



# CNMEC

## Newsletter

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Holiday Décor Tips for an Energy-Wise Home**

**December, 2023**

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking, and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers like Amazon or at big box stores like Lowe's or Wal-Mart. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers like Lowe's and Home Depot, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30 and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit CNMEC's website for additional energy-saving tips.



### *CNMEC Education Foundation Scholarship*

**CNMEC is Now Accepting Scholarship Applications!  
Scholarship Deadline is January 20, 2024**

Scholarship applications can be obtained through your school guidance counselor or may be picked up at our Moriarty or Mountainair office. Applications may also be found on the CNMEC website at [www.cnmec.org](http://www.cnmec.org).

**CNMEC Christmas Holiday Hours**  
**Closed Monday December, 25th and Tuesday, December, 26th**  
**Open Wednesday-Friday 7:00 am - 3:30 pm**



**Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative, Inc.**, is seeking outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors with leadership potential to represent their schools, communities and CNMEEC in Washington D.C.

These students will join other New Mexico representatives for a tour to our Nation's Capital. They will join over 1,500 other participants from across the nation for an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. where they will meet with Congressional Leaders and tour sites like the Smithsonian, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the National Archives, and the FBI Building.

All the High Schools in the CNMEEC service area will have the opportunity to send a representative. The area includes Vaughn, Corona, Estancia, Mountainair, Edgewood and Moriarty High Schools.

This is truly an adventure of a lifetime and all expenses are paid by CNMEEC.

Applications can be found at [www.cnmeec.org](http://www.cnmeec.org).

**Applications must be submitted by January 20, 2023.**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

### Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.



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