



# POWER

## Source

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## Make Energy Efficiency Part of Your New Year's Resolution

Thankfully, no matter if you live in an apartment or house, there are several steps you can take to make your home more energy efficient. Doing so can reduce your energy usage and improve your comfort. Getting the job started isn't always easy, especially if you're not entirely sure where to begin. To help you build up your resolve, we've put together a list of New Year's Resolutions for energy efficiency in the home:

### 1) Switch Out Incandescent Bulbs (and CFL Bulbs!) for LED Bulbs

- A 60 watt incandescent bulb that puts out about 800 lumens (brightness) will cost about \$9 a year using the bulb 4 hours a day.
- A 13 watt CFL that puts out the same amount of lumens, meanwhile, will cost about \$2 over the same amount of time.
- A comparable 8 watt LED bulb will cost only about \$1.25 over the same period.

*\*If you have CFL bulbs, start learning more about LED bulbs and color temperature so you'll know the best ones to buy when your CFL bulbs burn out. Cheap CFL bulbs have a lifespan of about 24 months, while EnergyStar qualifying CFL bulbs last up to 6,000 hours. Meanwhile, LED bulbs are still a little bit more expensive, but they are rated to last more than 22,000 hours. That's over 15 years! Become familiar with the product's energy "nutritional" label on the box.*

### 2) Seal Drafts and Cold Spots

Check entry doors for signs of drafts where cold air can leak into your home. This includes tightening loose door hinge screws and replacing worn, loose, or missing weatherstripping. Weatherstripping kits for doors and windows are inexpensive, and blocking up drafts will help make your home feel more comfortable and keep it warmer.

Another thing you can do is to buy an inexpensive infrared thermometer and use it to detect temperature differences that indicate where drafts might be getting in, such as outlets, light switches, and window frames.

### 3) Install Thermal-Backed Drapes and Curtains

In a typical single-family home, 25% to 35% of the heat is lost through windows at night. Insulated drapes can cut this loss by 25%. Opening these during the day lets in the warming sunshine. In summer, close the curtains on west facing windows to keep out the sun's intense summer heat.

### 4) Kill the Energy Vampires and Zombies

An energy vampire is anything like a power brick for a game console, battery charger, or any other kind of wall wart. These are inexpensive AC adapters that use transformers (induction coils) to convert wall current into low voltage DC. Even if you turn off the device or gadget, these power supplies stay on.

An energy zombie is any appliance that isn't ON, but it's also not OFF. Such devices linger in "standby mode" waiting for you to push a button to bring them to life. What's "standby mode?" Any remote-controlled device must use a tiny bit of electricity to power its receiver circuit so it can pick up a signal to turn on at your merest whim. The zombie horde includes, TVs, cable boxes, home theatre systems, game consoles, Blu-ray players, wireless printers and scanners, and more.

How do you beat back these ravenous energy monsters? Simply control them by using inexpensive timers, smart power strips that turn off when levels fall to standby levels, smart outlets you can control with your smartphone,



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

Farmers' Electric effectively participates 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.

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 Grady/Broadview. I appreciate the commitment and determination of these two individuals and all those representing the citizens in the legislative process. I have had the opportunity to spend time in Santa Fe during past legislative sessions and I know the workload is tremendous. In addition, these elected officials serve on interim committees between regular sessions to study a variety of issues and are always available to meet with citizens in their home districts.

In New Mexico, all bills follow the same path through the legislature and can be introduced in either the house or senate. Once introduced, the bill is assigned a number, read twice publicly, printed, and referred to the proper committee. Each bill is reviewed by one or more committees in each house where the committee can approve the bill, amend it, forward it to the next committee with no recommendation, or kill the bill by tabling it. Committee hearings are open to the public and folks are encouraged to participate in the legislative process.

Once a bill passes all committee hearings, it will be considered by the full house where it was introduced and scheduled for a final vote. If it passes, the bill moves to the other house and repeats the entire process and if approved in the same form, the bill goes to the governor to be signed or vetoed. If each house passes a different version of the bill, they form a conference committee to work on a compromise. If the committee agrees on a compromise, the bill goes back to the house and senate for a final vote.

Bills that pass both houses are formally prepared by the house where they origi-

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## A Bill's Path to Law New Mexico Style

January 16th marked the opening day of the second session of the 53rd New Mexico Legislature. In New Mexico each Legislature is divided into two legislative sessions, convening in regular sessions 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 will "shake out" in the final legislative session under Governor Susana Martinez.



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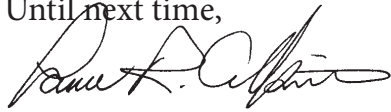
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nated, signed by the speaker of the house and the president pro tempore of the senate and forwarded to the governor. The governor can sign the bill, making it law, or veto the bill, or portions of it, if the bill contains an appropriation or financial commitment by the state. If the governor does not sign or veto the bill within three days and the legislature is still in session, the bill automatically becomes law. If the legislature has adjourned, the governor has twenty days to sign the bill and unsigned bills are automatically vetoed after the appropriate amount of time has passed. However, the legislature can pass a bill over the governor's veto with a two-thirds vote in each house.

Signed bills typically become law 90 days after the legislature adjourns. If the legislature specifies an emergency, the bill becomes effective when the governor signs it or a later date as specified in the bill.

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](http://www.nmlegis.gov).

Until next time,



### 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 counsellors 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](http://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, 2018!**

## Youth Tour 2018



In 2018, 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, 2017. 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, 2017 through March 15, 2018, 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 2017. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexion. Favor de ponerse en contact con el Departamento de Servicios Humanos para informarse acerca de los requisitos de elegibilidad para el Programa de Asistencia Energetica de Bajos Ingresos (LIHEAP) al 1-800-283-4465, Su servicio no sera desconectado de Noviembre 15 a Marzo 15, 2018 si califica para el Programa de Asistencia Energetica de Bajos Ingresos y no tiene saldo atrasado ni a fallado con su acuerdo de pagos fijos.

**Be careful with those space heaters! Running just one space heater, 8 hours a day, would add up to \$40 to your monthly electric bill!**



1500 Watts = 1.5 kW  
 1.5 kW x 8 hrs./day = 12 kWh  
 12 kWh x 30 days = 360 kWh  
 360 kWh x 10.7 cents =  
**\$38.52/month**

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or just turn off the power to those that are plugged into a multi-outlet strip/surge arrestor.

**5) Air Seal Your Attic**

Air sealing means sealing electrical and plumbing holes in walls, between floors, and even in the lighting fixtures and wiring in your attic. This stops the flow of air from your home's air conditioned living space out of your home, which can save an average of 11% or more off your energy costs. In particular, seal around the soil stack, lighting junction boxes, and install insulated covers for recessed lighting fixtures.

**6) Add More insulation to Your Attic**

By increasing the insulation amount from R11 (about 3 inches) to R49 (roughly 12" of cellulose or fiberglass batts), homeowners can save about \$600 a year off heating and cooling bills. Needless to say, preparing for the job is of key importance, so make sure your attic has been thoroughly air sealed before you begin. Even though insulating is expensive, the job can be completed in stages. Simply begin by insulating over area that gets the most use and then build out from there.

**7) Seal Your Duct Work**

Unsealed or un-insulated ductwork loses up to 20% of the energy from your heating, ventilation, and air conditioner (HVAC) system. Worse still, if you have unsealed return duct work passing through crawlspaces, your furnace may be blowing mold, mildew, and fungus spores throughout your home.

Sealing your duct work with aluminum duct tape or duct

sealing mastic ensures that your HVAC system will blow the conditioned air to where it's supposed to go. Sealing the return ductwork as well means the system will be able to pull air more efficiently from all the rooms of your home.

**8) Stop Warm Air from Going Up the Flue**

Fireplaces in winter might add warmth and charm to a room, but when they're not in use, you could be sending heated air out of your house — even if you have closed the flue. Install a chimney-top damper that fully seals your chimney. It looks much like a hatch and uses a heat-resistant gasket. Another solution is to use an inflatable fireplace damper balloon or plug that gets stuffed up inside the chimney to reduce drafts.

**9) Inspect Your Windows**

Repair worn or cracked window glazing on older wood sash windows.

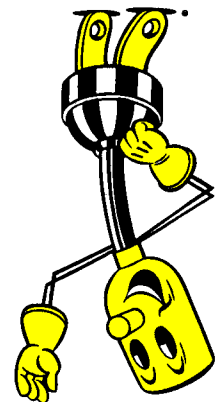
Look for signs of moisture damage and rotten wood. If you discover a window that can't close properly or has damage to the window frame or sill holding the window in place, then it's time to replace it with one that's Energy Star qualified. Energy Star windows block solar heat gain in the summer, reflect radiant heat indoors during winter, and are designed to resist condensation problems.

**10) Fix that Dripping Faucet**

A leaky faucet that drips one drop per second will waste over 27,000 gallons of water in a single year. You probably wouldn't let a leak go for a full year, but it certainly puts a new perspective on that dripping noise! Save some water and preserve your sanity by fixing any leaky faucets in your house.



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