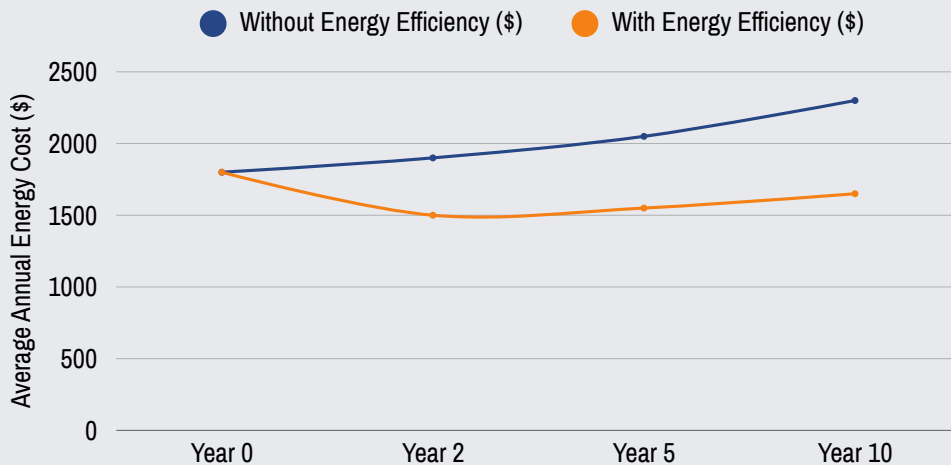


Energy Efficiency: Saving Money and Strengthening Communities

Energy Efficiency Saves Money Over Time



Energy efficiency programs in New Mexico show that households receiving weatherization and efficiency upgrades can save about **\$350-\$500** per year on utility bills on average, depending on the home and upgrades installed.

Note: Savings vary by customer type (residential, commercial, and public buildings) and depend on the types of upgrades implemented.

Benefits for Communities



Lower Energy Bills

Energy efficiency improvements reduce the amount of electricity needed to heat, cool, and power buildings, lowering monthly utility costs.



Reduced Peak Demand

Efficiency upgrades reduce electricity demand during peak usage periods, when electricity is most expensive.



Less Waste, Less Pollution

Using energy more efficiently reduces wasted electricity and lowers emissions from power generation.



Stronger Energy Reliability

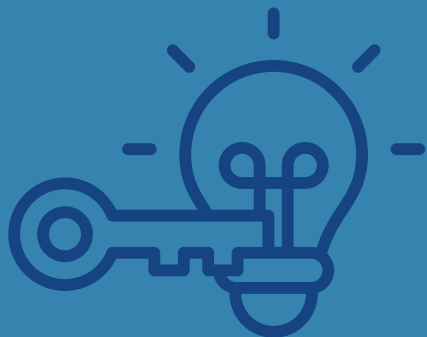
Lower overall demand helps utilities maintain reliable service and avoid costly infrastructure expansion.



Long-Term Savings

Efficiency investments often pay for themselves over time through lower energy costs.

Key Insights



- Energy efficiency is often the fastest and lowest-cost resource compared to building new power plants or expanding transmission infrastructure.
- Improving efficiency reduces energy demand and peak electricity usage, helping control long-term energy costs.
- Many New Mexico households live in older homes that require more energy for heating and cooling.
- Expanding efficiency programs can reduce energy costs, improve building comfort, and support job growth.



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Expanding Energy Efficiency in New Mexico

Why Energy Efficiency Matters

Energy efficiency allows homes and buildings to use less energy to provide the same level of comfort and service. Compared to building new energy generation or expanding grid infrastructure, efficiency programs can often be implemented more quickly and at lower cost. Efficiency upgrades also reduce peak electricity demand, which is the primary driver of grid stress and infrastructure investment. Lower peak demand can help avoid or delay expensive upgrades to generation and transmission systems.

Benefits of Energy Efficiency for Communities

- Lowers monthly utility bills for households and businesses
- Reduces peak electricity demand and grid stress
- Improves indoor comfort and building performance
- Lowers greenhouse gas emissions
- Creates local jobs in construction, building services, and energy auditing

Energy Burden in New Mexico

- Over 328,000 households earn less than 80% of area median income
- 42% of homes are occupied by low-to-moderate-income families
- Older buildings often require more energy for heating and cooling, increasing monthly energy costs
- Energy efficiency upgrades can help reduce these costs and improve safety, comfort, and stability for families

Programs Supporting Energy Efficiency

New Mexico offers programs that support efficiency, including:

- Efficient Use of Energy Act
- Sustainable Building Tax Credit
- Community Energy Efficiency Development (CEED) Program

These tools help residents and businesses reduce energy use with lower upfront costs and long-term savings.

Workforce Development: Building the Energy Efficiency Workforce

The Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC) program through the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions trains contractors to perform residential energy efficiency upgrades. While currently small, it offers a replicable model for expanding the state's energy efficiency workforce.

Decision Points Explained

- Improve access to energy efficiency programs for residents and businesses.
- Encourage utilities to invest more in efficiency programs and customer education.
- Expand support for low-income households facing high energy costs.
- Grow the skilled workforce needed to deliver high-quality efficiency services.
- Address workforce and service gaps in rural communities.
- Ensure programs lower energy costs and deliver strong economic returns.



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