



## News from Floresville Electric Light & Power System

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### Following Installation Bill Shows Usage Details

## Advanced Metering Infrastructure Beginning Service

The Floresville Electric Light & Power System began installing Advanced Metering Infrastructure in residential areas in the cities of Floresville, La Vernia, Stockdale, Poth and Falls City during the last quarter of 2018. As of July, the utility had installed 6,800 meters, representing about 40 percent of the total.

Work continues to change the meters of remaining customers, including those in rural areas. The project is expected to be completed in 2020.

In the month when meters are changed, customers' bills show the usage on both the old meter and the new one. Each entry is shown on a separate line on the bill so you can see the readings on both meters and the resulting kilowatt hour usage. The first of the two lines will show the usage since the new meter was installed. The second line will show the meter readings and usage on the meter that was removed. The two usage amounts are then added together so the bill reflects the total usage for the month.

AMI meters allow for two-way communication between the meter and the FELPS system. The new technology will provide FELPS customers with better information about their electricity usage, will allow for more billing options in the near future and will provide for better load information that will assist FELPS staff in determining the needs of the electrical distribution system before issues arise. The AMI program also will allow FELPS to use existing staff to fill needs in other areas.

The meters cannot turn appliances on or off in your home; nor does it provide any information other than usage, voltage and load. This same information was gathered previously through the meter and other utility equipment.

If you have questions, please call FELPS Customer Service at 830-216-7000, sub-option 1.

## Communities Benefit from Public Power

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 on Oct. 11 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. 14. Regular hours will resume on Oct. 15 at 8 a.m.
- Please note that the FELPS office will be closed on Nov. 28-29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Theft of electricity is a crime. To save customers money, FELPS may prosecute persons who steal electricity.
- 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 75th annual Floresville Peanut Festival kicks off on Oct.9 with the Goober Games. Look for the complete schedule of activities on the Internet at [www.floresvillepeanutfestival.org](http://www.floresvillepeanutfestival.org).

## Save Time by Using Easy Ways to Pay

You can add time to your schedule by taking advantage of easy ways to pay your electric bill rather than writing and mailing a check 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.

## Save by Becoming Energy Aware

National Energy Awareness Month during October is a good time to consider the potential for saving electricity. Energy awareness is important, since we all want to be part of a solution to promote our economy and support our communities, while protecting our resources and environment.

A survey concluded that only about one-third of Americans believe that their home is energy efficient, while the other two-thirds expressed concern that their

home might be wasting energy. The concerned also mentioned that they needed simple, effective ways to achieve energy efficiency.

Simple energy-savers include:

- Turn off lights when not in use or use motion sensors to do it automatically.
- Install a programmable thermostat. A good rule of thumb: Each degree you lower the thermostat in winter or raise it in summer will result in a cost savings of about 1 percent.
- Minimize phantom loads; electronics that are plugged in still consume small amounts of power even if they are not turned on. Use smart power strips to avoid this phantom use.
- Seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weather stripping.
- Maintain proper insulation in attics, walls and floors.
- Use Energy Star rated appliances. Check the yellow label to determine the efficiency and to compare appliances.
- Minimize hot water usage to save on water heating cost. Clothes often can be washed in cold water, for example.
- Let clothes air dry rather than using the dryer, when it is practical.
- Complete an energy audit to explore more energy saving ideas not mentioned above. The FELPS Web site at [www.felps.us](http://www.felps.us) provides the Energy Depot® audit that addresses all the energy systems and appliances in your home. The service is free.

## Prepare Now for Winter

Even though air conditioners are still running, it's time to begin preparations for the heating season. Start now so you'll be ready when the first 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 in both winter and summer.



### 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.-4:45 p.m.

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

The Floresville Electric Light and Power System Board of Trustees meets the last Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the utility offices, 1400 Fourth Street, Floresville.