

KEEP YOUR HEAT OFF THE STREET THIS WINTER



Heating season is right around the corner and preparing your home and heating system can help save money and give you more bang for your energy buck. Here are eight things you can do to keep warm air inside where it belongs:

1. Get your heating system regularly maintained and serviced by a professional – especially just before the heating season starts.
2. Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly. Regularly unblock and clean radiators, baseboards, and vents.
3. If you have a fireplace, keep the damper closed when not in use and add caulking around the hearth. If you do not use your fireplace, plug and seal the flue.
4. Install a programmable smart thermostat and set lower temperatures while you are away and when sleeping.

5. Add weather stripping and caulking to windows and doors. Also, make sure walls, attics, and flooring—especially above unheated areas such as crawl spaces and garages—are properly insulated.

6. Let the sunshine in during the day and close all blinds and curtains after dusk to reduce heat loss.

7. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to 120 Fahrenheit. This saves money on heating costs and is hot enough to suit your hot water needs.

8. If your heating system needs to be replaced, talk to your installer about getting the most efficient unit you can afford. Doing so can help you save on your monthly heating bills well into the future. Heat pumps are the most energy-efficient solution available and are now cost-competitive with gas and propane alternatives.

IS YOUR ETS UNIT READY FOR WINTER?

If you're one of LPEA's 2,000+ members with an Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) unit in your home, it's time to think about turning it back on. It's easy to forget, but ETS units require maintenance just like any electronic or mechanical device.

Remove any items you've placed on or around the heater in the off-season to prevent fire hazards. Summer dust and

accumulated pet hair can cause issues, but a knowledgeable electrician – like LPEA's ETS partner Durango Electrical Services – can clean the unit and test the breaker to ensure the ETS will power up when needed to heat your home efficiently and cleanly this winter.

Visit lpea.coop/ETS for more on ETS heaters.

Pay-by-Phone SCAM ALERT

Did you know that scammers can collect personal information about YOU from some pay-by-phone systems just by knowing your phone number?

For additional security, LPEA now requires members who use our pay-by-phone system to set up a PIN.

Call us with any questions or concerns at (970) 247-5786

Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heating REBATES

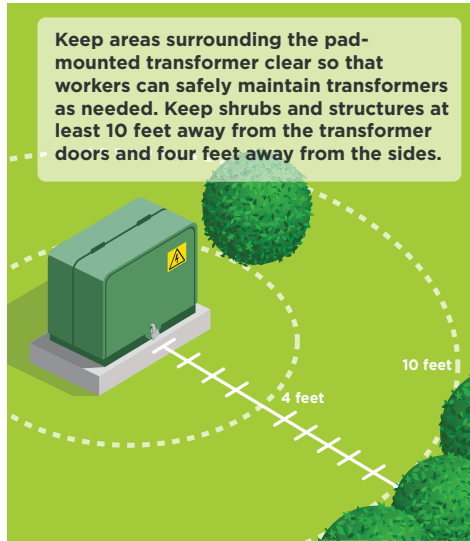
\$50/kW for ETS heater
\$30/kW for Thermal Slab heating



- ✓ RESIDENTIAL
- ✓ COMMERCIAL

Details and more rebates at lpea.coop/rebates

FOR SAFETY, KEEP TRANSFORMERS CLEAR



Have you ever wondered what those big green boxes are near your home or around the community? It's probably a pad-mounted transformer and it's part of the electrical infrastructure that powers your home. It takes high-voltage electricity and reduces the voltage to serve your home's energy needs.

As these boxes protect your home from high voltage, they should never be taken for granted. Large quantities of electricity flow into them, and they should be treated with respect and caution.

LPEA crews also need safe access for repairs and maintenance. Barriers, such as landscaping and fencing, should be kept clear of electrical equipment. While it may be tempting to "camouflage" transformers with landscaping, please remember that LPEA crews need at least 10 feet of clearance at the opening of a pad-mounted transformer and four feet on the rear and sides of the housing. The distance allows crews to safely use tools required for working with energized equipment. It also ensures they have the ability to move about safely should problems arise.

Avoid the Big Green Box - Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers. While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing, or playing.

SIGHT YOUR SCOPES FOR FREE

Made possible by La Plata Electric Association

The Durango Gun Club's Outdoor Range

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • OCT 13, 14
• OCT 27, 28
9AM TO 5PM • NOV 10, 11

For more information: (970) 749-3453



LPEA WIRE

The latest news, services, programs, and resources from LPEA. Have a question or comment? Email us at comments@lpea.coop.



BOARD MEETINGS

September 21 + October 19
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

The agenda, access, and location details will be posted online in advance. Public comments are heard at the beginning of the meeting shortly after 9 a.m.

More at: lpea.coop/lpea-board-directors-resources



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LPEA committee meetings change regularly to accommodate board member schedules. For upcoming meeting dates and times visit: lpea.coop/board-committees

**All meetings are open to the public. Depending on the latest guidelines around COVID-19, meetings may be held in person, virtually, or both. Visit lpea.coop for the most up-to-date details.*



LPEA CLOSURES

Labor Day: Monday, September 5



LPEA GRANTS

The Round Up Foundation Board of Directors approved three grants **totaling \$6,002 in July**. Approved Round Up Grants were for The Arc of Southwest Colorado and Ignacio Creative District. Approved Educational Grants were for Weasel Skinners 4-H Club.