



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Chief Executive Officer
Mario Romero

Cloudcroft Office
404 Burro Ave. • P.O. Box 227
Cloudcroft, NM 88317
575-682-2521

Carrizozo Office
507 12th St. • P.O. Box 669
Carrizozo, NM 88301
575-648-2352

Alto Office
1135 Hwy. 48 • P.O. Box 1135
Alto, NM 88312
575-336-4550

Emergency and Outages
800-548-4660
Fax: 575-682-3109
Website: www.ocec-inc.com

Office Hours
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets at 8:30 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Save With Smart Home Tech

By Abby Berry

Smart technologies make homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient. By connecting with your home Wi-Fi network, smart devices automate everyday tasks like lighting, heating, cooling and home security.

While not all smart home products are specifically designed with energy savings in mind, several smart technologies can help lower home energy use. Here are the top three smart home devices to help you save.

Smart Plugs

Smart plugs are inexpensive gadgets that can help save energy. Many electronic devices consume power even when they are turned off. Known as phantom load, it can take a toll on your energy bills.

Smart plugs are plugged into an electrical outlet and connected to your Wi-Fi network. When set up, the smart plug can cut or restore power to nonsmart devices, like coffee makers, phone chargers and other items that draw phantom load.

Many smart plugs can be paired with popular smart hubs—such as Alexa or Google Nest—or controlled through the plug's associated app. Smart plugs are simple to use, and a set of four costs as little as \$25.

Smart Lighting

Smart LED bulbs use less electricity than traditional bulbs and can be scheduled or turned on and off through a smartphone app. Smart bulbs are available in a range of shapes, brightness levels and colors, so shop for the products that work best for your home lighting needs.

Many smart bulbs include motion sensors that turn on or off based on room activity, further optimizing home energy use. If you're new to smart lighting, try a home starter kit. Prices for kits range from \$70 to more than \$300 depending on how many bulbs you need.

Smart Thermostats

Smart or not, your thermostat is the most effective tool for controlling energy use, as heating and cooling typically account for the largest portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats allow you to adjust the indoor temperature through an app, giving you full control from anywhere on the go.

Many smart thermostats include learning capabilities and will adjust the temperature based on previous behavior and patterns.

According to the Department of Energy, smart thermostats can reduce heating and cooling bills by more than 8% annually. With models as low as \$65, they typically pay for themselves in one year. ■

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: energy.gov



enchantment.coop

Otero County Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS



**ELECTION OF
TRUSTEES**



**DOOR PRIZES
& GIVEAWAYS**



**BARBEQUE
LUNCH**



AUGUST 2, 2025



Visit Our Website
www.ocec-inc.com

**REGISTRATION - 8:30 AM
BUSINESS MEETING - 10:00 AM**



Cloudcroft High School Gym
Cloudcroft, NM