities do not expect that CSAPR will be postponed indefinitely. I think most folks would agree that reducing pollutants from the generation of electricity and other processes is an appropriate and worthy goal. For regulators and legislators the question must be how to balance what is technologically possible with how long will it take to make the necessary modifications to power plants. In addition, consideration must be given to maintaining system reliability and the cost of compliance for consumers. Keep in mind too, CSAPR is only one of several rules that the EPA is preparing that will affect the generation of electricity. It is our desire that the court's final decision will allow our suppliers to make appropriate power plant modifications in a more reasonable timeframe. It is my understanding that the necessary modifications will take at least two years to complete. Additional time for compliance will ease the financial impact on consumers in this entire region, including members of FEC, and preserve the reliability of the generating system we rely upon.

**Board of Trustees:****Mike West***President***George Dodge***Vice President***Ernest Riley***Secretary-Treasurer***Paul Quintana***Trustee***Pat Woods***Trustee***Billy Tate***Trustee***Donnie Bidegain***Trustee***General Manager:****Lance R. Adkins****POWER SOURCE**

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## Official Contest Rules

- No fee or purchase required to enter.
- The contest is open to members of Farmers' Electric Cooperative, Inc. (FEC)
- Entrants must be legal adults and legal residents of the state of New Mexico.
- Entrants must be homeowners and fully empowered to make purchases and home improvement decisions regarding their residence.
- Home must be receiving electric service from FEC.
- Area where water heater located must have at least 1,000 cubic feet of moveable air (approximately a 10x10x10 ft. room or larger). Ideally it would be located in a garage, basement, or attic.
- The winning entry agrees to allow FEC to install separate meter to monitor operating costs for a period of one year from the date of installation.
- FEC will allocate up to \$300 to install the water heater in the winning member's home.
- Entrants must submit an essay, 300-500 words, entitled, "What electricity means to me and my family."
- Entries must be received by midnight, February 29, 2012.
- Entries may be turned in at FEC's headquarters office in Clovis, or at branch offices in Santa Rosa or Fort Sumner. Entries may also be mailed to: Water Heater Contest, PO Box 550, Clovis, NM, 88102-0550, or may be emailed to: [contest@fecnm.org](mailto:contest@fecnm.org)
- The winning entry will be selected by an FEC employee panel by March 15, 2012.
- All decisions are final.
- The winning member will be posted online at [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org) and will be announced in the *Power Source* newsletter and the *enchantment* magazine.
- Winning entry will receive a Ruud/Rheem 50 gallon air-source heat pump electric water heater valued at \$1500.
- The winning entry will be responsible for installation of water heater, any hazardous material removal and abatement (e.g., asbestos), and any improvements needed to bring the installation in compliance with existing building and mechanical codes, above \$300.
- The winning entry will agree to allow FEC to use images and likenesses of the old and new water heaters, homeowners, and homeowner's name in promotional material and newsletters.
- Entrants agree to hold FEC, its officers, agents, employees, and board members harmless for any injuries, loss, or damages related to the contest.
- Prize is non-transferable and may not be redeemed for cash.
- Employees of FEC, board members, and their family members are not eligible to participate.

## Fireplace Safety

A crackling fire in the fireplace is a cozy way to keep warm, but could cause tragedy. To use your fireplace safely, follow these guidelines:

- Do not use flammable liquids to start the fire.
- Keep a metal or glass screen in front of your fireplace.
- Flying embers can start fires.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper – to build roaring fires. You might ignite soot in the chimney.
- Never burn charcoal in your fireplace, in a charcoal

broiler, or in a hibachi unit inside your home. Burning charcoal gives off deadly amounts of carbon monoxide.

- Be sure no flammable materials decorate your mantel where a spark could ignite them.
- Extinguish all fire at bedtime, including candles.
- If your fireplace hasn't been used for some time, have it and the chimney inspected before using.
- Follow the directions on the package of manmade logs.
- Never break apart a manmade log.

### Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2011. To avoid potential disconnection of services please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2011, through March 15, 2012, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

### Atención

La protección del interruptor de invierno empieza el 15 de noviembre de 2011. Para evitar desconexión potencial de servicios contacta por favor al Humano Atiende al Departamento para la información de elegibilidad para los Ingresos Bajos que Calientan Programa de Ayuda de Energía (LIHEAP) en 800-283-4465. Su servicio no será desconectado del 15 de noviembre de 2011, por el 15 de marzo de 2012, si califica para LIHEAP y tiene no cantidad debida pasada ni hace el aceptó pagos.

# Deadline Approaching!

Applications due by February 1, 2012

## Scholarships:

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, Fort Sumner, or Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 762-4466 or 1-800-445-8541. All cooperative members and their dependants are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

This year 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 Student - Non-Traditional Student Application.**" Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from the FEC website at [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org).

*The Farmers' Electric Education Foundation was established by the members of the cooperative in 1986 and is funded through donated and unclaimed patronage capital refunds and donations by private individuals. Only the interest earned on donations is used for scholarships, ensuring that the Education Foundation will continue to support higher education for our members for many years to come. Through 2011, the foundation has awarded 834 scholarships totaling \$534,800.00.*

## Youth Tour 2012!



In 2012, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors on the Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Please call 1-800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity! Also, go to the FEC webpage at [www.fecnm.org](http://www.fecnm.org), click on the Scholarship - Youth Tour button, then, on the left side, under Community, click on Youth Tour. Once there, click on the "Watch a Video of 2011 Youth Tour."

## Report outages or emergencies 24 hours a day



1-800-445-8541

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