



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

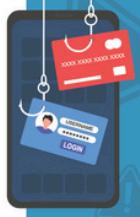


## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the utility's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

Source: [Utilities United Against Scams](http://Utilities United Against Scams)



## The Power of Political Engagement

American families expect the lights to stay on at a cost they can afford. With the demand for electricity skyrocketing and the supply of always-available power sources at risk, the need for smart energy policies that bolster reliability and affordability are more critical than ever before.

As your electric provider, NorVal Electric is committed to reliably powering our local communities. Beyond routine maintenance and updates that improve the reliability of the grid, we work in other ways to ensure our members needs are addressed. One of the ways we do this is through proactively engaging elected officials to ensure our members are well represented in Washington, D.C.

In April, hundreds of electric cooperative leaders from across the country, including Montana, traveled to Washington, D.C. for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference.

As they met with elected officials at Capitol Hill, they discussed key energy issues and priorities that impact our members back home. They focused on telling our own unique story of how electric cooperatives in Montana and across the nation are ensuring reliable and affordable power for our communities through a diverse supply of energy resources to meet the growing demand for electricity.

As our electric co-op leaders met with members of Congress, they provided details on how we need to improve environmental permitting processes and cut costly and burdensome regulations—like the EPA Power Plant Rule—to accelerate deployment and maintenance of essential

electric infrastructure. They highlighted the importance of federal hydropower resources as well as the need to pass legislation to facilitate co-op vegetation management efforts and reduce wildfire risks.

An additional focal point of their discussions with policymakers included ensuring federal programs and resources that support electric cooperative energy projects as we invest to meet the unique needs of our communities. This included tools such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service electric loan program and the New Empowering Rural America co-op loan and grant program, energy tax credits with an elective (direct) pay option for co-ops, and recently funded Department of energy infrastructure programs.

While there is much work to be done, we are encouraged to see President Trump's swift actions to address many of these issues. We look forward to working with the Trump administration and members of Congress to implement a pro-energy agenda that prioritizes reliability and affordability and strengthens our nation's grid.

While you may not consider it on a daily basis, electricity is essential and underpins nearly every aspect of modern life.

Understanding today's evolving energy landscape is important as it shapes how electricity is produced, delivered and consumed.

Advocating for reliable, affordable power on behalf of NorVal Electric's members is a critical part of our commitment to you.

## We're Here to Help You Save

When summer heats up, our electric bills tend to increase as air conditioners are working overtime, driving up home energy consumption. NorVal Electric is your local not-for-profit electricity provider and we are committed to helping you beat the heat without breaking the bank. As the temperatures get hotter over the next few months, we want to make sure you know about a range of energy-saving offerings designed specifically with you in mind. By taking advantage of these programs and services, you can manage your summer energy consumption and costs.

### **Budget Billing:**

When you sign up for NorVal Electric's budget billing, your energy bill is calculated by averaging your previous 12 months of use. With budget billing, your monthly energy costs are easier to budget and manage, especially during seasonal

fluctuations when bills tend to increase based on the weather. Budget billing is a great option for anyone on a fixed income or those with highly variable seasonal needs.

### **You Have the Power:**

The best way to lower energy use during summer months is to raise the thermostat to the highest setting that's comfortable. Ceiling fans can also help you feel cooler, but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. On warm summer nights, fire up the grill to keep additional heat out of the kitchen. Remember to change air filters often so your cooling system doesn't have to work harder than necessary. Don't let energy bills take a toll on your summer fun. NorVal Electric is here to help manage your energy use. Contact us to learn more about practical strategies to lower your use, trim your bills and make this summer a breeze for both you and your wallet.

## NorVal's Annual Meeting

The 2025 annual meeting is set for Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Glasgow Civic Center. Registration begins at 4:30pm, dinner will be served at 5:30 and the business meeting will follow. This is a great opportunity for the Board and employees to visit with our members and hear what is on your minds. During the meeting, we will give updates on the co-op, review financials and answer any questions you may have. We will have delicious food, door prizes, cash prizes and activities and prizes for every child that attends. All members will receive a \$30 bill credit on their primary account upon registering.

As we navigate major changes in the future, we use feedback from our members to help with planning the long-term needs of all NorVal Electric members. We hope you will join us on October 21<sup>st</sup>!

*Our office will be closed May 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of the holiday. Have a safe weekend!*



## Budget Billing

If you are interested in enrolling in Budget Billing, please call the office during the month of May for details and to get enrolled.



## CONNECT WITH YOUR CO-OP

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**NorVal Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
7:00 am - 5:30 pm



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