

# Why Is My Electric Bill More Than My Neighbor's?

**Y**ou have a TV, DVD player, microwave oven, electric range and cooktop, refrigerator/freezer, heat pump and personal computer. So does your next door neighbor. So why is your electric bill almost twice as high every month?

Consider this: How well are your walls insulated compared to your neighbor's? Do you take longer, hotter showers? Do you boil water on the stovetop while your neighbor opts for the microwave? Does the TV keep you company even when you're not watching it?

No two families live alike. So no two electric bills are the same. Comparing your monthly statement to anyone else's would be like comparing your weekly grocery tabs. Two families of four will never spend exactly the same amount on

food because their tastes and habits are different.

Think about the conveniences you might be willing to pay for, even though your neighbor isn't. Are you more comfortable sleeping in an extra-cool house on hot summer nights? Maybe your neighbor's setback thermostat ekes the temperature up a few degrees at bedtime.

Do members of your family entertain themselves in separate rooms after dinner—watching TV or playing video games—while the folks next door all gather in a family room to play a board game?

Another major factor in today's electric bills is vampire energy loss. Virtually anything that's plugged in these days is drawing some current—even when it's off. Experts estimate that standby energy drain accounts for 5 to 10 percent of an average home's annual power usage. A plasma TV,

**Which family do you think will have the lowest electricity bill this month?**

for instance, can use \$165 annually for electric power—when it's off.

Consider unplugging items when not in use or using a power strip to disconnect several items at once. There are also "smart" power strips available that automatically cut power to devices in vampire mode.

The way to lower your electric costs is to use energy more efficiently before the bill comes. If your neighbor's bill is lower than yours, ask for some tips about how to save money by conserving energy around the house.

## Change the Clock; Change a Lightbulb!

We spring forward this year at 2 a.m. March 14, kicking off months of extra sunlight in the evening. These extra daylight hours help people save electricity by letting them turn the lights on a little later in the evening.

This year, make those energy savings go even further. When you set your clock forward one hour, change a lightbulb in your home from an incandescent bulb to a more efficient compact fluorescent bulb. That single lightbulb would pay for itself many times over in lower energy bills by next March, as the bulbs offer a similar quality of light but use significantly less energy.

The change to daylight saving time is also a good time to put fresh batteries in your smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors and then test them to ensure that they work.

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Employees who received service awards in 2009 are, front row, from left: Serviceman Charles 'Skipper' Tullos, Customer Service Manager Mark Rash, Assistant Manager & Computer Systems Administrator Lindy Shaw and Lineman Larry Harrison; and back row, from left: Apprentice Lineman Russell Putman, Meter Tech Darrell Tidwell and Superintendent Rusty Andrews. Not pictured is Staking Technician Mike Lawrence.

## NCEC Honors Eight Employees for 145 Years of Service

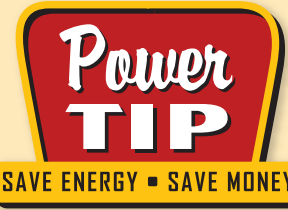
Eight employees recently were recognized and presented with service awards for their years of service at Navarro County Electric Cooperative. Rusty Andrews was recognized for 35 years; Mark Rash and Lindy Shaw for 30 years; Mike Lawrence for 15 years; Larry Harrison, Darrell Tidwell and Charles 'Skipper' Tullos for 10 years; and Russell Putman for five years.

Congratulations to these employees ... and thanks for the hard work and dedication you have given to NCEC.

## A HOLIDAY PRIZE



During the Christmas holidays, NCEC held a drawing for a gift basket filled with an assortment of items ranging from candy to gift cards for local businesses. The names of members who paid their bill in the office during the month of December were entered into the drawing. Lucky winner A.V. Mergerson accepts the basket from NCEC employees Jennifer Wolver and Imelda Sanchez.



A dirty track on a sliding glass door can create a gap in the door's seal that will allow air infiltration. Clean dirt out of the track regularly.

Caulk around the edges of the sliding glass doors and seal any cracks where the door frame meets the house.



## NAVARRO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.