

NorVal

News

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NORVAL.COOP**

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The Power of Smart Home Technologies:

Smart home technologies are transforming how we live, making our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient than ever before.

Smart home technologies are devices that communicate with each other to automate everyday tasks and functions around the home, like heating and cooling, lighting and security. In addition to convenience, smart technologies enable consumers to manage and monitor their energy consumption through device scheduling and control.

With just a tap on your phone or a voice command to your virtual assistant (like Alexa or Siri), you can conveniently control many aspects of your home environment. If you're new to the smart tech world, there are several cost-effective devices you can try as you explore ways to make your home smarter.

One of the best and most inexpensive places to start is with a smart bulb or plug. Smart LED bulbs allow you to control home lighting remotely through a smartphone app or voice commands. You can set schedules to automatically turn lights off or on, which can help you save energy and boost home security.

Smart plugs are another inexpensive way to give electronics and small appliances the smart home treatment. Smart plugs allow you to set schedules and remotely control power to lamps, small appliances and electronics, minimizing standby energy consumption and maximizing convenience. For example, you can sync the timing of your bedside lamp, alarm, speakers and coffee maker to turn on at the same time each morning.

If Alexa or Siri is already part of your household, you can build on your existing "tech ecosystem" by adding a smart hub, like Amazon Echo or Apple HomePod.

Voice assistants that are synced to smart devices like bulbs and plugs provide additional options for device management and allow family members to interact with the various devices through voice control rather than individual apps.

Home heating and cooling account for a significant portion of energy use, so one of the best investments you can make in smart tech is a smart thermostat. While traditional programmable thermostats can be set to your schedule and preferences, a smart thermostat takes this one step further by learning and adjusting to your routine and building a schedule around it.

Smart security systems are popular options for homeowners looking for advanced security solutions that incorporate cameras, sensors and cloud-based video recordings. As with other smart technologies, smart security systems provide convenient, flexible ways to monitor homes (and businesses), giving you peace of mind even when you're away.

If you're considering smart tech for your home, start by defining your goals. Is saving energy your top priority, or are you aiming to improve home security? Smart home technologies provide great convenience-- but remember, they are internet-connected devices. That means you'll need a stable Wi-Fi connection to ensure devices are working properly, and you'll need strong passwords for your router and individual devices.

Whether you're looking to automate every aspect of your home or simply want to try a device or two, smart technologies have the power to transform your living space into a home where comfort and convenience reign supreme.



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Open Board Positions

NorVal Electric is seeking applicants for **Districts 5 & 6**. Applicant should be willing to commit to the statement of Qualifications for Electric Cooperatives Trustees, as well as commit the time to attend the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors, training opportunities and State Association meetings. Applicant must be a bona fide resident within the boundaries of the district they are applying for and he or she must be an active member in good standing. If you are interested in being on the Board of Directors, please call the office by phone (406)-228-9351 or by email at norval@norval.coop for more information.

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NICK'S NOTES

NICK DULANEY - LINE SUPERINTENDENT

Over the years, the cost of construction materials for electric cooperatives has been steadily rising. Additionally, the lead times for obtaining these materials appears to be increasing with each passing year. Below are examples we have seen at our cooperative. At Norval Electric, we are committed to maintaining reasonable prices for our members and ensuring that extended lead times do not disrupt the essential services our members rely on to power their daily lives.

Material Item	Year Bought	Price	Year Bought	Price	Lead Times (Wait Period)	Difference:	% Increase
30' Pole	2017	\$253.00	2023	\$521.00	4 to 12 weeks	\$268.00	206%
35' Pole	2017	\$324.00	2023	\$667.00	4 to 12 weeks	\$343.00	206%
40' Pole	2016	\$425.00	2023	\$820.00	4 to 12 weeks	\$395.00	193%
45' Pole	2016	\$489.00	2022	\$765.00	4 to 12 weeks	\$276.00	156%
10" Anchor Assembly	2016	\$89.96	2024	\$198.70	Varies	\$108.74	221%
1/0 Underground Cable	2018	\$2.40/ft	2024	\$3.99/ft	1 YEAR	\$1.59/ft	166%
4/0 Underground Cable	2019	\$2.53/ft	2023	\$4.26/ft	1 YEAR	\$1.73/ft	168%
25KVA Overhead Transformer	2017	\$925.16	2024	\$2,322.51	180 WEEKS	\$1,397.35	251%
25KVA Pad Mount Transformer	2017	\$1,746.28	2024	\$5,377.06	165 WEEKS	\$3,630.78	308%
Bucket Truck	2021	\$175,000.00	2024	\$285,000.00	5 years	\$110,000.00	163%