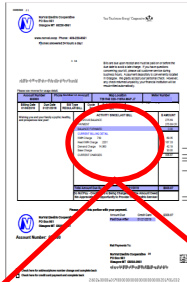


Tips to Reduce Your Monthly Bill



At the beginning of every month as the billing statements are mailed, the office staff often receives questions about line item charges on the bill, what they mean and what one can do to lower them. Let's break down the components of your bill.

- The base charge is the cost to deliver power to specific location. This charge includes the cost of poles, wires, property taxes, the cost of power distribution. It is a fixed charge that is applied to every service location and is billed monthly. The kWh Charge is the breakdown of consumption through the billing period, from the first of any given

er just 10 degrees you can save 3 to 5 percent on energy costs. Additionally, replacing older refrigerators and electronics for energy efficient ones can save big money over time! Be sure to run full loads of dishes or clothes and use cold water for your clothes washer.

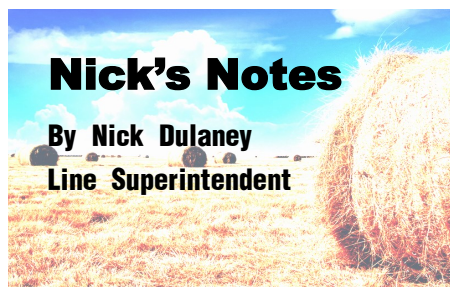
- Demand, or kW charge, is the measure of the rate at which energy is consumed. The demand interval is every 15 minutes. To keep this lower we encourage members to stagger your electric appliance usage. For example, don't operate the dishwasher at the same time as your clothes washer. Newer appliances often offer a timed function, so set these to run at different times throughout the day. As the day begins, or members get home from work, these appliances are in constant use. As these appliances get turned on, the demand charge increases. By completing one cycle before beginning another, the demand will stay in check.

Visit www.norval.coop for more information about saving money on your electricity bill. There are saving tips for adults and children as well. On the site you will find a link for the Home Energy Saver website. You can customize this calculator to your home and enter detailed information to help you see exactly where your energy is being used. As you enter things such as the insulation level in your home, the type of windows in each room, the number and age of appliances, and more, you'll notice trends that will help you make educated decisions about your home.

There isn't a one-size-fits-all solution for lower bills. However, learning how your home uses energy and finding a pattern in your usage will help give you a starting point to make small changes which could pay off over time. Additionally, you may check your daily consumption by visiting the NorVal SmartHub link on the website, or downloading the SmartHub app from Google Play for Android and the App Store for iPhone and iPads. ■

ACTIVITY SINCE LAST BILL	
PREVIOUS BALANCE	
PAYMENT	
BALANCE FORWARD	
CURRENT BILLING DETAIL	
KWH Charge	730
Heat KWH Charge	2231
Demand Charge	14.063
Base Charge	
CURRENT CHARGES	
Total Amount Due By	01/21/2019

month, through the last day of the month. For residential services that use electricity as the primary source of heating, there may also be a Heat kWh Charge. To lower your usage: use programmable thermostats, unplug appliances when not in use (or put larger appliances like televisions on a power strip that you can turn off when not in use), turn off lights when you leave a room, and set your water heater at a lower setting. By turning down the temperature on your water heat-



Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney
Line Superintendent

Happy February! You may have seen the crews driving around your area. They are working on patrolling the line. This involves taking note of anything that needs fixed, including broken insu-

lators, frayed wires, or trees that have grown into the line. Additionally, during this years patrol, the crews have developed a grading system and will be noting the condition and year of every pole, cross arm, transformer, etc. The grade given will determine the priority of replacing that section of line. The higher the score, the greater the need for replacement.

This time of the year is also where we decide what projects will be included in the work plan. This plan lays out all of the

upgrades, extensions, conversions from overhead to underground, pole change outs, and line replacements that will take place through the next year.

We ask that if you have any projects planned for the upcoming year, please let us know. With our busy workload, the more advanced notice you give us the better. If you need a meter loop installed or a line extension we will be happy to discuss your project and show you the available options, provide a quote for the work, and get your work scheduled upon payment. Just give me a call and we can get the ball rolling!

Finally, I'd like to say thank you all members who have been so patient during the recent power interruptions, planned or unplanned. (A special thanks to those in Fort Peck, Duck Creek, Millionaire Mile, Gem Views and the Pines Recreation Area while we took the mobile substation offline and put the newly upgraded New Deal Substation equipment online. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we finished this important work.) ■

Recipe Corner

Cheddar Chive and Bacon Biscuits

4 oz cheddar cheese grated
3 tbsp. minced fresh chives
1/2 c diced cooked bacon
2 c all purpose flour
1 tbsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1/4 c butter
3/4 c milk

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. In a small bowl, toss together cheese, chives and bacon with 1 tbsp. flour. Set aside. In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt. Use a pastry cutter or two forks to cut in butter. Add milk and stir just enough to bring the ingredients together. This should make a soft dough. Gently fold in cheese mixture. Turn dough onto a floured surface and knead for about 1 minute. Pat or roll dough out to 1/2 or 3/4 inch thickness. Cut into rounds. For crisp biscuits, place far apart on an ungreased baking sheet. For fluffier biscuits place them close together on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown on top. ■

Happy Presidents Day



We're closed for the Holiday

Rural Montana

December 2018 • The Magazine of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association



Congratulations Nelson Boys!

Did you catch the December issue of the Rural Montana magazine? The front cover was adorned by artwork from our very own Austin Jay Nelson, son of Lineman Jayson and grandson of retired Groundsman, Walter. Not to be outdone by his younger brother, Cameron Dale Nelson submitted artwork and received coveted space in the Young Montanans section at the back of the magazine. Congrats to both budding artists and way to represent NorVal! ■



Cameron Dale Nelson, 9, Glasgow, NorVal Electric

Legislative Guides Available

During the start of each legislative session, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association in conjunction with the Montana Telecommunications Association collaborate to offer the Montana Legislative Guide.

This brochure contains photos of all of the Montana legislators, as well as committee assignments and contact information.

To receive a printed version of this helpful guide please call 406-228-9351 or stop into the NorVal Office.

You may also access the guide online through the App Store for iPad or iPhones, or via Google Play for Android. By downloading the app, you may email your legislator directly from your phone or tablet! ■



Co-op Day at the Capitol

Every other January, Member Service Representatives, various Board Members, and General Managers from around Montana make the trek to Helena for the legislative session to lobby on behalf of electric co-ops throughout the state. This year, the organizers provided a hot beef sandwich for the legislators, their staff, and Capitol personnel.

Co-op Day at the Capitol provides a great opportunity to discuss current and upcoming legislation that affects cooperative! Accounts Payable and Communications Coordinator, Leila Seyfert, joined the roughly 30 other participants to provide this hot meal to our hard-working and hungry friends in Helena.

Overall, around 350 people were served, and Co-op Day at the Capitol 2019 was a resounding success! ■



Above: to-go bags are filled with a hot roast beef sandwich, chips, cookie, water and an apple for the legislators and staff!

Connect With Us

54091 US Hwy 2 W., Glasgow
PO Box 951, Glasgow, MT 59230
406-228-9351
www.norval.coop
facebook.com/norvalelectric
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NorVal Electric Cooperative Directors

District 1	Lee Risa	762-3247
District 2	Sam Gundermann	724-3405
District 3	Rick Molvig Vice Pres.	367-5328
District 4	Chris Christensen	364-2367
District 5	Kurt Breigenzer S/T	228-9465
District 6	Ron Reddig President	392-5257
District 7	Rocky Kittleson	367-5366
District 7	Gary Meyer	526-3600

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: energy.gov

