



NorVal Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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SPRING INTO ENERGY SAVINGS:

Spring is a season of renewal—and a great time to refresh your energy habits, too! As temperatures begin to warm and daily routines shift, a few small changes around your home can add up to meaningful energy savings. NorVal Electric is committed to helping our members use energy wisely while keeping homes comfortable year-round.

Spring is the perfect time to schedule maintenance for your heating and cooling system. Spring and fall checkups conducted by a licensed professional can help ensure your system is running efficiently, safely and reliably before the peak seasons begin. A well-maintained unit uses less energy, lasts longer and helps prevent costly breakdowns when you need it most.

If you're looking for a simple place to start saving, look no further than ceiling fans. Fans don't actually cool or heat the air, but they help you feel more comfortable by moving it. During warmer months, make sure your ceiling fan blades are set to rotate counterclockwise. This creates a downward breeze that makes you feel cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat a few degrees without sacrificing comfort. In cooler months, reverse the direction of fan

blades clockwise to help push warm air down from the ceiling, improving efficiency when your heating system is running.

Speaking of thermostats, adjusting the temperature just a few degrees can make a noticeable difference on your energy bill. As spring arrives, try setting your thermostat slightly higher when cooling or slightly lower when heating. Even a two- or three-degree adjustment can reduce energy use while still keeping your home comfortable—especially when combined with ceiling fans or open windows on mild, pleasant days.

Hot water use is another area where simple habits matter. Taking shorter showers can help reduce the amount of energy used to heat water, which makes up a significant portion of most energy bills. Cutting just a few minutes off each shower not only saves energy but also conserves water.

Finally, your electric bill includes your demand which is directly influenced by your energy usage patterns. NorVal Electric collects your energy demand each day and the highest demand recorded during the billing period is reflected on your monthly bill. To manage demand charges, try spreading out energy-

intensive tasks over several days or throughout the day. When you need to run major household appliances, it's best practice to space out their use as much as possible to help keep energy demand and costs as low as possible. Demand, measured in kilowatts (kW), refers to the total amount of electricity needed at any given time to power all connected devices and systems. For Example, a dishwasher uses approximately 1,800 watts. If you run the dishwasher while also using a 1,000-watt appliance, the total demand would be 2,800 watts or 2.8 kW. But, if you run them at separate times, your maximum demand would only be 1,800 watts (1.8 kW).

NorVal Electric is here to help every season, every step of the way. We offer energy-saving programs and resources designed to help you lower energy use for your home or business and manage costs. If you have questions or would like to learn more about our energy efficiency programs and offerings, visit <https://norval.coop/energy-saving-tips> or call our office at (406) 228-9351 to speak with a member of our team.

Use energy wisely this spring and let your savings blossom.

April of 2019 Storm



April 13th, 2026

LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

When the lights go out, lineworkers are ready to answer the call, day or night, to safely restore power and keep our communities moving forward. Today and Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and commitment.



April 22nd, 2026

Nick's Notes

Nick Dulaney
Line Superintendent



As spring finally arrives, I thought it would be a good time to share what our crews have been working on over the past few months. Before getting into those updates, I would like to share a quick reminder for the irrigators on our system. This past winter, we did not disconnect the cutouts like we have in previous years as we continue upgrading our system to RF (Radio Frequency) metering. An RF meter is a digital electric meter with a small radio inside it that automatically sends energy usage data back to the electric cooperative through a wireless network.

NorVal made the decision to switch to RF meters because they improve reliability, allow for faster outage response, provide more accurate billing, and offer better overall system monitoring capabilities. Because of this change, you will not need to call the office to have your irrigation service reconnected this spring. However, if you plan to work on your irrigation system or have someone perform work on it, please remember that the service is energized, and actively powered.

Now that the reminder is out of the way, the crews have been extremely busy over the past few months and have several construction projects ahead. In late February and early March, the crews completed a large meter change-out project in the Frazer and Benrud areas, upgrading meters to the new RF system. The crews successfully replaced a little over 500 meters in these areas.

Throughout March, the crews have also been working on pole change-outs and rerouting a three-phase power line along Aitken Road off the Cotton Substation. Rerouting a power line is a complex and highly regulated utility process that involves engineering, safety planning, construction, and a great deal of effort from our crew.

If you are planning any construction projects that may require a quote from NorVal, please call our office sooner rather than later so we can plan accordingly and best meet our members' needs. The sooner our staff learns of potential construction, the quicker all the necessary steps for our Co-op and members can be completed and added to our construction schedule.

If you have any questions or concerns about your service(s), please stop by our Glasgow office at 54091 US Hwy 2, email us at norval@norval.coop, or call 406-228-9351 to speak with a member of our staff.

Nick Dulaney

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