



DPU Scoop



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conservation

Last minute gift? New Year's Resolution? We've got you covered!

These gizmos and gadgets aren't only fun to give, they might just save your giftees money in the long run.

For the techy types

- smart thermostat
- solar-powered charging bank
- advanced power strip (tame all those plugs!)
- glamorous low-flow faucet
- smart bulbs or plugs
- home energy monitors
- smart leak sensors

All that water you waste waiting for your shower to warm? Save it to water plants!



Shower timers have come so far. From simple sand versions to premium bluetooth models that track your showers in an app!

For the zen types

- fun watering can
- slow cooker
- cozy sweater and slippers
- reusable water bottle
- rechargeable hand warmers
- native seeds packets or gift cards to garden centers
- solar powered fairy lights

For the competitive types

- Catan New Energies (game)
- Power Grid (game)
- Gigawatt (game)
- Water Works (game)
- shower timer
- electric yard equipment
- DPU Emoji Swag! (ladpu.com/shop)

Never be without backup power for your handheld devices!



Winter is the best time to think about all the spring projects!



Our favorite! Customizable and it supports UAP!



Watch out for wildlife while driving in winter

Wildlife are most active at dusk and dawn, which puts them on the roads at the same time as commuters in the winter. Follow these simple tips to avoid a dangerous collision with an animal in the roadway.

Slow down and look for movement.

You'll reduce your chances of a collision, and if you do end up striking an animal with your car, the impact will be reduced.

Avoid other distractions within the car, such as texting.

Even seemingly quick and simple distractions increase your risk of collision.

Watch for herd animals.

When you see one herd animal, there are bound to be more.



Expect the unexpected.

Deer and elk behavior is unpredictable. They may freeze or they may dart into the road.

Some of the best forage may be found alongside the roadway...

.. making it particularly attractive to a variety of animals.

The easiest path is the plowed one.

It takes a lot of energy and effort for elk to walk through deep snow. For that reason, elk are more likely to move to areas where snow is plowed.

To learn more about living with wildlife on the Pajarito Plateau, visit www.lacnm.com/wildlife

GOT A QUESTION?

Finding answers is easier than ever!

Visit the County website at losalamosnm.us and try our new chat feature. Just look for the *Ask the County* icon and type a question like “how can I pay my utility bill?” to get instant answers. It’s the fastest way to learn about services across county departments, including the Department of Public Utilities.

Head to
<https://losalamosnm.us>
and give it a try today!



DPU Swag supports Utilities Assistance Program

DPU has a lot of awesome stuff on our Zazzle store! There are popular pre-made options, or you can customize your merch.

The best part? All revenues support the Utilities Assistance Program (UAP). This program provides vital support to Los Alamos and White Rock utility customers in need. With your help, we can ensure this lifeline remains available to those who need it most.



The holiday light debate

Dear DPU Abbey,

Can you help settle this debate? It's right up there with whether or not to pre-rinse dishes. I LOVE the holidays, but the Grinch in the house thinks I should turn off the outside lights and decorations at night. I spend so much time perfecting this display and want to maximize my —and others'—enjoyment! Help me win over the Grinch.

-Whoville Contestant for Most Spirited

Dear Most Spirited,

I applaud you for trying to brighten up these dark days of winter. Let's get some safety checks out of the way first so you can continue enjoying your lights without electrical concerns. If these lights are outside: **be sure that all extension cords are rated for outside, heavy duty use and avoid running too many cords together.** If these lights are on the inside: **don't overload outlets or enclose power strips (they can overheat), keep any real plants watered, and use caution when decorating in and around window treatments.** How about transitioning your lights to LEDs to have a cooler operating temperature?

Speaking of LEDs, you can connect 25 strands together without overloading an outlet! LEDs operate on a fraction of the electricity that traditional bulbs use, costing you less.

How about considering a compromise that you don't even have to think about? There are a lot of "smart control" options out there. You can go to sleep to the glow of your lights and wake up to them being on in the morning. Meanwhile, your "Grinch," the wildlife, and perhaps even your neighbors can have the darkness in between.

- Mechanical timers are affordable and have simple dials or digital button pre-sets. However, if you need more than one they can be tricky to synchronize.
- Smart plugs (or even outlets) let you easily program times through home assistant devices or an app on your phone.
- Outdoor photocell timers turn on lights and decorations at dusk and run a certain amount of time before shutoff.

Signed,
DPU Abbey

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>

