

Text Alerts give you instant outage info.

Another way we supply valuable information during a power outage.



We take pride in the service we provide the members of Farmers Electric Cooperative. That's why we've added the ability for members to notify us by text message during a power outage. Members can still report an outage by phone or online at our Outage Map. Once you sign up, you'll be able to report outages by text and receive notifications from us when the power has been restored.



Register your phone* by texting
the keyword **FEC** to **85700**

To report an outage text
keyword **OUT** to **85700**

* Cell phone numbers must be listed on your account. Call the co-op
at **903 455 1715** to update your membership record.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT TEXT ALERTS AND
THE OUTAGE CENTER AT: FarmersElectric.coop**



Managing Our Electrical Distribution System



by **MARK STUBBS**
General Manager

The backbone of our cooperative is our electrical distribution system. We work every day to make sure our system is second to none. Sometimes though Mother

Nature has other plans.

When outages do occur, our talented crews respond quickly regardless of the conditions to get power restored. Our commitment to the membership, is to make sure you have electricity when and where you need it.

Storms, high winds, and lightning are some of the most common culprits of power outages. A statistic from our national organization shows that 31% of all co-op power outages are caused by bad weather. Other culprits include

vehicle and construction accidents, ice, and animals.

In the event you do experience a power outage, first check to make sure the outage is not caused by your own equipment. You may find a tripped circuit breaker or a blown fuse in the service panel that you can easily reset or replace to restore service to the rest of the house.

The next step is to contact Farmers EC right away. Members can report outages by calling 903-455-1715. But we also have some new ways to report a power outage.

Members can report power outages by text. Members can enroll by texting FEC to 85700. A cell phone number must be on file to complete the registration process. Once registered, members can text OUT to 85700 to report a power outage.

HOLIDAY HOURS NOTICE

Farmers EC offices will be closed:
Good Friday - March 25TH

Another powerful option to report and monitor power outages is our outage map. It can be accessed by clicking the Report an Outage icon on our homepage at FarmersElectric.coop.

This map allows members to report an outage by phone number, account number, or meter number. Members can use the map rather than report their power outage by calling or texting the cooperative. But it's more than just an outage reporting tool.

Members can quickly see the total number of power outages across the Farmers EC system and the total number of members affected.

These new tools are examples of how we continually working to keep you informed during power outages.

REPORT AND VIEW OUTAGES IN YOUR AREA ONLINE WITH OUTAGE CENTER AT: FARMERSELECTRIC.COOP

4 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE FOR A TORNADO



Texas residents are most concerned about tornadoes (54%); severe wind (18%); and hail (15%), according to a recent survey.

In addition to being aware of the risks, we need to be prepared. There are several things you can do in and around your house to minimize the impact of severe storms.

1. Prepare for strong winds

Removing diseased, damaged or dead tree branches close to your house and near power lines can help prevent storm damage.

2. Make room in your garage

Make a garage cleanup part of your spring cleaning now, and you may find that it's a safe haven for your vehicles in the event of a hailstorm.

3. Devise a safety plan

Have a pre-packed emergency kit ready with items like water, food, first aid, flashlight and extra batteries, and a radio. Having a plan in place before a weather catastrophe occurs may save lives.

4. Inventory of your possessions

If your home is compromised by a storm, an inventory of all your possessions can make the insurance claim process easier. You can manually take an inventory of all your possessions, or use a home inventory app on your smartphone to take pictures, store the file and make the process easier overall.

Farmers EC Top 5 Energy Users in Your Home

A starting point for savings

Although most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, the effort feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs? To get started, it is useful to identify the top energy users in your home.

The top five energy users in U.S. homes are, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration:

1. **Space cooling**—13 percent
2. **Lighting**—11 percent
3. **Space heating**—9 percent
4. **Water heating**—9 percent
5. **Refrigeration**—7 percent

Together, these five constitute almost half the American homeowner's energy bill every month. By adjusting household habits around each energy user, you can start conserving electricity and saving money.

Adjust the Temperature

Combined, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. You can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple, low-cost steps.

- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees.
- During warm weather, set it to 78 degrees.
- Clean the filters of your HVAC system to cut costs between 5 and 15 percent.
- Clean refrigerator and electric baseboard heater coils to maintain maximum efficiency.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doors to prevent indoor air from escaping to the outdoors.

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.



Shine the Light on Savings

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your lightbulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified light-emitting diodes can save you \$75 per year. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

Water-Heating Efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, walls or floors, it also pays to wrap your water heater with an insulating blanket. Doing this is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain 1–2 gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment buildup.

Cold Cash Back in Your Wallet

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star-certified refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than noncertified models and 20 percent less energy than required by federal standards.

Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35–38 degrees for the refrigeration compartments and zero degrees for freezers.

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS THAT AREN'T JUST FOR WINTER.



Waste Less Hot Water

Every drop of hot water you conserve adds to savings on your energy bill.

- Plug the sink while you're shaving rather than running water. You could save up to 300 gallons of water a month this way.
- Soak pots and pans instead of cleaning under running water.
- Wait until you have a full load in the dishwasher before you run it.
- 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water. Switch from hot to cold and save energy. Also, consider air-drying to save even more household energy.



Cut Phantom Energy Use

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that the average home wastes about \$100 a year on "phantom energy" from electronic device chargers remain plugged in when not in use.

If your phone is plugged into a charger that's plugged into the wall, it's using electricity. If the phone is fully charged and still plugged in, it's still using electricity. The same is true for nearly all devices, adding up to potentially a lot of wasted energy.

Simply plug chargers and other digital equipment into power strips, and turn off the power strip when you're not using the devices.