# Beyond the Wire



Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## You Can Help Control Wholesale Energy Prices

In the summer, when extreme weather conditions are predicted to cause unusually high energy use, Central Valley Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, can call a Peak Day. WFEC can call a Peak day between June 20 and September 9 (excluding July 4 and Labor Day) between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

#### What does this mean as a CVE member?

The single most significant expense for CVE is the price of wholesale power that we deliver to our members. When the demand for electricity rises

because of extreme heat, so does the wholesale cost. You can help us control our wholesale power costs by helping to control or reduce the amount of power we have to purchase during peak hours from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Peak Days. If CVE's cost of wholesale power is lower, that lower price flows to you.

When WFEC calls a Peak Day, CVE will notify members through different media sources, including our website, e-mail, radio and social media.

Below are five ways you can reduce your energy use during extreme heat.

## **5 WAYS** to Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.

Here are five effective ways to lower use at home.



- 1. Raise your thermostat setting a few degrees higher than usual. Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
- 2. Cook with smaller appliances to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
- 3. Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
- 4. Use fans to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
- 5. Shift activities that require a lot of energy consumption to off-peak hours when demand is lower.

# Is Renewable Energy Right for You?

Factors to Consider Before Installing Home Solar

#### Find out your home's energy use

Look at your energy bill(s) to review your kilo-watt hour (kWh) usage for the past 12 to 24 months and calculate the average monthly usage.







### **Contact Central Valley Electric Cooperative**

There is a lot to consider with solar, and we want you to be fully informed. Please contact us and we can walk you through our processes and rules.

#### **Location, Location, Location**

Start considering panel location. Assess the age, size and condition of your roof as well as available ground space.





#### **Get several quotes**

There are costs other than equipment, such as permitting, installation and inspection. Make sure all costs are included in quotes.

#### Do your homework

Ensure the company you are considering has installers who are specially trained and certified to install solar, among other factors.



Before you say yes to solar, please give us a call at 575-746-3571. We want you to be informed, so you can make the right decision for you and your family.



**Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.** 

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