

Keep your bill consistent when the weather isn't.

Budget Billing from Farmers Electric Cooperative means you'll know what to expect, so you can plan ahead.



No one likes surprises – especially when it affects your household budget. That's why Farmers EC offers Budget Billing as a payment option to our members. It's a way to plan ahead for the months with greater usage and average those costs throughout the year. It'd be nice if we could do that with the weather, too.

Average is calculated using the last 12-month account history.

Every member is eligible with no participation fees to join.

SIGN UP FOR BUDGET BILLING: 800 541 2662



Rebates For The New Year

Create a more efficient home and get money back.



by **MARK STUBBS**
General Manager

We redesigned FarmersElectric.coop about six months ago with the goal of making it a little easier to locate information about the cooperative.

The site looks great and I believe we accomplished our goal.

One thing we've noticed since the website redesign is that our energy efficiency rebate page is now one of the most popular pages on our website. We believe we have the most robust energy efficiency rebate program of any utility around. We made a few changes to the rebate program for 2016, and I believe these changes will make it even easier for our members to save money on the things that save energy.

Our two most popular rebates for 2015 are being offered again in 2016. Our \$50 rebate for an HVAC System Tune-up and our rebate of up to \$100 on the purchase of LED light bulbs are two of the nine energy efficiency rebates for 2016.

An HVAC System Tune-up will make sure your heating and cooling system is working as efficiently as it can. According to Energy.gov, heating and cooling account for nearly half of the energy use in a typical home, making it the largest energy expense for most families. An HVAC System Tune-up will get your system running efficiently so it doesn't have to work so hard to close the gap between the indoor and the outdoor temperatures.

When you have your HVAC system tuned, remember to replace the filter. Filters get clogged with airborne debris, including dust, dirt and bugs. A dirty filter forces your furnace to work harder to keep your home comfortable. The harder it works, the more energy it uses. Most filters are disposable, but if yours is not, rinse it with water and brush away the dirt. Avoid using chemical cleaners, as the furnace fan could push residual toxins into the indoor air you breathe.

Our LED lighting rebate was the most popular rebate for 2015 and we are hoping it is again in 2016. One of the simplest ways to save energy is to switch from old-fashioned incandescent bulbs to energy efficient LED bulbs. Here's why we offer a rebate on these bulbs: According to Energy.gov, by replacing your home's five most frequently used light bulbs with LED models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.

The biggest change to our energy efficiency rebate program is the Water Heater rebate. A Department of Energy infographic that we've shared on our social media sites shows that heating water is typically the second largest energy expense for most families. The average household spends between \$400 and \$600 a year just to heat water.

An update to the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act, went into effect last year which resulted in more efficient water heaters being on store shelves today. More efficient usually

means higher priced. That's why we increased our water heater rebate from \$100 to \$300. Water heaters must have an Energy Factor of 2.0 or greater to qualify for our rebate.

If you want more information, we have an energy efficiency expert on staff. Not only can he help you navigate the energy efficiency rebates, but he also can conduct a FREE onsite energy audit of your home. Once onsite, our energy efficiency expert will check for air leaks, look at your ductwork and insulation, and determine the temperature of the air coming out of the vents. Best of all, the energy efficiency expert will make recommendations on how to improve your home's energy efficiency.

Use the contact form at FarmersElectric.coop or give us a call today at 903-455-1715 if you have rebate questions or want to speak to our energy efficiency expert.

At Farmers Electric Cooperative we believe that helping our members save money on the things that save energy is the right thing to do. Check out our energy efficiency rebates on our website, or set up an energy audit if you are looking for more ways to save. Thank you for being a member of Farmers EC.

Even when the power is out, your're not.



TEXT ALERTS:
Text FEC to 85700



Create an energy-efficient home. Get a FREE Energy Audit today.

Call us and Farmers Electric Cooperative will send an expert to evaluate your home energy use.

Ready to be more energy-efficient, but confused about where to begin? You're not alone. With Farmers' FREE Energy Audit, our professional auditor will visit your home to assess your situation and show you how to save, now and in the long run. Let us help clear the way to a more efficient home.

Schedule your FREE energy audit to find out where your home is using more electricity than necessary.

Take steps to save immediately, with simple changes like sealing drafts and adjusting home habits.

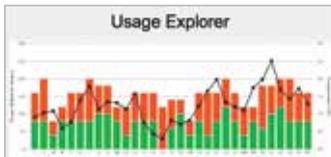
Consider long-term upgrades like more efficient heating and cooling systems or adding insulation.

CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE EVALUATION: 800 541 2662



SmartHub is the FREE, easy, and safe way to manage your account online.

As a part of the Member Hub on our website, you can log in or download the SmartHub app to your Apple or Android device. You can use it to manage payments, notify customer service of account and service issues, check your usage, and receive special messaging all at the touch of a button.



Usage Explorer

SmartHub's Usage Explorer gives you a detailed look at past and current usage. This data can also be viewed with weather trends by month, day, or even hour.



Bill Comparison

Bill Comparison lets you review two bill histories side by side to monitor differences between the same month from the previous year – or other combinations you may be interested in comparing.



Average Usage

Monthly averages can be monitored while viewing daily usage patterns along with the days of the billing period. If you have multiple meters on your account, you may select which one to review.

Creating an account takes less than three minutes and it provides a safe, secure environment for bill payments and transactions between you, Farmers EC, and your financial institution. SmartHub is another way Farmers EC makes sure you're in power with interactive ways to manage your energy usage and your account.

MANUFACTURED HOMES:

Easy affordable energy saving tips.

Cover window A/C units

Purchase interior and exterior covers, available at home improvement centers. Or remove unit and weatherize the window. Seal all gaps around window.

Seal leaky windows(\$, low skill)

Weatherstripping or caulk can be used to seal cracks and gaps around window frames. Do-it-yourself plastic window insulating kits are available at hardware stores, can reduce winter drafts.

Fix poorly fitting exterior doors

If the door itself is in good shape, weatherstripping may be the answer. The vinyl flap can be replaced, or you can add silicone tube weatherstripping to it.

Lower the water heater thermostat

Every 10° you turn down the water heater, you'll save about 3% to 5% on water heating costs. A setting of 120° is usually hot enough.

Insulate water pipes leading from the water heater

Insulating the water pipes slows heat loss. Pipe insulation is usually a foam sleeve, slit lengthwise, that costs less than 50¢ per foot at home centers.

Upgrade Your Structural Insulation

Many manufactured homes can benefit from additional insulation. Was your home built before 1994? That year, stricter insulation standards went into effect. If your home was built before 1976 and has never been upgraded, then it can almost certainly benefit from more insulation.