

## NEW CNMEC OFFICE HOURS

Effective June 6, 2022 CNMEC

Office Hours will be

**Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**Closed Friday**

# CNMEC

## Newsletter

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



### New Ways to Use Electricity

June, 2022

If you listen carefully, you can hear a *quiet* transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Advancements in technology and battery power coupled with decreasing costs are winning over consumers looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether a traditional electric stove or an induction stove top, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of approximately 32% and 75% respectively (according to ENERGY STAR®). Electric induction stoves, which cook food without any flame, will reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove. Robotic vacuums are also gaining in popularity. *Fortune Business Insights* attributes the growth and popularity of robotic vacuums like Roomba to a larger market trend of smart home technology and automation (think Alexa directing a Roomba to vacuum).

More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered tools. For DIYers and those in the building trades, national brands such as Makita, Ryobi and Milwaukee offer electric versions of their most popular products.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League notes that, "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited, electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles."

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding. "There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes, even airplanes and boats," says Dennis. "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market."

A case in point is the increased use of electric-powered tools and equipment, with more national brands offering a wider selection including lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers and snow blowers. The quality of zero- or low-emissions lawn equipment is also improving.

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping them charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can; something that wouldn't be possible with gas-powered equipment. On the horizon, autonomous lawn mowers (similar to the robotic vacuum cleaners) will be seen dotting outdoor spaces.

Another benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increases renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental impact over time. Quite a hat trick, improving efficiency, quality of life *and* helping the environment.

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## Annette Gutierrez Receives the 2022 Long Rope Safety Award



The Long Rope Safety Attitude Program was implemented and sponsored by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), following a program on safety attitudes that was developed by Larry Baker, loss control specialist of OAEC. In 2007 The New Mexico Rural Electric Self-Insurers Fund and OAEC elected to co-sponsor the awards. Since then, it has become a cooperative effort by both organizations.

The Long Rope Safety Award is dedicated to all lineworkers in New Mexico that have been killed or injured on the job.

The objective of the award is to give recognition to one employee at each co-op that excels in safety and “walks the walk”.

## CNMEC's Newest Journeyman Lineman Tyler Julian



Apprentice Lineman, Tyler Julian was awarded his Journeyman Lineman Certificate at the April, CNMEC Safety Meeting.

Tyler came to work for CNMEC as a Groundman in January of 2019 and was promoted to a second year apprentice in April of 2019. Tyler completed his four-year apprenticeship through the Merchant Powerline Job Training and Safety Program in April of this year.

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### Energy Efficiency

#### Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

*Source: energystar.gov*



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