

First, reduce your current energy use

AUDIT YOUR HOME ENERGY USE

Start by identifying specific household upgrades or changes that could reduce your energy use.

- This online tool will help you assess your home and set you up for energy-saving success in about 15 minutes: <https://engage.energysavvy.com/>
- PNM customers can request an in-home energy checkup that includes new lightbulbs and other energy-saving devices: <https://pnmhomecheckup.com/>

UPGRADE TO LED LIGHTBULBS

Switching out your bulbs is a simple change that saves both money and electricity. 95% of the energy used in an incandescent bulb goes into producing heat, not light. That wasted energy means it costs almost \$80 for ten years—and the bulb will probably burn out every one to two years. An LED bulb only uses about \$17 for ten years of light, and lasts 25 years without burning out!

Your local utility company may offer rebates for upgrading to LED bulbs. Check out the Santa Fe County website for local offers: https://www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/sustainability/energy

UPGRADE YOUR INSULATION

Half of the energy used to heat or cool your home can escape without proper insulation, wasting a huge amount of electricity. If you have insufficient insulation, broken weather stripping, or leaks around windows and doors, you could be (figuratively) throwing money out

of the window! More information about weatherizing your home can be found here: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/insulation>

CHOOSE ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCES

- Are your current electric appliances using more energy than necessary? Energy Star® certified products consume about 20% less electricity than standard appliances, saving you money over time. Local utility companies may offer you a rebate for upgrading water heaters, space heaters, refrigerators, and more. Check out the Santa Fe County website for local offers: https://www.santafecountynm.gov/public_works/sustainability/energy
- NM Gas Company offers rebates of up to \$375 for upgrading gas furnaces or boilers with Energy Star® rated electric appliances. https://www.nmgco.com/en/energy_efficiency_savings_and_rebates

USE YOUR APPLIANCES WISELY

Small changes to everyday habits can have a big impact on your overall energy use.

- Only run your dishwasher with a full load. Scrape (not rinse!) food off your dishes before loading, and let your dishes air dry instead of heat dry.
- Wash your laundry in cold water as often as possible. Dry towels and other heavy cottons separately from light-weight linens.
- Make sure the seals on your refrigerator doors are airtight. Close the door over a piece of paper so it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. If you can pull the paper out easily, you may need to adjust the latch or replace the seal.

More tips can be found at: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/save-electricity-and-fuel/appliances-and-electronics>

Then, consider your future energy needs

ALLOW FOR POTENTIAL CHANGES IN YOUR ENERGY USE

- If you are considering switching from a gas stove or water heater to an electric one, find out how much energy the new appliance might use and include that as part of your solarization planning.
- Are you thinking of purchasing an electric vehicle (EV)? EVs require less maintenance, are cleaner to run, reduce the overall amount of pollution created from transportation, and cost much less per mile than gasoline. If an EV is in your near future, consider those electric needs in your solarization plans as well.

For example: the average resident of Santa Fe County drives about 11,000 miles per year. An EV that uses 30kWh per 100 miles requires 3,300 kWh of electricity for that much driving. So it would increase your energy needs by 3.1 kW.

