



NorVal News

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NorVal Electric Cooperative Directors

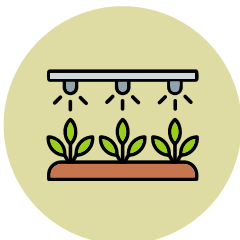
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Attention Irrigation Members!

Friendly reminder,
we will be hooking
up irrigations in the
next few weeks.
Please call the office
with any changes to
your accounts.



How To Be Energy Efficient in Dry Climates

Why does a 95°F day in one of the Gulf Coast states feel hotter than the same temperature in the Southwest? Why do dry heat and humid heat feel so different, and how does this affect your strategy for an energy efficient home? While there are many common ways to achieve energy efficiency across all warmer climates, there are some important differences that vary by geography.

Dry heat vs heat and humidity

Generally speaking, when there is more moisture in the air, the temperature feels hotter than it actually is because moist air is closer to saturation than dry air. On a humid day, when the air is saturated with water, evaporation is much slower. Simply put, high humidity will make the air feel hotter while low humidity will make the temperature feel cooler.

Heat reduction is priority one

In warm climates, the majority of energy used to make the home feel comfortable is spent on home air conditioning and cooling. The first priority is heat reduction. However, in humid areas, moisture reduction is nearly as important as lowering the indoor air temperature. If a home has too much moisture, indoor air quality can be compromised and mold and mildew problems can develop. This is especially critical to families with allergy sufferers.

Energy efficiency for hot and dry climates

In hot, dry climates, you are battling the blazing hot sun, which heats up the surface of your home. As the heat beats down on your home's roof, windows and walls, the heat conducts to the inside. However, there are some basic steps you can take to make your home more comfortable and energy efficient in hot, dry climates.

Starting from the top, it makes sense that light colored roofs reflect the sun's heat away from the home, whereas a dark color absorbs the heat. Make sure you have a vented area directly under your roof to allow some of the heat to dissipate and reflect back. A vented roof effectively shades the rest of the home. It is also important to properly seal your home's thermal envelope. Leaky ducts, windows and doors can cause energy loss, making the HVAC system work much harder and drive up your energy costs. It pays to seal windows, doors and duct work. According to the Dept. of Energy, on average, households lose approximately 20 percent of their heated and cooled air through the duct system to the outside. Homes that are "sealed tight" are easier to keep cool and dry.

DIY savings

Strategic landscaping can also make a big difference in hot climates. In addition to the aesthetic value, well placed trees can take heat gain from the sun and provide shade by creating a canopy for the home. While occasional trimming, pruning and replacement may be necessary, properly placed trees can save between \$100 and \$250 annually.

Indoors, where possible, shade windows that don't have a deep overhang. Using a ceiling fan in conjunction with your AC allows you to increase the thermostat setting to approximately 4°F with no reduction in comfort. In hot climates, it's all the more critical to replace any remaining incandescent bulbs with LEDs, as the waste heat from the old bulbs impacts energy use and creates unwanted heat. In addition, move TVs and lamps away from the AC thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from the appliances and may cause the AC to run longer than needed. If you would like more information about how to save energy, contact our energy experts at 406-228-9351 or find us on Facebook for extra tips!

Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney,
Line Superintendent

While the weather wasn't in our favor in early March, the crews and Christina worked hard on launching our new meter system. With this new system, our meter will be reporting back to the office instead of us having to go out and read meters individually multiple times a month. This will also be beneficial to our members in the Lustre, Volt and Wolf Point areas to help with accurate billing and keeping crews available for any additional calls that come in day to day. Spring is right around the corner! We will be out connecting irrigations within the next few weeks, weather permitting. If you need an irrigation transferred to someone, or need to update any payment information, please call our office to get these updated to avoid getting a bill. Supply change issues are still happening, if you are looking to build or have a project in mind that is even two years away, please get your name on our list or call in and have a quick conversation with Joe or I and we will give you a rough estimate on a timeline or a quote on what you have in mind. We appreciate our system growing more and more every year and getting to know the members we serve. 🌱



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Lives on the Line



Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Ten lineworkers maintain 2,000 miles of line in NorVal's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep NorVal running smoothly, but on April 10, 2023, we honor all lineworkers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day.

These brave men repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time--day or night, weekday or weekend--if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs. Our lineworkers are brave, committed and critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers--both locally and around the world--that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do! Use [#ThankALineman](#) on social media to show your support.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: [energy.gov](#)



Budget Billing Open Enrollment Begins April 1

- **A LEVEL MONTHLY PAYMENT FOR 11 MONTHS THAT IS CALCULATED BASED ON YOUR PREVIOUS USEAGE.**
- **EVERY APRIL, WE RECALCULATE YOUR BUDGET AMOUNT AND ADJUST FOR ANY OVER OR UNDERCHARGE.**
- **TO ENROLL, PLEASE CALL 406-228-3951 TO SPEAK WITH MELISSA!**
- **PLEASE NOTE: YOUR BALANCE MUST BE PAID IN FULL TO ENROLL IN BUDGET BILLING**