

FREE Home Energy Audit.

Create an energy-efficient home.



Ready to be more energy-efficient, but confused about where to begin? You're not alone. With Farmers EC 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.

Identify Energy Loss
We'll locate your home's weak points for costly energy loss.

Long-term Upgrades
We'll help identify upgrades that will really make a difference.

Simple Upgrades
We'll identify easy tips and changes you can do now to save energy.

Farmers EC Rebates
Take advantage of rebates that save money and energy.

TAKE CHARGE. SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ENERGY AUDIT: 903 455 1715



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

903 455 1715 | FarmersElectric.coop

YOU'RE IN POWER.

Electricity use rises with summer temperatures.



by **MARK STUBBS**
General Manager

Do you remember the energy bill you received after this winter's cold spell? It gave many of our members a bit of sticker shock. Of course, we all use more kilowatt-hours to stay warm when the cold and ice of January come knocking. The unfortunate result is higher-than-usual bills.

Now, as we look forward to summer, a reverse weather pattern holds the potential to cause higher-than-normal bills again. "Compared with last summer," the U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts, "this summer's temperatures are forecast to be warmer." The EIA expects Americans will use more electricity this summer than last. The agency forecasts the typical residential electricity bill to increase 3.4 percent over last summer's bill.

In addition to higher temperatures increasing demand, we also face the possibility of higher wholesale electricity prices. That's because three coal-fired power plants that supplied part of Texas have been shut down. Now add in the demands of the fast-growing state economy, and you have all the makings for higher electric bills.

A few home improvements and simple changes in day-to-day habits can add up to big savings this summer. For example, a few tubes of latex or silicone caulk for your windows will help keep cooler air inside your home and the hot air outside where it belongs. If you insulate your hot water pipes, you can cut water heating costs by 4 percent. And remember to set your air-conditioning system thermostat to 78 degrees and maybe even a little higher if you're planning to be away from the house for a while.

Check your home's insulation. According to energystar.gov, the insulation in your home's attic should cover joists and be evenly distributed. It is also important to use insulation with a recommended R-value of 30–60. You will not only feel the difference in your home, you'll help offset peak demand.

Another fairly simple way to save this summer is with a Nest Thermostat. Members with a Nest Thermostat are eligible for the Rush Hour Rewards program. Once you sign up for Rush Hour Rewards, Farmers EC will pay you \$100 for the first year and \$50 a year thereafter to help reduce the load on the electrical grid during Rush Hours (times when demand for energy is high) like this summer. You don't have to do anything. Your Nest Thermostat will do all the work for you, turning down cooling to help save more energy while still keeping you comfortable.

And finally, one of the benefits of membership at Farmers Electric is the FREE in-home energy audit. One of our energy experts will visit your home and make energy-saving recommendations. Use the Contact Form under the Member Hub tab at FarmersElectric.coop to sign up for a FREE in-home energy audit. And don't forget to use the resources at energystar.gov. You'll find a variety of tools and tips to help maximize your home's energy efficiency.

360 GREEN SERVICES

**RUSH HOUR
REWARDS
\$100 CREDIT**



Special offer for Farmers EC members who currently have or are planning to purchase a Nest Learning Thermostat and enroll in Rush Hour Rewards.

Rush Hour Rewards is a program that utilizes the Nest Learning Thermostat to manage your home's heating and cooling systems and help Farmers EC reduce electricity use during peak summer hours when temperatures soar and air conditioners cycle on creating an "energy rush hour." Farmers EC will give residential members a \$100 account credit when they enroll their Nest Learning Thermostat (maximum 2) and help reduce energy demand.

**TAKE CHARGE, REDUCE ENERGY,
AND GET PAID. LEARN MORE AND
ENROLL AT: Go360Green.com**



Green Energy
by Farmers Electric Cooperative

YOU'RE IN POWER.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE ENERGY STAR CERTIFIED LED LIGHTING PRODUCTS?

Changing your lights to all LED bulbs is a quick and easy way to help the energy consumption in your home. A smart idea is to change out all of your bulbs at once so the conversion is completed instantly. Plus, it will most likely be the last time you will ever have to drag out the ladder to change a bulb.

There are more lighting options available today than ever before. Despite that, ENERGY STAR is still the simple choice to save on your utility bills.

LED bulbs that have earned the ENERGY STAR are subject to very specific requirements designed to replicate the experience you are used to with a standard bulb—so they can be used for a wide variety of applications. A general purpose LED bulb that does not qualify for the ENERGY STAR may not distribute light everywhere and could prove to be a disappointment if used in a table lamp.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR HOME'S BASELOAD AND SEASONAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

If you've ever looked at the bar graphs of your home's monthly energy consumption and thought, "Yep, it's higher in summer and winter and lower in the fall and in spring. Tell me something I don't know." This article may help you look at those graphs in a whole new way.

The lowest usage months are telling you the minimum energy consumption of your house. During these "shoulder seasons," consider examining where the rest of your energy use comes from – that portion of your bill that does not include heating and cooling: your baseload.

If you draw a line across your 12 month usage graph as indicated in the illustration, the energy consumption below the line is what your home needs to run and operate based on your appliances, lighting, electronics, and water heating.

Baseload data is what our Home Energy Auditors review as they assess your home's total energy use and how it can relate to potential energy savings. If the baseload is higher than it should be based on a home's square footage, residents, etc, that alerts them that there may be a major issue to uncover. If the baseload is in a normal range, they know your home is relatively efficient and look to uncover seasonal issues.

Changing this minimum level is possible. The costs associated with these changes are minimal, but the results will be smaller in comparison to steps you can take that effect the use above the line. Conversely, costs associated with changes above the line are higher, but the savings are a greater return on the investment.

The greatest savings are possible in homes with highest initial consumption. Avoid getting too focused on a single energy-waste category. Consider all the individual energy users that offer measurable energy savings.

DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR AIR FILTERS, TOO.

Replace your air filters regularly for efficient HVAC performance. Farmers EC makes it easy with filters shipped directly to your door from FilterChange.coop. Order online and set up reminders while saving up to 15% on heating and cooling costs.

SIGN UP TODAY AT:
FilterChange.coop



INCANDESCENT

Efficiency



Lifespan



CFL

Efficiency



Lifespan



LED

Efficiency



Lifespan



ENERGY STAR means high quality and performance, particularly in the following areas:



Color Quality

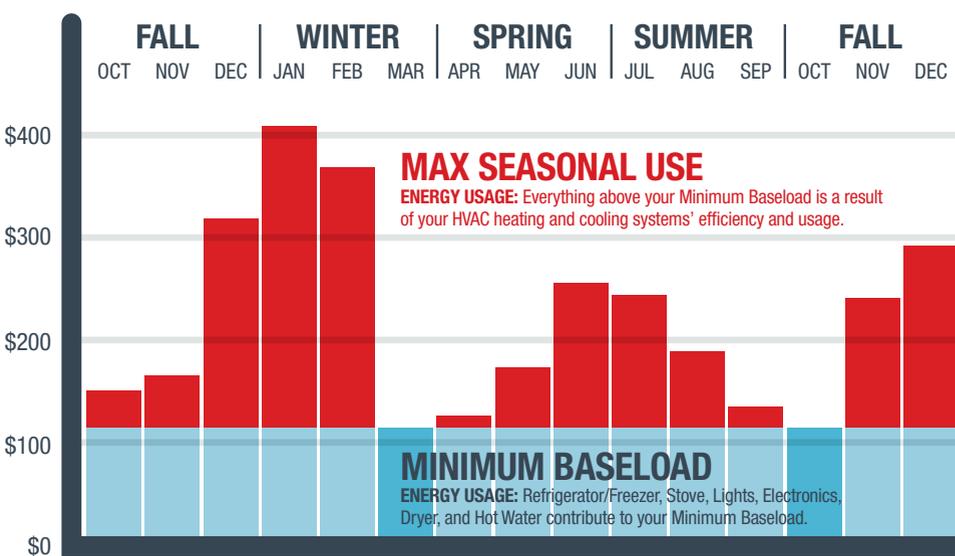
- 5 different requirements for color to ensure quality up front and over time

Light Output

- Light output minimums to ensure you get enough light
- Light distribution requirements to ensure the light goes where you need it
- Guidelines for equivalency claims to take the guess-work out of replacement

Peace of Mind

- Verified compliance with more than 20 requirements to address performance and labeling
- Long-term testing to back up lifetime claims
- Testing to stress the products in operating environments similar to how you will use the product in your home
- 3-year minimum warranty requirement



MAX SEASONAL USE
ENERGY USAGE: Everything above your Minimum Baseload is a result of your HVAC heating and cooling systems' efficiency and usage.

MINIMUM BASELOAD
ENERGY USAGE: Refrigerator/Freezer, Stove, Lights, Electronics, Dryer, and Hot Water contribute to your Minimum Baseload.

STEPS TO IMPACT YOUR BASELOAD USE.

- Set water heater temperature no higher than 120F. 115F if there are only one or two people in the home.
- Convert to LED bulbs inside and outside.
- Set the refrigerator temperature between 34-37F and the freezer between 0-5 F.
- Change your air filters.
- Weatherstripping around windows and exterior doors.
- Get a FREE Home Energy Audit from Farmers EC.

STEPS TO IMPACT YOUR SEASONAL USE.

- Get an HVAC tune up.
- Add attic insulation if you have less than 10"-14".
- Replace electric resistance heating unit with a heat pump.
- Install a Nest Learning Thermostat.



POWER BEYOND PAYMENTS.

SmartHub isn't just a payment portal. It is a powerful interface that puts the analysis of your account at your fingertips. Use SmartHub to track, analyze, and understand usage trends, understand your electricity use on your bill, and can also assist you to make informed decisions about your energy use. Take charge and plan for seasonal energy needs.

View your electricity usage on a monthly or daily interval.

Compare your usage, charges, and weather temperature variations side-by-side to note seasonal or behavioral changes in your energy usage.

Use energy markers.

Track your household energy use over dates where changes occurred, such as installing a programmable thermostat or a new large appliance.

Determine your home's baseload energy consumption.

Learn exactly how much electricity you require each month when you aren't needing to heat or cool the home.

LEARN MORE AND LOGIN AT: FARMERSELECTRIC.COOP