

CNMEC

Newsletter

POWER
MAKES IT POSSIBLE™

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

You Belong Here

July, 2019

Day by day, it can be easy to forget just how different Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative really is from other energy companies. I suppose that's true in any industry over time, the exceptional starts to seem ordinary. But while talking to some of our consumer-members recently, I was struck once again by how remarkable our electric cooperative really is.

Before this starts to sound immodest, let me make something clear: What makes us remarkable is you. After all, as an electric cooperative, we are led by consumer-members like you who understand and listen to the community. We don't answer to outside investors who are only interested in using us as a way to make a buck. And this key difference has been part of the plan from the beginning.

You see, we were built by the community we serve from day one, which means that we have been shaped to respond to the specific needs of you and your neighbors. As an electric cooperative, we were created from the ground up by the people who live here and have a long-term interest in seeing the community thrive. Furthermore, if you live on our lines today, you're playing an important role right now in shaping our future as an energy company.

Your choices help us in our mission to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable, and safe energy. Thanks to you, we've secured 24/7 energy sources and a balanced energy mix to make that possible. We're also investing in more efficient technology and cleaner sources of energy to ensure that tomorrow is even brighter for our consumer-members.

All these decisions and advances are thanks to people like you, because we belong to the communities we serve. So sure, you may be used to getting your energy from us, but we love the energy we get from you.



Matthew Collins
CEO



Defining Degree Days

Weather can have a major impact on energy bills, and when the outdoor temperatures become extreme, your heating and cooling equipment works harder to keep your home comfortable.

Did you know the energy experts at Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative use degree days to anticipate heating and cooling needs for you, our consumer-members?

Never heard of a degree day? Don't worry, you're not alone. Let's take a look at what degree days are and why they're important for electric utilities.

Degree days measure how cold or warm a location is by comparing the average of the high and low (mean) of the outdoor temperatures recorded in that location to the standard U.S. temperature, which is 65 F. The assumption is that we don't need heating or cooling to be comfortable when this is the outdoor temperature.

So, the more extreme the outdoor temperatures, the higher the number of degree days. And the higher the number of degree days, the higher the amount of energy used for space heating and cooling. Summer is in full swing, so let's look at cooling degree days.

Cooling degree days are a measurement of how hot the temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. With summer temperatures rising, you'll likely require more cooling for your home or business, which results in more cooling degree days. Variations in electric bills often follow closely with degree days, which is why electric utilities use this data to anticipate future energy demand.

Degree days are tracked for a variety of reasons. Farmers can better plan the planting of crops and timing for pest control, and weather experts can better assess climate patterns.

To view degree days for our area, visit www.energystar.gov and search "degree days calculator."

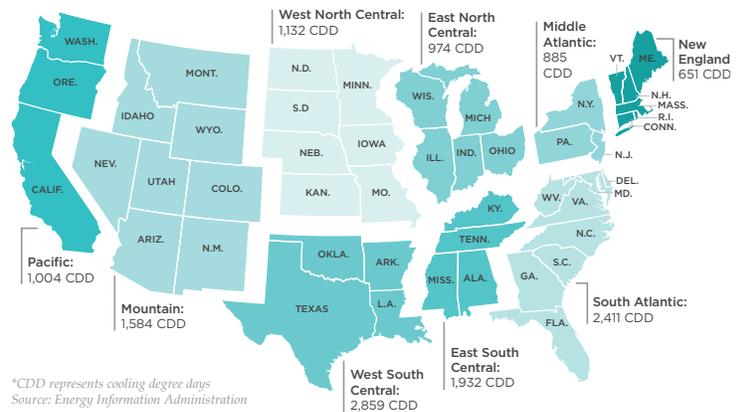
If charts and data aren't your forte, no problem. Here are a few tips to help you save on energy bills this summer:

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your cooling costs will be. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 F when you're home and a higher setting for when you're away.
- Close window coverings, like curtains and blinds, during the day to block sunlight.
- Use caulk and weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows.

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U.S. COOLING DEGREE DAYS

Cooling degree days measure how hot the outdoor temperature was on a given day or during a period of days. The map below shows measurements of U.S. cooling degree days in 2018 by census region. Extreme outdoor temperatures bring a higher number of degree days, which results in higher energy use.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

Source: energy.gov

