



# Current

News from Floresville Electric Light & Power System

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## **FELPS Offers Several Automatic Payment Plans**

### **Save Time by Using Easy Ways to Pay Your Electric Bill**

You can add time to your schedule by taking advantage of easy ways to pay your electric bill rather than writing a check and mailing or taking it to the FELPS office. These convenient payment options include:

- **Automatic charge to your credit or debit card.** When you authorize FELPS to charge your electric bill to your credit or debit card, the payment will be made automatically on the due date.
- **Automatic bank draft.** Designate a bank account that FELPS will automatically draft on the due date. Then you simply write the amount in your check book.
- **Pay online.** Make your check or credit card payment online 24 hours a day at [www.felps.us](http://www.felps.us).
- **By phone.** Make your check or credit card payment 24 hours a day by phone (unattended on the automated system).
- **By phone.** Make your check or credit card payment by phone with a customer service representative by calling 830-216-7000, sub-option 1.

If you prefer to write a check, however, you can get the payment to FELPS in one of the following ways:

- **In person.** Make a payment by cash, check or credit card during regular business hours at the FELPS Main Office, 1400 Fourth Street in Floresville.
- **Drive Through.** Drop your payment in the convenient box in the drive area at the FELPS Main Office.
- **Mail** your payment to FELPS, P.O. Box 218, Floresville, TX 78114, in the self-addressed envelope that is enclosed with your bill.
- **Pay at collection agencies.** Locations include all HEB and WalMart stores and the Poth and Stockdale city halls.

## **Public Power Benefits Take Center Stage**

During October municipal utility systems throughout the U.S., including the Floresville Electric Light & Power System, celebrate Public Power Week to recognize the benefits enjoyed by customers of municipal electric systems.

Established in February 1943, FELPS is one of the nearly 2,000 public power utilities throughout the country. These municipal utilities provide electricity at reasonable rates, because they serve the interests of the community rather than stockholders.

Besides offering low rates, FELPS also transfers 3 percent of the system's gross electric sales revenue to the governments of the owner cities: Floresville, Stockdale and Poth.

In addition, the utility pays 2 percent of gross electric sales within the city limits of Falls City and 2 ½ percent in La Vernia as franchise fees. These transfers add to the cities' budgets and help keep property taxes lower than they would be otherwise.

The availability of safe, reliable and low-cost electricity is a major factor in this area's ability to attract businesses and to help them prosper, thus providing jobs.

## **FELPS Briefs**

- The FELPS office will close at noon on Oct. 7 to allow access to the Peanut Festival booths and parking for emergency service personnel. The office also will be closed for the Columbus Day holiday on Oct. 10. Regular hours will resume on Oct. 11 at 8 a.m.
- Please note that the FELPS office will be closed on Nov. 24-25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- FELPS has introduced an updated Web site and modernized logo. Look for both at [www.felps.us](http://www.felps.us). And while you view the Web site, check out the various services FELPS offers online.
- You can receive your FELPS bill by e-mail in addition to receiving it by regular mail or you can get it only by e-mail, if you wish. Sign up for the e-mail option on the FELPS Web site, [www.felps.us](http://www.felps.us), under the "E-Notifications" link located on the "My Account" tab.
- The 72nd annual Floresville Peanut Festival kicks off on Oct. 4 with the Goober Games. Look for the complete schedule of activities on the Internet at [www.floresvillepeanutfestival.org](http://www.floresvillepeanutfestival.org).

## Reduce Energy Wasters to Save

Regardless of the weather or season, some steps will help save electricity. To keep bills as low as possible, consider some energy wasters that you can eliminate without affecting your comfort:

**Water heating** consumes about 15 percent of your yearly energy use, so reducing the temperature and amount of hot water used will reduce your electric bill. Try setting the thermostat at 120 degrees. If dishes come from the dishwasher streaked, try setting the water heater at 130 degrees. Although many dishwasher manufacturers recommend 140 degrees, dishes will be sanitized at lower temperatures.

**Wasting hot water** through dripping faucets can add to your utility bill. One drop a second will waste 60 gallons of water a week.

**Extra appliances**, such as refrigerators and freezers, can cost you lots. Extra refrigerators and freezers often are older models that are less energy efficient than newer ones. They may be housed in garages or other areas that are not climate controlled and may be only partially full, which reduces their operating efficiency. Consider ways you can eliminate the “extras” for energy savings.

**Air conditioning and heating** the outdoors adds to your bill rather than your comfort, so keep doors closed as much as possible. Check for air leaks around windows and doors and repair them with caulking and weather stripping.

**Fluorescent bulbs** give the same amount of light as ordinary bulbs but use only a quarter of the electricity. Typically lights in kitchens and halls, on porches and over stairs are used most, so replace incandescent bulbs with fluorescent bulbs in these locations. It is less expensive to use fluorescent bulbs any time lights are on three hours a day or more.

**Electronics** that are plugged in but not being used still consume small amounts of power. Use smart power strips that can be turned off to avoid this waste.

## Beware Lightning Dangers During Hot Weather

In South Texas, fall typically brings electric storms with thunder and lightning, because of the continuing heat. Know how to protect yourself from this potentially dangerous situation.

Since lightning represents the second largest storm killer in the U.S. during the last 40 years, it is important to know how to protect yourself and your family from injury and possible death.

During an electrical storm, the most dangerous places are outdoors, particularly near water or trees; on a high point, such as a hill or roof; or near vehicles or airplanes. If you are outside when a storm begins, take shelter in an enclosed building or inside a hard-topped vehicle. Avoid covered patios and carports that do not provide protection.

While outside, stay away from metal fences. If working on equipment, do not take shelter under the equipment.

Inside the house, avoid using the telephone and other electrical appliances. And avoid taking a shower, since lightning will most likely follow the pipes in your home to reach the ground.

## Look Ahead to Winter Preparations for Savings

It's hard to think about winter when the temperatures feel like summer, but now is the time to begin preparations for the heating season. Start now so you'll be ready when the first blast of cold air arrives.

- Service the furnace so it operates well and is clean. Properly functioning, clean equipment saves you money on your utility bill, because the furnace is more efficient.
- Purchase a supply of air filters, so you can change them at least once a month during the heating season.
- Check for air leaks around windows, doors and pipes; then seal any leaks with caulk and weather-stripping.
- Check the attic insulation and maintain approximately 10 inches for a rating of R-30. Insulation can be installed from rolls or loose insulation can be blown into the attic.
- Resist the temptation to cover the rotating vents on your roof. These vents circulate air to reduce attic moisture and are necessary both in winter and summer.
- Consider getting a programmable thermostat so you can reduce the temperature at night and while you are gone for an extended time.



### Contacting FELPS

Floresville Electric Light and Power System

1400 Fourth Street, P.O. Box 218, Floresville, TX 78114

[www.felps.us](http://www.felps.us) Twitter: @FELPS\_Electric Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FELPS.OnLine](http://www.facebook.com/FELPS.OnLine)

Phone: (830) 216-7000 • Fax (830) 393-0362

Business hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

After 5 p.m.: (830) 216-7000 (for outages, press sub-option 2)

The Floresville Electric Light and Power System Board of Trustees meets the last Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. in the utility offices, 1400 Fourth Street, Floresville.