

CNMEC

Newsletter

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



What is Beneficial Electrification?

March, 2021

Are you interested in saving money on energy costs, or doing your part to help the environment? Wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means applying innovations in energy technologies by creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative (CNMEC) and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

So, here's how this concept impacts you. It means that *electric* appliances such as your water heater, clothes dryer, oven and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When CNMEC takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point (how the electricity is produced), it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the consumer-member.

Electricity is getting cleaner.

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means that you are able to benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the near future. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 10-year lifespan.

As CNMEC is able to tap into more renewable options in the future, your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy efficient. The only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

Small steps to help the environment

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly options, choosing electric appliances, and tools over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment. It can also translate into a better quality of life. For example, when you can trade the loud rumble of a gas-powered mower or blower for the quiet efficiency of electric versions, you eliminate the exhaust emissions and the unpleasant noise.

How we're doing our part to help the environment

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, CNMEC is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means we can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable and affordable power to our community.

We promote energy efficiency through programs like our Energy Star appliance rebate program. We also offer rebates on LED lighting and energy efficient heating and cooling. In addition, through our Smart Hub app, we offer our members the convenience and ability to manage and monitor their energy use.

We care about our community because we live here too. We hope you'll reach out to CNMEC, your trusted energy partner, to discuss available renewable energy options and to learn about more ways to reduce your energy use. Because when you participate in the energy efficiency programs and incentives we offer, you're doing your part to save energy and better our environment. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions. And that means a brighter future for *all* of us.

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What you need to know about solar generation and net metering.

As the push toward renewable energy grows, residential solar growing in popularity. As your trusted energy partner, CNMEC is here to help you make the best choice for your home.

Here are some tips and information on CNMEC's net metered generation requirements.

- **Know** what you are getting and what your power needs are. Each home is unique, and generation is not "one size fits all." CNMEC has the tools to look at your average monthly power use and provide you with knowledgeable information about your power consumption.
- Prior to installation of distributed generation and net metered equipment an **interconnection application** and application fee must be submitted to CNMEC. Interconnection applications can be found on our website at www.cnmec.org under forms.
- Once your solar has been installed and inspected we will **schedule** a time to install the metering equipment.
- The house meter, labeled HSE on your bill, is your billable consumption meter. Readings from the HSE meter are the **net** of your consumption and generation.
- The meter labeled GEN on your bill is your generation meter. Readings from the GEN meter are the total monthly kWh generated and are **informational only**. Bills are calculated on the **net** read from the HSE meter.
- Net monthly kWh consumption is billed at the **applicable rate** for the service.
- Monthly kWh generated above consumption is calculated at the current **Avoided Cost Rate**. The avoided cost rate is calculated by the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA) and approved by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC).
- **Service charges, device fees and applicable taxes are billed monthly.**

Please contact CNMEC energy experts to provide you with an honest look at your renewable energy options.

For engineering and technical information:

Clint Pierce (505) 847-1026 clint.pierce@cnmec.org

For rates and billing information:

Sylvia Padilla (505) 847-1115 sylvia.padilla@cnmec.org or

Alice Hennessy (505) 847-1009 alice.hennessy@cnmec.org

For power consumption and rate evaluations:

Curtis Belcher (505) 847-1008 curtis.belcher@cnmec.org

Download our SmartHub mobile app today!

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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

Source: www.energy.gov

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring forward on March 14! Set your clocks forward by one hour.



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