

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's Rural Electric Cooperatives

**LEADING NATIVE
AMERICAN
FASHION**

February 2016

No-Cost Energy Saving Ideas



There are many ways you can save energy without spending any money! Start saving now by implementing these tips:

1. Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees.
2. Limit your shower length to 5-7 minutes.
3. Take the guard off your refrigerator base and clean the dust and debris.
4. Set the refrigerator temperature to 34-37 degrees and freezer to 0-5 degrees.
5. Unplug unused refrigerators and freezers. Better yet, recycle them!
6. Use the air-dry cycle instead of heat-dry on your dishwasher.
7. Use cold water when washing clothes.
8. Make sure vents are not blocked by furniture or drapes.
9. Only do full laundry and dishwasher loads.
10. Consider using a "solar-powered" clothes dryer: a clothes line.
11. Make sure the outdoor dryer exhaust door closes when the dryer is off.
12. Make sure the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to dryer and wall.
13. Ensure your outdoor heat pump/air conditioner unit is kept clean.
14. Turn computers, electronics and any other energy-using device off when they are not in use. Better yet, unplug them if possible.
15. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer and 68 in the winter.
16. Keep windows closed and locked when heating or cooling your home.
17. Close fireplace dampers when not burning a fire. Remember to open them before starting a fire.
18. Open your shades during winter days to catch free solar heat, and close them on winter nights to keep heat in.
19. Keep your garage door down. A garage that is warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer will save energy.

Find more energy saving tips at www.energy.gov!

Knowing What to do Saves Lives

"When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on their minds," explains Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council's Safe Electricity program. "We're usually more concerned about whether anyone was injured or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We can forget that by exiting the vehicle, we're risking exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines."

The safest place to be is almost always inside the car. The only circumstance when you should exit the vehicle is if it is on fire—and those instances are rare. If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to "bunny hop" with your feet together to safety. Doing this will ensure that you are at only one point of contact and will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another, which can be deadly.

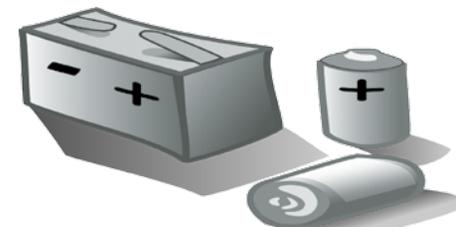


Budget Payment Plan

SEC members can take advantage of the Budget Payment Plan, which offers an easy way to "level-out" the monthly payments during the year—making your bill the same amount every month. Members can access the Budget Payment Form on the SEC website www.sierraelectric.org under Products and Services. Please be sure to contact our office if you are interested in the plan and prior to submitting the form.

Tip of the Month

Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries—and an Energy Star charger for them—which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.



SEC Offices Closed

Sierra Electric Offices will be closed February 15, 2016, in observance of President's Day.

Board of Trustees

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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the cooperative boardroom.



SIERRA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Office Address
610 Highway 195
Post Office Box 290
Elephant Butte, NM 87935

Telephone
575-744-5231
Outage
1-888-336-3380

Fax
575-744-5819
E-mail Address
sierra@secpower.com

Website Address
www.sierraelectric.org
Office Hours
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(M-F)

General Manager
Jimmy Capps

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