

# CNMEC

## Newsletter

POWER  
MAKES IT POSSIBLE™

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
*The power of human connections*

### New Meters to Help Us Serve You Better

June, 2019

Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative will be installing new, automated meters over the next few months. Much of our system is already equipped with this type of meter and nothing will change for the majority of our members. However, to increase the efficiency and reliability of our electric system we are moving toward the new automated meters system wide. Improving the efficiency of both operations and electricity delivery can help us keep down costs for members.

The biggest change? With the new automated meters, CNMEC will be able to read meters remotely from the co-op's headquarters, saving the co-op time, labor and money.

In addition to reducing operational costs, the new meters, which can receive and send information to computers at the co-op headquarters, will help improve the reliability of our system. The new technology allows us to detect problems more quickly and to locate outages more precisely.

The new technology can help us monitor the electric system in almost real-time. We can use this information to make the process of delivering power much more efficient.

The meters, which provide daily information about power use, will also help our members understand how and when they are using electricity. Armed with this information, CNMEC member service representatives will be in a better position to help members address billing inquiries. In addition, our members can view their daily, monthly and annual power use by downloading our SmartHub mobile app or visiting [www.cnmec.org](http://www.cnmec.org) and clicking the SmartHub link.

At Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative taking advantage of new technologies is one more way that we are looking out for our members.



Matthew Collins  
CEO

#### Download our SmartHub mobile app today!

- View your bill
- View your electricity usage
- Pay your bill
- Contact member service
- And much more...

*Apple*



*Android*



## Tips for Maintaining an Efficient HVAC System

Ah, summer. Cookouts, swimming pools, camping, it's the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it's time to come back indoors, there's nothing better than that cool blast you feel from your home's air conditioning unit.

Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months, and if it breaks down, it's also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

**Change or clean filters.** Dirty filters block airflow, which can greatly decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider checking filters more frequently.

**Clean the HVAC unit.** Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

**Clear space around the HVAC unit.** Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind from the lawnmower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 ft. around the condenser to increase airflow.

You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a licensed professional. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the Department of Energy recommends scheduling tune-ups during the spring and fall, when contractors aren't as busy.

### 3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Want to light up your outdoor space without increasing your energy use? Try outdoor solar lights! They're easy to install and virtually maintenance free. Remember, solar lights work best when the solar cells receive the manufacturer's recommended hours of sunlight.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

