



360 GREEN SERVICES

# RUSH HOUR REWARDS

\$100 enrollment credit  
for members with a  
Nest Learning Thermostat.



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 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 electric 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](http://Go360Green)**



903 455 1715 | [Go360Green.com](http://Go360Green.com)

**YOU'RE IN POWER.**



by **MARK STUBBS**  
General Manager

# Ten summer ways to save.

*The hot summer weather will be here before you know it. The less electricity you use, the more you'll save. Here are ten easy ways to pare down your use of electricity this summer.*

**1. Still don't have a programmable thermostat?** It's time to get a Nest Thermostat and sign up for Rush Hour Rewards. 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 a heat wave. You don't have to do anything. Your Nest Thermostat will do all the work for you, turning down heating or cooling to help save more energy while still keeping you comfortable.

Energy Rush Hours are like traffic rush hours. Just as traffic clogs up roads when everyone drives to work at the same time, Energy Rush Hours occur when everyone in a particular area turns on air conditioning or heating at once. Imagine what can happen when millions of people turn on their air conditioners during a heat wave. This, in addition to all the usual electrical use in households (running the refrigerator, the TV, lights, computers etc.) puts a tremendous strain on the electrical grid. And energy companies have to scramble to provide more electricity than usual to fill the higher demand.

For more details about the Nest Rush Hour Rewards program, visit the Green Energy section of [FarmersElectric.coop](http://FarmersElectric.coop) under the Member Services tab.

**2. Move lamps, the TV, or any other heat-emitting electric appliances away from your thermostat.** The heat can trick the thermostat into "thinking" it's hotter in the house than it is. In response, it will work harder to make the house colder than it needs to be.

**3. Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs or LED fixtures and bulbs if you're still using leftover incandescent lightbulbs.** The newer bulbs emit less heat and use less electricity when they're turned on.

**4. Turn the air conditioning up to 78 degrees.** If you usually run it at 72 degrees, you can save between six and 18 percent on your cooling bill by warming it up, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

**5. Plant trees outside of windows on the sunny side of your house.** The shade can save you up to \$250 a year.

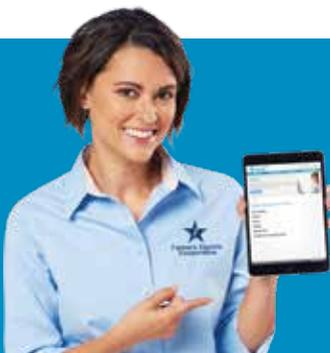
**6. When you turn on your AC, turn on your ceiling fans, too.** Running them together will make your house feel four degrees cooler—so you can raise the thermostat by four degrees. Turn fans off when you leave a room; fans cool people, not the air.

**7. Lower the temperature of your water heater to 120 degrees.** That will save you money, and it's safer than a higher setting because 120-degree water won't scald anyone.

**8. Give your oven and stovetop a break on hot days.** Use the microwave oven, a toaster oven, or an outdoor grill instead, and you'll cut your energy use—plus you'll put less unneeded heat into the house.

**9. Turn it off and enjoy the great outdoors.** Early summertime is no time to coop yourself up indoors with your computer. But don't leave the computer on when you walk away; that wastes up to \$75 a year in electricity.

**10. Contact us to schedule a 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](http://FarmersElectric.coop) to sign up for a FREE in-home energy audit.



## WANT MORE MONEY SAVING ENERGY TIPS?

Get started saving energy immediately with money saving tips. We've got you covered from air conditioning tips to water heating tips and everything in between. We even have tips for more long-term investments in energy efficiency around the house.

**TAKE CHARGE AND LEARN MORE AT: [FarmersElectric.coop/member-resources](http://FarmersElectric.coop/member-resources)**

# Create a cooler summer.

Follow our easy 2-step plan for comfort and savings.



## STEP 1: HVAC Maintenance

It won't be long before the Texas heat gets here. Some may have already used their air conditioner at least a few times already (if not more). But have you spent the time to ensure that it's running as it should? If you answered no, the tips below can help you get on track to a comfortable, efficient cooling season.

Replace filters every one to two months during the cooling season. You can lower energy use by 5%-15% by replacing a dirty, clogged filter with a clean one.

Check the evaporator coil every year and clean it as needed.

Clean the area around outdoor condenser coils by removing debris and trimming foliage so there are at least two feet around the condenser for airflow. Also be aware of debris build up from dryer vents, falling leaves, and trimming and mowing the lawn; clean away this debris as needed throughout the cooling season.

Are the fins on your evaporator or condenser coils bent? If so, they may be blocking airflow. Look for a "fin comb" at an air conditioning wholesaler to get them bent back into shape. Pass a stiff wire through the unit's drain channels. When they are clogged, the unit can't reduce humidity and excess moisture could cause discoloration in the walls or carpet.

For room or window air conditioners, inspect the seal between the air conditioner and the frame to ensure the frame makes contact with the unit's metal case. Damage to the seal can cause leaks and waste energy.

## STEP 2: Plan Your Home Cooling Strategy

Once you have your air conditioner in tip-top shape, work on your overall strategy for using it along with other methods for cooling your home, such as natural ventilation and ceiling fans. The following tips can be part of your strategy:

Set your thermostat to at least 78°F when you're at home and need cooling. Use a Nest Learning Thermostat to increase the temperature when you're away and return it to a comfortable level before you're home.

Use natural ventilation when possible. Open windows and turn off your cooling system if it's cool at night and in the mornings. Use energy-efficient window treatments and close them during the day to block sunlight and radiated heat from outdoors.

Use ceiling fans when you're in the room. You can raise the thermostat setting four degrees without affecting comfort. But remember to turn off fans when you leave the room—fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect.

Find air leaks and seal them with caulk or weatherstripping to prevent warm air from leaking in. Limit the heat from your appliances. Cook outside on a grill, and try not to use the washer, dryer, and dishwasher during the heat of the day. Use a fan when showering and range hood when cooking to remove heat and humidity from the home.

Move lamps, TVs, and other appliances away from your thermostat. The extra heat can cause the air conditioner to run longer.

## MORE COOL WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER.



### 2018 HVAC TUNE-UP REBATE

Your A/C unit could use a spring cleaning, too. Take advantage of our money saving \$50 rebate.

See [FarmersElectric.coop](http://FarmersElectric.coop) for rules and limitations



### FREE HOME 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.



### SIGN UP FOR BUDGET BILLING

With Budget Billing you can plan ahead for the months with greater usage and average those costs throughout the year. Keep your bill consistent when the weather isn't.

LEARN MORE ABOUT REBATES, FREE HOME ENERGY AUDITS, AND BUDGET BILLING AT: [FarmersElectric.coop](http://FarmersElectric.coop)

# Odds & Ends

Fair, festival, class, or show—share your community event with us and we'll help you get the word out with the Farmers EC Community Calendar.

**SEND TO: [event@FarmersElectric.coop](mailto:event@FarmersElectric.coop)**



## EVENT

# Pedal Car Race

The 14th Annual 500 Pedal Car Race, benefiting the Wylie Area Special Olympics program. Children race old time pedal cars down “main street” Ballard Ave. Winners receive trophies in two age brackets. Parents bring your children and their friends. It's fun for the family and a great cause.

**Sunday, May 6, 2018**

Registration begins at 1pm; races start at 2pm.

Historic Downtown Wylie

100 North Ballard Avenue, Wylie, Texas 75098

For Children Ages 2-5

\$10 Entry Fee (Day of Race Only)

**Go to [DiscoverWylie.com](http://DiscoverWylie.com) for more information.**

**Presented by the Wylie Downtown Merchants Association and Ballard Street Cafe.**

## May Dates

**Mother's Day** - Sun 13th

**Memorial Day** - Mon 28th

Our offices will be closed. Crews will be on standby in case of outages.



## RECIPE

# Tahitian Salad

This recipe was a winner in the August 2012 These Are the Salad Days recipe contest.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 small box (6 ounces) wild rice, cooked per directions
- 1 can (11½ ounces) mixed vegetables, drained
- 1 can (7½ ounces) corn, drained
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tomato, chopped
- ¼ bell pepper, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 1 cup reduced-fat mayonnaise
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ¼ cup vinegar
- ½ teaspoon garlic salt

### DIRECTIONS

1. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl.
2. Cover and chill overnight.
3. Salt and pepper to taste.

## Did you know?

Computer equipment and TVs need to “breathe.” Make sure to leave at least 6 inches of space around the tops, backs, and sides of your electronics for proper ventilation.

## Power Tip

Air-dry clean dishes to save energy. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, then turn off the dishwasher after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.