

FEC® POWER

Source

Vol. 21 No. 1

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Contest Time!

You Could Win a Hybrid Heat Pump Water Heater!

In an effort to promote the advantages of the room or larger).

hybrid heat pump water heater, Farmers' Electric Cooperative is having a contest to give away a Rudd/Rheem air-source, heat pump water heater!

The Rudd hybrid heat pump water heater has over TWICE the efficiency of standard electric water heaters! 200% efficient! It has the same connections as standard electric models, making installation fast and easy. The Rudd hybrid water heater works much like a refrigerator in reverse. The heat pump extracts heat from the 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 movable air space around it (approximately a 10 by 10 by 10 foot



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 about the contest! If you are a homeowner and are living within the FEC service area, and want a chance at winning one of the coolest water heaters ever, sharpen your pencils and put on your thinking caps! 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 Rudd/Rheem hybrid water heater valued at \$1,200! Second and third place contestants will receive energy certificates valued at \$200 and \$125 respectively. Please see official contest rules on page 4 of this newsletter.

See CONTEST RULES on PAGE 4

Manager's Message...**Lance Adkins, GM****Power Shift in Santa Fe**

On the “political” scene, much of the news has been at the national level, focusing on the incoming Trump Administration choices for key leadership nominations, as well as speculation on legislative initiatives. There are significant changes in store for the upcoming legislative session here in New Mexico as well. For the past two sessions, Republicans held a majority of members in the House of Representatives and exercised control over how legislation moved through the House. During the November election cycle, while all eyes were on the race for the Whitehouse,

voters elected a majority of Democrats to the State House and Democrats maintained their majority position in the Senate as well.

Despite the current cold weather, we expect things to heat up quickly in Santa Fe, as the first session of the 53rd New Mexico Legislature gets underway on January 17. Folks may recall that New Mexico is somewhat unique in that each Legislature is divided into two legislative sessions, convening in regular session on the third Tuesday in January each year. Each Legislature will meet for sixty days in odd-numbered years and thirty days in even-numbered years. Those with a keen eye towards state politics are anxious to see how things get started with control of the House shifting back to a Democrat majority along with significant changes in key leadership positions, as well as Committee Chair positions.

Farmers’ Electric is able to effectively participate in the legislative process individually and through our state association of electric cooperatives, the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA). On behalf of cooperative members across the state NMRECA tracks legislation that has potential to impact the cost members pay for electricity through additional taxation and regulation. We are already tracking a number of bills, with the last day to introduce legislation on February 16th. With sixty days to work with, we expect an active session this year.

Legislation (Bills) we have been following through several sessions, that we expect to see again this session, are efforts that would permit third-party developers of small-scale wind or solar generation to sell their energy production directly to utility consumers without paying for the use of utility lines to move the power. In addition, developers desire that the utility provide all of the accounting and crediting on consumer’s utility bills. FEC’s position is simple; a third-party project developer should be compensated no more for the energy they generate than the value that FEC would have paid for the energy generated from FEC’s existing wholesale resources. Further, it should be the responsibility of the third-party developer to distribute revenues to those who elect to participate in a generation project. This would ensure that FEC is compensated for the use of the powerlines to move the energy and protect all FEC members from subsidizing those participating in a particular project.

Two members of the Cooperative’s Board of Trustees also serve in the legislature, Representative George Dodge of Santa Rosa and Senator Pat Woods of Broadview/Grady. These individuals have a solid understanding of the rural economy in New Mexico and our area. I appreciate the commitment and determination of these two

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individuals and all those representing New Mexicans in the legislative process. Few really appreciate the workload during the legislative session as well as a legislator's service on interim committees between regular sessions as they study a variety of issues.

Folks who desire to follow the legislative process can track and read bills, follow committee activities and keep abreast of the daily calendar at the legislature's web site, www.nmlegis.gov.

Until Next Month,



Youth Tour 2017



In 2017, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors (summer after Junior year) on the week-long, Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D. C. Please call 800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity! We promise this will be a trip of a lifetime!

Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2016. 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, 2016 through March 15, 2017, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

Proteccion contra la interrupcion de servicio de invierno comienza el 15 de Noviembre del 2016. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexion, por favor de ponerse en contacto con el Departamento de Servicio Humanos al 1-800-283-4465, para obtener informacion acerca del Programa de Asistencia de Energia (LIHEAP) para las personas con bajos recursos. Si usted califica para el Programa de Asistencia de Energia y no tiene su cuenta con saldo vencido ni tiene un acuerdo de pagos fijos, su servicio no sera desconectado.

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.

**Don't Delay! Deadline For
Applications Is February 1, 2017!**



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 Application." Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from www.fecnm.org.

7 Easy Ways to Lower Winter Energy Costs

- 1. Tame Drafts** - The best way to keep the warm air in is to make sure it isn't flowing out. Take a tour around your home and examine windows and doors for any drafts. Our front door had a sizable gap at its base, so we installed weatherstripping and it took care of the cold air problem immediately. There are many ways to fill in voids, including stripping, insulator kits, foam, silicone, etc. If you're in an apartment or just want a temporary fix, you can also use one of those draft guards. Here's a DIY tutorial using an old pair of tights, polyfill, and only a few stitches.
- 2. Lower the Thermostat** - How low can you go on your thermostat this winter? Start just one degree and you could save up to 5% (or around \$10 per day) on your overall heating bill according to an analysis released by EnergyHub in 2012. The EPA recommends settings on 70 degrees during the eight hours most people are home turning it down to 62 degrees for the 16 hours when people are away or sleeping. And if you can get away with keeping your thermostat on lower (we keep ours on 67 during the day), that's great, too. Using a programmable thermostat also helps you save by taking out the manual temperature changing.
- 3. Cover Yourself** - Feeling nervous about taking the plunge? Keeping comfortable at lower thermostat levels isn't difficult. Wear more clothing! Long sleeves, pants, thick socks, and layers are the fashion statements in our house during the winter. We also keep a fleece blanket on the couch to ward off chills in the evening. Our beds are topped with flannel sheets and wool covers for the nights when our thermostat is at its lowest setting. You don't want to be frigid all season long, but some common sense is employed here.

See **SAVINGS** on **PAGE 4**

CONTEST RULES *from* **PAGE 1**

- No fees or purchase required to enter.
- The contest is open only to members of Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC).
- Entrants must be legal adults and legal residents of the state of New Mexico.
- Entrants must be homeowners and fully empowered to make home improvement decisions regarding their residents.
- Home must be located within the FEC service area.
- Area where water heater is located must have at least 1,000 cubic feet of moveable air. Ideally, it would be located in a garage, basement, or attic.
- 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 28, 2017.
- Entries may be turned in at FEC's headquarters office in Clovis or branch offices in Santa Rosa or Fort Sumner. Entries may also be mailed to: FEC, Water Heater Contest, PO Box 550, Clovis, NM, 88102, or may be emailed to: thom@fecnm.org
- The winning entry will be selected by an FEC employee panel by March 15, 2017.
- All decisions are final.
- The winning member will be posted on our facebook page, will be announced in our Power Source newsletter, and on the enchantment back page.
- Winning entry will receive a Rudd/Rheem 50 gallon air-source heat pump electric water heater.
- The winning entrant will be responsible for installation of water heater, any hazardous material removal and abatement (e.g., asbestos), and any improvements needed to bring installation in compliance with existing building and mechanical codes, above \$300.
- The winning entrant 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.
- Employees of FEC, board members, and their family members are not eligible to participate in the contest.

SAVINGS *from* **PAGE 3**

4. Zone It Out - My family lives in a 4-bedroom home, but we're currently only using two of those bedrooms on a daily basis. So, we've closed the hot air vents in those rooms to redirect the heating to the spaces we're living in and keep the doors shut most hours of the day. If you have baseboard heating, see if there's a localized switch in your



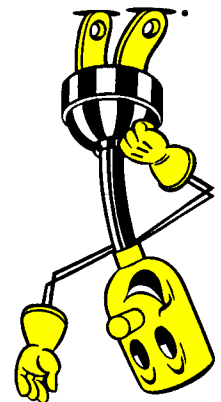
room so you can turn it off and shut the door. The savings here are hard to quantify because so many factors are involved (room size, etc.), however — the less area to heat, the more money that stays in your pockets.

5. Use Curtains - During the day, take advantage of the sun's rays by opening your curtains to let the light in. Even on the coldest days you'll get a boost, especially with those south-facing windows in the afternoon rays. Then in the evening, close your curtains to help keep the heat indoors. If your windows are bare (or you only have sheers), consider purchasing some insulated curtains, which protect your home from heat loss through conduction, infiltration, convection, and radiation. They come in all colors and patterns, too!

6. Service Your Furnace - It's one of those annoying home maintenance tasks you don't think you should need to do, but getting your furnace cleaned and evaluated each year can help save you cash and unexpected breakdowns. (It's also a safety thing, as gas or propane furnaces can leak carbon monoxide into your home without your knowledge.) You'll also need to change out the filter at least once per season — or whenever it's dirty — to keep everything flowing as it should.

7. Add Insulation - If your house is still feeling quite cold, take a trip to your attic to assess the insulation situation. In our last home, we were surprised to find only a few inches of the stuff keeping our heat from flowing out the roof. (Insulation acts like a hat does on your body.) We added a thick fiberglass roll to the entire attic ourselves and could tell the difference in our second floor level almost immediately. How much insulation you add and where you add it is going to depend on your home. If you plan to stay there for quite a while, it certainly makes sense to evaluate and correct any issues that might cost you big dollars as the years go on.

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