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Keeping cool without overspending: PNM offers tips for high-heat days

(Albuquerque, NM) – As temperatures climb across New Mexico, PNM is sharing simple, practical steps customers can take to stay cool while managing their energy costs during the hottest months of the year.

When the heat rises, cooling systems naturally run more often. Combined with everyday summer activities, this can lead to increased electricity use. Understanding what drives those changes, and how to adjust, can help customers stay comfortable without overspending.

Cooling: The #1 driver of higher energy use in hot weather

Air conditioners, heat pumps, and evaporative coolers work overtime when temperatures spike. A few small adjustments can help them run more efficiently:

- **Evaporative cooler airflow:** Crack a window one to two inches to create a cross-breeze. This helps dry air circulate and improves cooler performance.
- **Clean filters:** Refrigerated air and heat pump systems run best with clean filters. Replace or wash them when dirty, typically every 2–3 months.
- **Seal ducts:** Leaky ducts waste cooled air. Sealing and insulating them helps keep cool air where it belongs.

Rebates for new cooling units are available at [PNM.com/coolrebate](https://www.pnm.com/coolrebate).

Older appliances work harder in the heat

Aging refrigerators and freezers, especially those kept in garages, use more energy as temperatures rise.

- **Clean appliance coils:** Dust and debris force appliances to work harder. Cleaning coils improves efficiency.
- **Consider upgrading:** Rebates for energy-efficient appliances are available at [PNM.com/homerebates](https://www.pnm.com/homerebates).

More people at home means more energy use

Summer often brings kids home from school, visiting family, and more activity overall. A few habits can help keep energy use steady:

- Keep doors closed to maintain cool indoor temperatures.
- Use ceiling fans to circulate air and reduce strain on cooling systems.
- Cook smart by using toaster ovens, air fryers, convection ovens, or outdoor grills, which generate less heat than a full-size oven.

More tips to save

Customers can find additional energy-saving tips and program information at [PNM.com/tips](https://www.pnm.com/tips).

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About PNM

PNM is the largest electricity provider in New Mexico serving nearly 550,000 customers. PNM is committed to transitioning its electricity to 100% carbon free while ensuring a reliable and resilient power system. Visit [PNM.com](https://www.pnm.com) for more information.