

### Keeping Pets and Energy Bills Comfortable



Most of us consider our four-legged companions' part of the family. That's why during the winter months, we make sure our *whole* family, including our four-legged members, are cozy without taking a big "bite" out of our budget.

This month, we'd like to share a few simple ways you can make your home more comfortable this winter, which can ultimately help you save on energy bills.

At the onset of the cold weather season, we replace the HVAC filter for better air quality and to help the unit operate more efficiently. You can also keep your home cozier by caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors. If your home is particularly chilly, you can tape or affix heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against the cold. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

We know winter can be "ruff", so we set our thermostat at 68 degrees, a "purr-fect" temperature for people and pets. This is especially important for smaller, short hair and senior dogs, not just for warmth, but for their general health. Puppies, kittens and older pets with arthritis or other ailments may have a harder time controlling their body heat and need the additional warmth when it's chilly out.

Pets that sleep close to the floor can be subject to cold drafts that enter your home through windows and exterior doors. If your pet's bed is near a window or door that feels drafty, tightly roll up a towel and place it near the bottom of the door or window to eliminate the draft. Cutting down on cold drafts helps *everyone* feel more comfortable during colder months.

If possible, elevate your pet's bed so it's not placed directly on a cold floor. An old chair or sofa cushion works well. If you don't use a dog bed, take some old blankets and create a donut shape on the cushion so the dog can snuggle and "nest" within the blanket. You can do the same for cats but on a smaller scale. Blankets enable pets to nestle into them, even when they aren't tired, and provide a comfortable place for dogs and cats to curl up.

During the day, open your blinds and curtains to allow sunlight to warm your home. Close window coverings at night for an added layer of insulation.

At CNMEC, we want to help you save energy and money. Visit our website at [www.cnmec.org](http://www.cnmec.org) for additional energy-saving tips.

We can't control the weather, but we can provide advice to help you save energy and keep your family and furry friends more comfortable during the winter season.



### CNMEC Employee Spotlight



#### Sheldon Roberts

Sheldon is the Line Superintendent for the Mountainair area here at Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative. Sheldon came to work for CNMEC in 2001 in accounting. Over his 21-year career he has worked as a meter reader, apprentice lineman, journeyman linemen, and line foreman before assuming his current roll as Line Superintendent in 2018.

Sheldon was born in La Mesa Texas and has lived in San Jon, Logan, and Mountainair New Mexico. He is a graduate of Logan High School and attended NMSU. He has been married to his wife Natisha for 23 years. Together they have 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

Sheldon has volunteered as a volleyball and football coach for Mountainair Schools for the last 20 years and enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with family.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: *energy.gov*



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