



NorVal News



March 2020

Eight Tips to Lower Your Electric Bill

Have you suffered from sticker shock opening your electricity bill lately? Here are eight of our tried-and-true tips that could help you lower your bill for next time. Every household is different in how they use electricity so it's difficult to gauge where the electricity is being used, but here are some great ideas to get started.

1.



1. Buy a programmable thermostat

These handy devices are easy to install, and can be programmed from a smart phone. You can easily lower the heat while you're away from home, and raise it prior to returning. This cost-effective solution provides an easy fix to reduce your overall heating and cooling, which is the biggest factor in most residential home usage.

2. Wash clothes in cold water

Our rule of thumb is that only heavily soiled loads should be washed in warm or hot water. By using cold water exclusively this will reduce the amount of hot water your heater will need to produce.



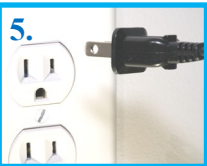
3. Lower your water heater temperature

The ideal temperature for optimal energy savings is 120 degrees. If you're leaving for vacation, or snow birding, you can even turn this appliance off while you're away.

4. Replace your air filter

These should be replaced every 3 months. They reduce household debris like dust, pollen and lint and help keep your HVAC system in proper working order and use less electricity than dirty filters.

5.



5. Check your cords

Even when not in use appliances consume kilowatts. If you're not using the lamp in the corner or the tv in the guest bedroom unplug them.

6. Timers Save


Plugging in your vehicle, semi or tractor at night? Be sure to put them on timers to save money! An engine block heater only requires three to four hours in order to operate efficiently. Leaving them plugged in all night can really hit you in the piggy bank.



7. Insulate you and your home

Cold winter nights call for cozy slippers, warm fuzzy jammies and hot tea! But, ensuring that there are no leaks around windows and doors can help your home feel warm and fuzzy too. Check for any cold air entering by placing your hand near the door seal. If you feel a breeze, it's time to replace the weather-stripping and seals. If you feel cold air or see frost inside your window pane, a temporary (and inexpensive) solution is a window kit which can be found in any hardware store.

8. Purchase Energy Star Label Appliances

Energy Star appliances are the simple choice for energy efficiency. This label is your guarantee that the appliance has passed the EPA's independent certification for quality, performance and savings. Since its inception in 1992, Energy Star and its partners have saved American families and businesses nearly 4 trillion (with a T!) kilowatt-hours of electricity and achieved over 3 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas reductions! 



May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you wherever you go ~ Irish Blessing



Recipe Corner

Traditional Irish Stew

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 lb. mutton or lamb cutlets (bone removed and cut into chunks)
- 2 tbsp. plain flour
- 2 lbs. potatoes (peeled and quartered)
- 1 c. onion (roughly chopped)
- 1 c. leeks (cleaned and finely sliced)
- 1 c. carrots (roughly chopped)
- 1 1/2 pints dark beef stock
- 2 or 3 cabbage leaves (thinly sliced)
- Salt & Pepper to taste

Directions

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In a large flying pan heat half the oil to hot, but not smoking. Add half the lamb pieces and brown. Place with tongs into a large pot. Add half of the potatoes, onions leeks and carrots. Brown the remaining lamb. Add to pot. Place remaining vegetables in pot. In frying pan, add flour and stir for 3 minutes. Then add beef stock one ladle at a time and whisk until all lumps are removed. Pour mixture over lamb and vegetables. Pour remaining stock over mixture, cover with a tight fitting lid and cook in oven for 1 hour. Then, add cabbage, replace the lid and cook for another hour. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve with crusty bread. Enjoy!

Chef Tip: Check every 20-30 minutes to ensure the stock isn't reducing too much. If it is add more water, the mixture should always be covered by liquid.



Your Electric Bill: Broken Down

1. Account Number: Each billing statement will have your account listed here.
2. Phone Number: Please ensure that the information here is correct.
3. Map Location: The legal description for the location of your account in addition to our internal mapping information.
4. Meter Number: Will start with 2S, 3S, or T, followed by 4 numbers. This is helpful to provide to us in the event of an outage.

1. Account Number	2. Phone Number on Account (406)	3. Map Location	4. Meter Number
Billing Date 02/03/2020	Due Date 02/20/2020	T36 R41 S19 052 MAP B8	
Bill Type REGULAR BILL	Cycle 01	Rate Schedule 001	5. Acct Description
NorVal will be closed on Monday, February 17th for the President's Day Holiday.			
6.			
7. ACTIVITY SINCE LAST BILL			
PREVIOUS BALANCE			\$ AMOUNT 259.09
PAYMENT			259.09 CR
BALANCE FORWARD			0.00
CURRENT BILLING DETAIL			
KWH Charge 624			59.28
Heat KWH Charge 2200			165.00
Demand Charge 11.623			34.87
Base Charge			30.00
CURRENT CHARGES			289.15

5. Account Description: The physical address location.
6. Notes: Every month we include notes like expiring credit card notification or dates we will be out of the office.
7. Billing Breakdown.

Previous Balance: amount carried forward from last month.

Payment: payment amount(s) received since last billing.

Balance Forward: if balance is not paid in full this is the past due/credit balance.

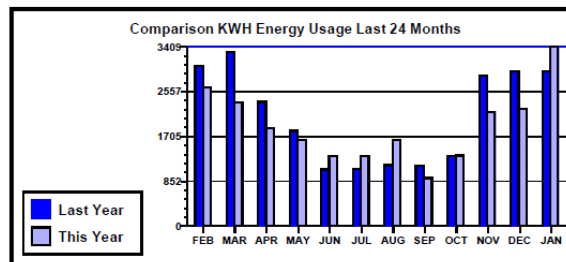
KWH Charge: the meter usage from the 1st to the last day of the month.

Heat KWH Charge: if you have a heat meter your usage will be shown Oct-Apr.

Demand Charge: the highest kW (capacity) charge for the month.

Base Charge: the monthly fixed cost to provide power to your location.

Current Charges: The total billing amount for the month including all of the above amounts.



Next, flip your bill to the second page for some great charts:

This chart compares the usage month-by-month for the current year next to the same month from the last year. Beneath it, you will find a similar comparison for demand.

The comparison at the right shows the cost breakdown of your current month, last month and the same time period last year. The number of billing days, usage per day, total cost for the month and the average cost per day.

KWH & Cost Comparison	No. Days	Total KWH	KWH Per Day	Total Monthly Cost	Avg. Cost Per Day
Current Month	33	2824	85	289.15	8.76
Last Month	31	2368	76	259.09	8.35
This Month Last Year	31	2307	74	250.74	8.08

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants.

