

Happy Holidays!

This holiday season, we're giving back

\$3.5 Million in NEC Co-op Energy Power Perks
&
\$448 K in Nueces Electric Cooperative Capital Credits

NEC Co-op Energy is not the same entity as Nueces Electric Cooperative and you do not have to buy NEC Co-op Energy's products to continue to receive quality services from Nueces Electric Cooperative.

NEC is partnering with the Coastal Bend Food Bank for a

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE!

Please stop by any of our service locations between **Nov. 24 - Dec. 18, 2020**, and donate **canned goods and non-perishables**.

Please Donate Canned:

*VEGETABLES *FRUIT *PROTEIN
*SOUPS *GRAINS *OTHER: PASTA
& JUICE

*Lobby rules subject to COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time of drop off.



2021 Scholarship Program

For high school seniors

This year we are giving \$32,000 in scholarship awards!

Download the NEC scholarship application and apply today! Deadline is February 12, 2021.

Visit www.nueceselectric.org

2021 Youth Leadership Tour

For high school juniors

Win the trip of a lifetime!

The government-in-action Youth Leadership tour is an expense paid trip to Washington D.C. every summer in June.

Visit our website and apply today! Deadline to apply is January 15, 2021.

Visit www.nueceselectric.org

Deck the House Holiday Decorating Contest

Win Electric Bill Credits!

1st Place
\$1,000

2nd Place
\$500

3rd Place
\$300

12 lucky runner-ups will also receive \$100 electric bill credits! Holiday photos and application must be submitted by Tuesday, December 15, 2020, by 5:00 p.m. Visit www.nueceselectric.org for full details!

Top 3 Tips to help save on your winter electric bills



Consider installing a programmable thermostat to automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings day and night. Set your thermostat to lower temperatures while you're asleep or away from home. 55 degrees at night and 65 degrees during the day is ideal.



Consider replacing incandescent lightbulbs with energy-efficient LEDs, which use one-fifth of the energy consumed by a regular bulb and can last 25 times as long or longer.



Clean or replace furnace filters monthly during winter use, and check ducts, flues and chimneys. Ensure the chimney is clean, clear of wildlife nests, and that there is no blockage in high-efficiency furnaces that vent through the wall. Keeping heating equipment clean and in good repair will ensure peak efficiency and safety.

Generator Safety

Many families prepare for the possibility of power outages by purchasing portable electric generators. Here are some things to consider before and after you purchase your generator.

How do I use my generator safely?

The portable generator, while in operation, should be located outside in an unheated, covered, well-ventilated area. Do NOT operate the generator in a house, basement, attached garage or any enclosed area. Exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, which is an odorless, invisible, poisonous gas.

Portable generators have traditionally been used to run plug-in appliances like refrigerators, freezers and lights. Any appliance that is not permanently wired into the home's electrical system can be operated with polarized extension cords from the generator. Generally, #10 and #12 wire size extension cords are needed for 1,200- to 1,800-watt loads. Be careful! Overloading extension cords may cause a fire.

A double-throw transfer switch must be used for 240-volt appliances, as well as for hard-wired appliances like furnaces or water pumps. A polarized

outdoor-rated extension cord connects the generator to a fused outlet that feeds the transfer switch. The switch prevents your generator from feeding electricity back into power lines and causing injury or possibly killing linemen working to restore your power. The transfer switch must be installed by a licensed electrician and inspected by an electrical inspector to prevent house fires and ensure that the generator is not overloaded.

How do I choose my generator?

Buying a generator can be a lot like buying an automobile. The body and engine are included in the base price, but the many desirable features you want cause the price to go up. Practical options to look for include the following:

- overhead valve engine for longer engine life and quieter operation;
- pressurized lubrication for longer engine life;
- auto idle control to reduce noise level and fuel consumption;
- large gas tank (larger than 5 gallons);
- low oil shutdown feature to prevent engine damage; and
- wheel kit for easy transport.