

# DPU Scoop



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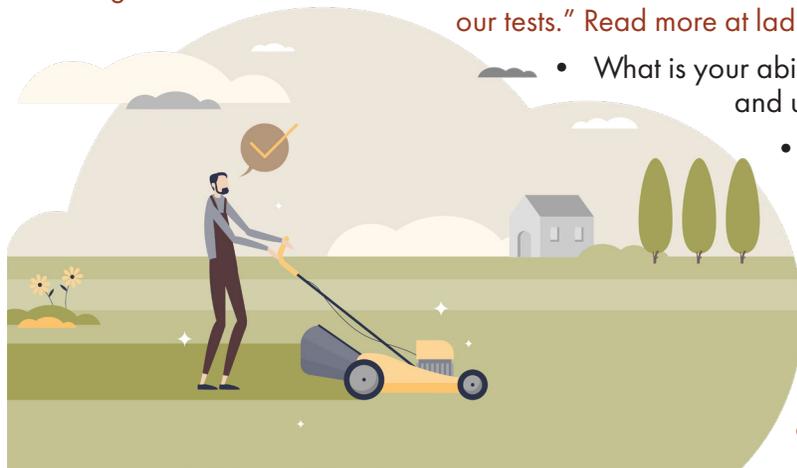
CONSERVATION

## What's All the Noise — or Lack Thereof — About Electric Yard Equipment?

Yard and garden equipment comes in all sizes, shapes, and brands to suit your needs. If you're considering switching to electric equipment this spring, here are some things to think about.

- What tools do you need and do you prefer corded or cord-free equipment?
- How long does it take to complete the job? This will help determine battery size for larger pieces of equipment.
- If you commit to one brand, the batteries are often shared among tools, including other power tools.

Per Consumer Reports, "On average, gas walk-behind mowers slightly outmatch electric lawn mowers purely on cutting performance. But for noise, maneuverability, and ease of maintenance, electric mowers have the advantage. Electric leaf blowers are the clear winners...Electric and gas string trimmers perform equally as well in our tests." Read more at [ladpu.com/CRElectricYard](http://ladpu.com/CRElectricYard)



- What is your ability and desire to do equipment maintenance and upkeep?
- What tools are out there?

**string trimmer; leaf blower; mower; chainsaw; hedge trimmer; pole saw; edgers; power washer; snow blower**

- Use what fits in your lifestyle: electric, gas, or manual powered.

And if you are tired of all the yard work, you can always consider hiring a local business.

## The Risk of Rabies

The rabies virus is usually transmitted through a bite or scratches. Animals most likely to transmit rabies include BATS, COYOTES, FOXES, RACCOONS and SKUNKS. When people are exposed to rabies, it is usually from contact with wild animals carrying the virus or through pets that may have encountered a rabid animal.

### Avoiding the Risk of Rabies...

- KEEP WILDLIFE WILD by keeping your distance. Never approach injured animals; instead, contact animal control for assistance at 505-662-8222 when needed.
- Keep pets up to date on their RABIES VACCINES, and keep them away from wild animals and unfamiliar pets as much as possible.
- Rabies in humans is completely preventable. SEEK MEDICAL HELP right away if you have an encounter with a rabid animal or one that seems sick or injured.



### Skunk Activity in Los Alamos...

Common in Los Alamos County, skunks are most active during mating season in February and March, especially at night, dawn, and dusk. They can be a nuisance when they dig holes or burrow under buildings. Remove attractants around houses to decrease the likelihood of an unpleasant skunk encounter: secure trash, cover window wells, and feed pets indoors. Visit the link below to learn how to prevent encounters with skunks.

To learn more about living with wildlife on the Pajarito Plateau, visit the County website at [www.lacnm.com/wildlife](http://www.lacnm.com/wildlife).

# SHUTOFF MORATORIUM ENDING

The winter moratorium for utility disconnections in Los Alamos County will end on March 15. If you are protected by this moratorium\* and have unpaid utility bills, it's crucial to bring your account current before this date!

If you need to discuss options to pay your account and avoid disconnection, the staff of the Los Alamos County Customer Care Center can work with you to set up payment arrangements and provide information on assistance programs to help ensure your utility services remain connected beyond the moratorium period.

Los Alamos Customer Care Center  
Municipal Building Lobby  
1000 Central Ave., Los Alamos, NM  
(505) 662-8333  
CustomerCare@lacnm.us

\* Residential customers who qualified for protection under the winter disconnection moratorium either provided proof of LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) eligibility or met eligibility criteria for DPU's Utility Assistance Program (excluding one-time assistance applications). Additionally, they either had no past due charges on November 15, 2024, or they had a current payment arrangement in place with DPU for any outstanding charges when the moratorium began.



# FIN DE LA MORATORIA DE DESCONEXIONES

La moratoria de invierno para desconexiones de servicios públicos en el condado de Los Alamos finalizará el 15 de marzo. Si está protegido por esta moratoria\* y tiene un balance que se debe pagar es importante que actualice su cuenta antes de esta fecha!

Si necesita buscar opciones para pagar su cuenta y evitar la desconexión, el personal del Centro de atención al cliente del condado de Los Alamos puede trabajar con usted para establecer acuerdos de pago y brindarle información sobre programas de asistencia para ayudar y garantizar que sus servicios públicos permanezcan conectados más allá del período de moratoria.

Los Alamos Customer Care Center  
Vestíbulo del edificio Municipal  
1000 Central Ave., Los Alamos, NM  
(505) 662-8333  
CustomerCare@lacnm.us

\* Los clientes residenciales que calificaron para protección bajo la moratoria de desconexión invernal proporcionaron prueba de elegibilidad para LIHEAP (Programa de asistencia de energía para hogares de bajos ingresos) ó cumplieron con los requisitos para el Programa de asistencia de servicios públicos de DPU (excluyendo solicitudes de asistencia única). Además, no tenían cargos vencidos el 15 de noviembre de 2024 ó tenían un acuerdo de pago vigente con DPU para cualquier cargo pendiente cuando comenzó la moratoria.

## gotta SOLAR WATER HEATER??



Heating water is intense. Abbey is looking to talk to some solar water heater users to help compile real-time feedback on systems here in the county. Reach out to Abbey at 505-662-8333 or abbey.hayward@lacnm.us.

## Electrification Planning Workshop

February 27, 6:30 p.m.  
at the Los Alamos Nature Center

Understand your home's performance and current energy load. Learn what to expect when replacing with more efficient equipment and how to prepare for larger loads.



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Department of Public Utilities

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