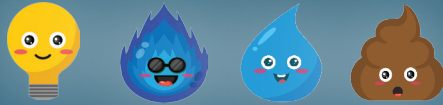


DPU Scoop

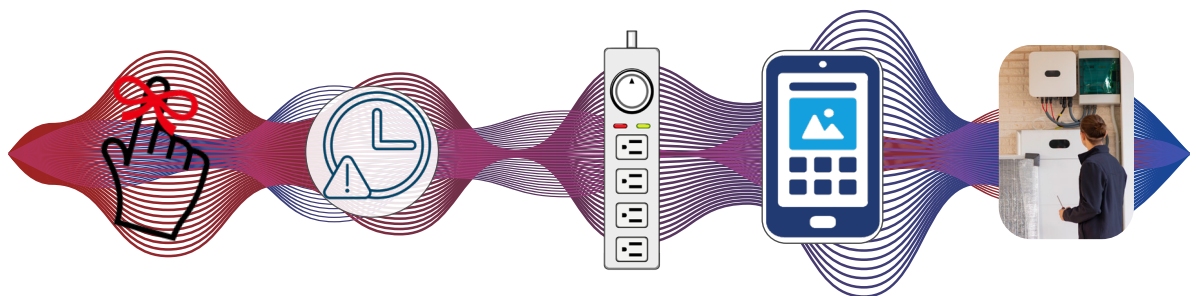


IN THIS EDITION

- The spectrum of home energy management
- Feed or let forage?
- If you've hit a low, we may be able to help
- Essential tips for safe extension cord use
- Our email address has changed

The spectrum of home energy management

"Home energy management" can be valuable in leveling out your electrical consumption to minimize device stacking (running lots of big electric things at the same time) and avoiding a panel upgrade. Management techniques range from adapting behavior to installing fancy tech and depend on the user and the lifestyle.



- Physically manage loads by turning on and off devices yourself. This is simple but only works if you remember to do it.
- Another behavioral tool is to use delay or alarm-style features on appliances. Run devices when not much is in operation in your home. Think middle of the night, mid-morning, or mid-afternoon. However, this feature is often only included on newer devices.
- Power down those energy vampires with advanced power strips. More than flipping a switch, these strips are evolving to fit your lifestyle by incorporating motion sensors, remotes, primary device on/off status, etc.
- Many appliances and EVs encourage an app. Other DIY energy management solutions are app or cloud-based as well. It's power control at your fingers (and your wifi)!
- Consider circuit or breaker sharing. For example, your dryer and oven share a breaker where only one can operate at a time. More expensive solutions are smart breakers and whole-home smart panels.

Interested in learning more? Join us for a Home Energy Talk, December 1 at 7PM in-person (at PEEC) or online (Zoom). Details and the Zoom link can be found online at [PEECnature.org](https://www.pecnature.org).

Feed or let forage?

Wildlife visitors may seem like besties who just want snacks, but feeding them won't boost your friendship as much as it may upset the environment and create safety risks for people.

DANGERS OF FEEDING WILDLIFE

Tummy troubles: Wild animals have specific diets for a reason! Our snack foods don't give them the nutrients they need and can upset their carefully tuned digestive systems.

Bad manners: Handouts teach critters to beg instead of forage. Once they start seeing humans as snack dispensers, they can lose their natural shyness—and that can lead to pushy or even dangerous behavior.

Wildlife party problems: Feeding attracts too many animals to one spot, spreading disease and damaging habitats. It can also invite uninvited guests like bears or coyotes to the neighborhood buffet.

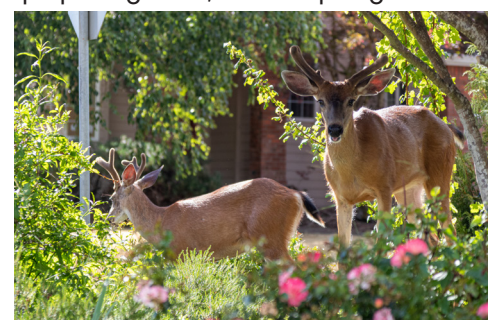


BENEFITS OF SEASONAL, NATURAL FOODS

Nature's menu: Wild animals get exactly what they need from their natural, seasonal diets—full of the right nutrients their bodies are built for.

Smart survival skills: Foraging keeps animals active, sharp, and self-sufficient. It helps regulate healthy populations and maintains their natural caution around humans.

Balanced ecosystems: When animals find their own food, they help spread seeds, shape plant growth, and keep migration cycles on track—all essential for a healthy environment.



To learn more about keeping wildlife wild in Los Alamos County, visit lacnm.com/wild online from the NM Dept. of Game and Fish

Have you hit a low?

Los Alamos Department of Public Utilities maintains an assistance fund for those who struggle to pay their utility bills. Funded through voluntary customer contributions, the Utility Assistance Program (UAP) provides support to:

1. Low income customers during the months of October through March
2. Low income customers over the age of 65 year round

~OR~

Account holders qualified through the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income year round

3. Customers who demonstrate a one-time need due to unforeseen circumstances.

Are you in need?

To qualify under the first two situations, household income must be below 50% of the median household income for Los Alamos County. UAP amounts are determined on a case-by-case basis and cover a portion of the full utility bill.

For more information or to apply for assistance, visit ladpu.com/assist online, call 505.662.8333 or email Customer Care at CustomerCare@losalamosnm.gov.

You may also be eligible for assistance from LIHEAP or local non-profit organizations.

We may be able to help

DPU's Utility Assistance Program (UAP) is funded entirely through the generosity of local utility customers. In fiscal year 2025, DPU processed more than \$59,000 in payments for utility assistance within Los Alamos County. This amount included UAP as well as programs administered through LIHEAP and LA Cares.

In Los Alamos, we are stronger because we are a supportive community and we care about the welfare of our neighbors. We ensure those living near us can meet their basic needs. Donations to the UAP provide crucial support, offer financial relief and reduce economic disparities.

Can you give?

If you would like to contribute through your utility bill, sign up online at ladpu.com/donate

If you would like to make a one-time contribution, please consider adding it to your total when submitting your invoice stub with your monthly utility bill payment.

Questions? 505.662.8333
CustomerCare@losalamosnm.gov



Essential tips for safe extension cord use

We are entering a diverse holiday season with the need for extra lights, food cooking capacity, and extension cords. However, extension cords are a common cause of home fires and should not be used to permanently wire electrical devices in your home.

Here are some key guidelines to consider before plugging all your tías' crockpots into that powerstrip.

- Do not overload extension cords!
- Purchase cords from authorized retailers. Look for certification labels showing recognized testing laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), CSA or ETL.
- Verify that the extension cord is suitable for its intended use (indoor or outdoor) and has the correct gauge wire to handle the required amperage.
- Even if the cord is approved for outdoor use, keep outdoor extension cords away from snow, water and the elements.
- Never use extension cords for high-power appliances such as microwaves, air conditioners or space heaters.



- Inspect cords before each use and replace them if they are damaged. Do not try to fix a damaged extension cord.
- Don't run cords through confined areas. Heat can build up, creating risk of fire.
- Avoid pinching cords in doors and windows, and never staple extension cords.
- Avoid high-traffic areas. Extension cords can pose tripping hazards.
- Only use extension cords that have three prongs.
- Take extra care during the holidays. Never hang extension cords from metal trees and clean out your gutters before hanging string lights.

Our email has changed!

If you need to reach DPU's inbox, our new email address is CustomerCare@losalamosnm.gov

FIND DPU ONLINE!

Connect through our Linktree at <https://ladpu.com/Links>

