

Rebates available for ETS heaters

Continental Divide Electric Cooperative will offer rebates to those who buy Steffes electric thermal storage (ETS) heating units between August and November of 2006.

CDEC partnered with its power provider Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association and the Steffes Corp. to make the incentive program available.

“Hopefully, the rebates will help offset the costs of installation associated with the heating equipment,” CDEC General Manager Richard Shirley said.

Except for the base room-unit model which plugs directly into an electrical outlet, all Steffes ETS heaters require an electrician to properly wire them into a home’s electrical circuitry. Continental Divide is encouraging consumers to consult with an electrician before purchasing ETS heating systems, to determine the scope of work and costs associated with installation.

In January, the co-op started marketing the heaters, as an alternative to heating systems that operate on more costly fossil fuels. The response and interest from consumers was overwhelming, especially from propane and wood-pellet stove users. However, CDEC did not have a rebate program available to help bring down the costs. And the co-op is still unable to offer a structured payment plan, because of the legal complications that can arise when someone defaults on one.

So, Continental Divide looked at an existing rebate program offered by Tri-State, matched it with some money and got the Steffes Corp. to contribute.

“For more than 20 years Tri-State has promoted and helped implement its Energy Efficiency Credits program throughout our membership. The rebates offered in conjunction with our member cooperatives provide incentive for electric co-op consumers to purchase and install the most efficient, state-of-the-art electric heating and cooling systems, water heaters and motors,” said Jim Van Someren, Tri-State’s communications manager.

Even though heater sales equate to more electricity being used and sold, that’s not why Tri-State and Continental Divide are supporting them. After all, both the power provider and co-op are non-profit businesses. We owe it to our consumers to make available proven technologies and programs that will save them money – albeit in the long run – especially if fossil fuel prices continue to outpace what we pay for electricity.

An energy-cost comparison for heating a home shows that propane would have to cost 88 cents per gallon, or less, to be equivalent to the 3-cent per kilowatt off-peak rate and \$15 monthly fee Continental Divide now offers.

Because Steffes ETS heaters can be programmed to create and store heat during the off-peak hours of the day when electricity is cheaper, they don’t cost as much to operate during the peak hours when electricity costs more to use. And that’s how the co-op, Tri-State and every consumer really benefits – from the more responsible use of electricity.

Being able to use less energy during the busiest times of the day (Between 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.) means you pay less on that line-item charge found on your bill each month labeled “PPCA,” which stands for “Purchase Power Cost Adjustment.”

For more details, contact CDEC’s Member Services Representative Mac Juarez at (505) 285-6656. Or, check out our Web site at www.cdec.coop.

ETS Heater Descriptions and Rebates

ETS Model*	Space it heats ¹	Output	Old Price	New Price ²
2102-1.32kW Room Unit (plug in)	120 sq. ft.	2,764 BTUs	\$838.00	\$801.04
2102-3.6kW Room Unit	328 sq. ft.	7,541 BTUs	\$808.00	\$707.20
2103-5.4kW Room Unit	493 sq. ft.	11,328 BTUs	\$957.00	\$805.80
2104-7.2kW Room Unit	656 sq. ft.	15,081 BTUs	\$1,119	\$917.40
2105-9.0kW Room Unit	820 sq. ft.	18,868 BTUs	\$1,290	\$1,038
3120-14.0kW House System	1,276 sq. ft.	29,345 BTUs	\$2,449	\$2,019
4120-19.2kW House System	1,749 sq. ft.	40,244 BTUs	\$3,001	\$2,467
5120-19.2kW Hydronic System	1,749 sq. ft.	40,244 BTUs	\$3,230	\$2,696

* Larger models and models with more kilowatt input are available for larger heating spaces.

¹ This represents the average amount of space the model can heat. The model will heat more or less space, depending on insulation values, ceiling height and window space. CDEC will perform a heatloss audit to ensure heating equipment is properly sized for room or home. Buyer will be required to sign a waiver, if he or she chooses to buy equipment that is undersized for home.

² Cost does not include tax, shipping or any accessories that may be needed for heating equipment to operate. Rebate will be deducted from total cost at time of purchase.

Estimated Annual Cost of Operation

Heating Source	Usage ¹	Unit Cost	Total Cost ²
Standard Electric	14,559 kilowatts	\$0.065/kwh	\$1,096 ³
Off-peak Electric (ETS)	14,559 kilowatts	\$0.03/kwh	\$617 ³
Propane	703 gallons	\$1.80/gal.	\$1,265
Natural Gas	642 therms	\$0.852/therm ⁴	\$655 ⁵

Consumers who use ETS room heating and participate in Continental Divide Electric’s time-of-use rate program could save as much as \$648 on annual heating costs, based on projections.

¹ Based on a household of 4 and includes estimated annual water-heater usage of 6,000 kwh. Also assumes entire house is heated with electricity for standard and off-peak heating costs.

² Based on an estimated 7.33 kwh, or 25,000 btu/h heat-loss of an average home in the Grants-Gallup area. Total energy costs will fluctuate, depending on household energy use and drastic climate changes. Continental Divide and Steffes can make more refine projections for individual households.

³ Includes \$12.50 monthly base charge for standard rate users and \$15 per month for off-peak users.

⁴ Based on the average cost of gas for January-July 2006 and August-December 2005.

⁵ Includes \$9 monthly access fee currently charged by local gas provider.



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