How will you Celebrate Earth Day?

Earth Day is considered one of the world’s largest civic events, and on April 22, we can all be part of this global movement to help the environment.

First, I want to share some things that we’re doing right here at Navopache Electric Cooperative (NEC) to better our own little corner of the world.

Over the past several years, we’ve launched several green initiatives, including our solar energy programs and including purchases of renewables in our power purchasing.

There are many ways we as individuals can help the environment, and some are easier than you’d think. Here are a few simple actions you can take now to reduce your energy use.

Audit your light bulbs. Swapping out any remaining incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency, and it’s one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

Maintain your HVAC system. Replace your home air filters to allow your HVAC system to run more efficiently. Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Changing the filters makes your unit run more efficiently – keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Examine your smart or programmable thermostat. Make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule. This is one of the best tools at your fingertips, however, you can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

Seal window and doors. Seal leaks with weather stripping and caulk to keep cool air indoors during warm months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and increase efficiency.

While these suggestions may not be glamorous actions worthy of a press release or event, they do make a difference. And we’re always here to help if you want more information on how you can save energy. Stop by our office or give us a call.

As we celebrate Earth Day this April, let’s continue to work together and make a positive impact on our local communities – and our beautiful planet.
In September 2019, Navopache Electric Cooperative (NEC) began the process of decommissioning the Alchesay Substation near McNary, AZ in order to rebuild and replace the equipment on site. This substation is the oldest one on the NEC network and was placed in service in the 1949 timeframe. The adjacent Apache Switchyard originally belonged to APS and NEC took over the switchyard when the Alchesay Substation was commissioned. NEC Management, as part of the strategic plan, determined the Alchesay Substation to be rebuilt as it was the oldest and it would provide an opportunity to strengthen the reliability of the system in the area while also providing greater flexibility to restore electrical service during both planned and unplanned outages. On March 11th, crews installed the new control building as well as a new transformer in the substation. Our crews worked in cold and rainy conditions to ensure that the equipment was installed properly and on time, even with the added challenges the weather provided. NEC expects the Alchesay Substation to be operational sometime in the late spring 2020. Stay tuned for more updates and photographs on the progress of this exciting project!
Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation’s energy needs, and on April 13, 2020, Navopache Electric Cooperative (NEC), along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they’re restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of NEC. When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn’t work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

NEC is proud to honor the 25 lineworkers that maintain 3,500 miles of power lines in our service territory.

NEC invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.
**Orange Baked Ham**

1 (14 to 16-pound) fully cooked, spiral-cut smoked ham on the bone
6 garlic cloves
8 1/2 ounces orange marmalade
1/2 cup Dijon mustard
1 cup light brown sugar, packed
1 orange, zested
1/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Place the ham in a heavy roasting pan.
2. Mince the garlic in a food processor fitted with the steel blade. Add the marmalade, mustard, brown sugar, orange zest, and orange juice and process until smooth. Pour the glaze over the ham and bake for 1 hour, until the ham is fully heated and the glaze is well browned. Serve hot or at room temperature.

**Ambrosia**

1/2 cup heavy cream
1 tablespoon sugar
4 ounces sour cream
6 ounces homemade mini marshmallows, approximately 3 cups
1 cup clementine orange segments, approximately 6 clementines
1 cup chopped fresh pineapple
1 cup freshly grated coconut
1 cup toasted, chopped pecans
1/2 cup drained maraschino cherries

1. Place the cream and sugar into the bowl of a stand mixer with the whisk attachment and whip until stiff peaks are formed. Add the sour cream and whisk to combine. Add the marshmallows, orange, pineapple, coconut, pecans and cherries and stir to combine. Transfer to a glass serving bowl, cover and place in the refrigerator for 2 hours before serving.

**Classic Deviled Eggs**

6 eggs
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1 teaspoon white vinegar
1 teaspoon yellow mustard
1/8 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Smoked Spanish paprika, for garnish

1. Place eggs in a single layer in a saucepan and cover with enough water that there's 1 1/2 inches of water above the eggs. Heat on high until water begins to boil, then cover, turn the heat to low, and cook for 1 minute. Remove from heat and leave covered for 14 minutes, then rinse under cold water continuously for 1 minute.
2. Crack egg shells and carefully peel under cool running water. Gently dry with paper towels. Slice the eggs in half lengthwise, removing yolks to a medium bowl, and placing the whites on a serving platter. Mash the yolks into a fine crumble using a fork. Add mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, salt, and pepper, and mix well.
3. Evenly disperse heaping teaspoons of the yolk mixture into the egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika and serve.

**Energy Efficiency “Tip of the Month”**

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants.