



# NorVal Electric Cooperative, Inc.



JANUARY 2026

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## WORKING TOGETHER TO LOWER DEMAND

When outdoor temperatures drop, electricity use naturally rises. Colder weather drives us indoors, where we rely heavily on home heating systems, lighting and household appliances. Heating systems run longer and more frequently to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. Combine that with the fact that most people use electricity at the same times—typically in the mornings and early evenings—and the result is significant pressure on our electric grid.

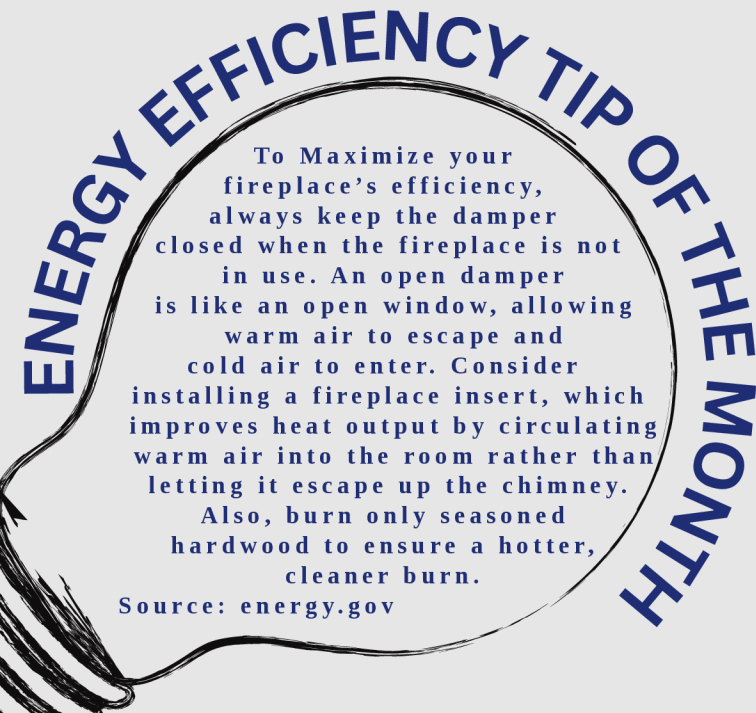
NorVal Electric works closely with our power supplier, to plan for these seasonal weather patterns and changes to ensure you have reliable power every day of the year. This partnership involves detailed resource and infrastructure planning to make certain electricity is available whenever you need it. However, it's important to remember that our local system is part of a much larger regional and national electric grid.

During the winter months, when homes and businesses across the country are using more electricity simultaneously, overall demand can approach—or occasionally exceed—available supply. This is especially true during severe weather events, such as ice storms, sudden temperature drops or equipment malfunctions that reduce generation capacity. In rare cases when demand threatens to outpace supply, the regional grid operator may call for temporary, controlled outages—often referred to as rolling blackouts—to prevent broader system failures. If such a situation arises, NorVal Electric will provide timely updates and information to members.

To prepare for these scenarios and minimize risks, NorVal Electric and our power supplier take proactive measures to strengthen reliability year-round. These include routine system maintenance, investments in grid modernization and comprehensive disaster response planning. These proactive steps are designed to ensure our portion of the grid remains resilient even under extreme conditions. Yet, maintaining a reliable electric system requires a collective effort—and every member plays an important role in lowering demand when the grid is under stress. You can help by taking simple actions during periods of high electricity use, especially on the coldest days of winter:

1. Lower your thermostat slightly. Even reducing the temperature by a few degrees can help.
2. Adjust your water heater. Setting it to 120 degrees F and spacing out showers helps conserve both energy and hot water.
3. Unplug unnecessary devices. Power used for lighting and electronics adds up and accounts for a significant portion of home energy use. Disconnect unused items to reduce energy waste.
4. Keep in mind that outdoor livestock water heaters can cause a noticeable rise in demand during cold weather. Using a thermostat-controlled heater or an insulated or heated water tank, can help manage usage so the heater doesn't run as often.
5. Turning on several high-demand utilities simultaneously creates a spike in electrical load, which can lead to higher demand charges on your bill. We recommend spacing out the use of high-energy appliances to help keep your demand costs down.

Understanding how winter weather impacts electricity demand is key to maintaining system reliability. By practicing simple energy conservation habits at home, you not only save money on your monthly bill—you also help strengthen the resilience of the grid that powers our community. Together, through small actions and shared awareness, we can ensure that our homes remain warm, our lights stay on and our local grid continues to serve us reliably throughout the season.

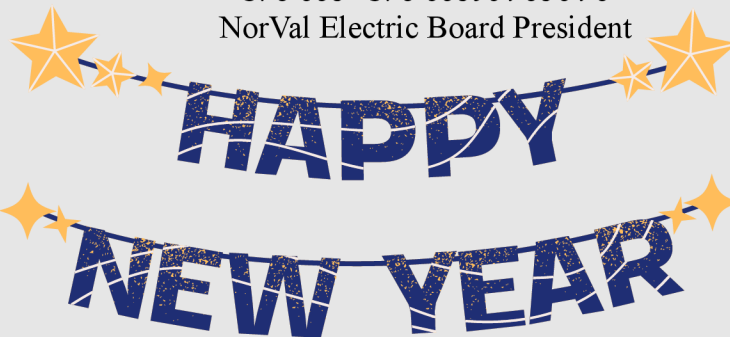


## Statement of Non-Discrimination

NorVal Electric Cooperative, Inc., led by Board President Chris Christensen, has filed a compliance assurance with the Federal Government, assuring the Rural Electrification Administration that it will fully comply with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the associated Rules and Regulations issued by the Department of Agriculture. This assurance guarantees that no person in the United States will be excluded from participation in, denied admission to, or denied the benefits of any of the organization's programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. Under this assurance, NorVal Electric Cooperative is committed to preventing discrimination based on these factors in its policies and practices regarding service applications, rates, conditions, extensions of service, use of its facilities, and participation in meetings or activities involving its beneficiaries. The organization also guarantees that individuals will not be denied their rights in the conduct of its operations. Any person who believes they or a specific group have been subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and the corresponding Rules and Regulations, may file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Electrification Administration, or Norval Electric Cooperative, Attention: Ms. Gretchen Boardman. Complaints must be filed within 180 days of the alleged occurrence. The identity of complainants will remain confidential, except when necessary to fulfill the purpose of the Rules and Regulations

*Chris Christensen*

NorVal Electric Board President



**DON'T Forget!**

NorVal, MECA and Basin Scholarship deadline is January 30th!

For applications, scholarship information and instructions, please visit:  
<https://norval.coop/scholarships>  
 or your school office!!



**Know what's below.  
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