

NORA News



February 2024

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Residential Solar Considerations



Renewable resources have been becoming an increasingly important segment of the electrical market over the last several years. With the growing demands from society and the ever evolving technology, the need for clean and efficient energy is at an all-time high. Finite resources, such as traditional fossil fuels (petroleum, coal, and natural gas) have limits to their supply. Increased expenses and negative environmental impact have also contributed to the decline in popularity and use of once predominantly used fossil fuels.

Solar energy is the most abundant and easily available of the renewable resources. Technology used to harvest this energy and to convert it into electricity available for our everyday use has advanced quite rapidly due to the increased demand for solar power.

By the end 2020, nearly three million homes in the country had invested in residential solar systems. With such a wide array of residential options available, it's natural for consumers to inquire if a residential solar system is something worth considering.

First and foremost, for any individual or business interested in installing solar panels, please be advised that a specific process must be followed with NORA in order to proceed. Please contact our office at 575-756-2181 to notify the Co-op of the potential solar install. A new meter will need to be ordered and installed which can take two to three weeks to complete.

Our office will also provide the necessary education to the consumer on the overall expectations of the new arrangement with solar capability and how the system will interact with the utility grid at night and on cloudy days.



If you are still interested in the possibility of a new solar system after consulting with our office, it is imperative to complete your due diligence, research your options, consider your energy needs vs. expenses and understand that a residential solar system is a long term investment.

In order to determine what size of system to install, it's important to understand the energy needs of your home relative to your location and climate. It would be a good idea to get an energy audit to identify how much electricity is being used any improvements, such as adding

(Continued on page 2)

Contact NORA:

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1135 Camino Escondido
Chama, NM 87520
Mailing Address:
PO Box 217
Chama, NM 87520
Email: billing@noraelectric.org
Follow us on Facebook

Happy Valentine's Day



Phone: 575-756-2181 - After hours Option 1
When reporting an outage, please provide the following information:

- Name
- Meter Number
- Service Address
- Telephone Number
- How long your power has been off

Happy Valentine's Day



If you are currently experiencing financial difficulty, or if you are in a low income status and are continuing to have difficulty paying your utility bills, please contact the NORA office for options on setting up payment arrangements. You can also request financial assistance through LiHEAP by calling 800-283-4465.

Fall/Winter Office Hours: Open 7:00am - 3:30pm Monday-Friday

(Continued from page 1)

insulation and sealing leaks, that will maximize the overall efficiency of the system. An energy efficient home will allow for a faster return on your investment.

Another major consideration in the decision-making process is gaining an understanding of the upfront and any ongoing expenses. As with other home construction projects, it is highly recommended to obtain at least three quotes and from potential contractors or installers. Also, if possible, look for or request references and reviews from their past customers. In a later newsletter, we will expand on what questions to ask each contractor.

Once a contractor and system is selected, be sure to request a written clear estimate or invoice itemizing all costs for the system equipment, labor for installation, connection fees, insurance, taxes, and maintenance. If it is necessary to finance, or obtain a loan for this purchase, make sure you understand the details of the finance agreement, as well, including the interest rate, length of the loan, and overall cost for the life of the loan once it is paid.

Take advantage of tax incentives and rebates. Now more than ever, there are numerous federal, state, and local tax rebates and incentives for implementing energy efficient and renewable technology available for consumers. You can discuss these with your tax preparer, or you can research what is available by your zip code at www.dsireusa.org.



The NORA office will be closed
February
19th for
President's
Day



Our linemen are
on call
24 hrs/day, 7 days a
week. Please call
575-756-2181 to report
power outages.



Seven Relevant Questions Before Going Solar

- ◇ Does my home or property have adequate sunlight?
- ◇ Will I have space for south, east, or west facing solar panels?
- ◇ How will the angle of my roof impact installation?
- ◇ Is the surface of my roof suitable for solar panels?
- ◇ Does my roof need replacement or repair in the near future?
- ◇ Will my home need to undergo any upgrades for solar transition?
- ◇ Will a ground mount system be more appropriate than a roof installation?



Scholarship Opportunity for Member High School Seniors Coming Soon

NORA Electric Cooperative will be offering multiple scholarships to 2024 graduating seniors for members from the Chama Valley area and Lumberton. Full details on how and when to apply will be coming soon. Any qualifying seniors interested in applying can inquire with their high school counselor or the NORA office at 575-756-2181.



Billing Schedule February 2024

Bill Due Date	21-Feb
Usage From	30-Dec
Usage To	30-Jan
SEDC Pickup @11:59pm	1-Feb
Bill Sent	1-Feb
Late Notice Sent	22-Feb
Contact/Follow Up	6-Mar
<i>Disconnects/Cut Off</i>	13-Mar

FEBRUARY



Think you have what it takes to join our line crew? Apply now for our Journeyman Lineman opening. We're seeking a skilled individual to join our team. Inquire at 575-756-2181 or stop by our office today to apply.

