



NorVal News

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

NorVal Electric's 2021 Annual Meeting CANCELLED

After careful consideration, the NorVal Electric Board of Directors has decided to cancel this year's annual meeting due to the growing spread of the Covid-19 virus. Your health and safety are our top priority. We look forward to seeing all of you in 2022!



It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and NorVal Electric all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, NorVal Electric was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1947, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are


equal. NorVal Electric's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, electric vehicle programs, etc.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of NorVal Electric. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

NorVal Electric is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community," which we'll elaborate on next month. 

Get Familiar with Cyber Basics

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

At a time when we are more connected than ever, being “cyber smart” is of the utmost importance. This year has already seen more than a fair share of cyber-attacks and breaches, including the high-profile attacks on the Colonial Pipeline and other critical infrastructures. Luckily, there are several steps that we can take on a daily basis to mitigate risks and stay one step ahead of malefactors.

Here are a few quick tips:

Enable multi-factor authentication.

Multi-factor authentication adds that necessary second check to verify your identity when logging in to one of your accounts. By requiring multiple methods of authentication, your account is further protected from being compromised.

Use strong passphrases/password manager.

Using long, complex and unique passwords is a good way to stop your account from being hacked. An easy way of keeping track and remembering your passwords is by using a password manager.

Perform software updates.

When a device prompts that it's time to update the software, it may be tempting to simply click postpone and ignore the message. However, having the latest security software, web browser and operating system on devices is one of the best defenses against online threats.

Do your research.

Before downloading any new learning app on your device, make sure that it's a reliable app by checking who created the app, what the user reviews say and if there are any articles published online about the app's privacy and security features.

Check your settings.

Be diligent to double check your privacy and security settings and be aware who can access your documents. This extends from Google docs, to Zoom calls and beyond. For meetings on Zoom, for example, create passwords so only those invited to the session can attend and restrict who can share their screen or files with the rest of the attendees.

Being cyber smart and maintaining stellar online hygiene is the best way to protect yourself and others from cyber-attacks. No single tip is foolproof, but taken together they can make a real difference for taking control of your online presence. Following these tips is also easy and free. By taking preventive measures and making a habit of practicing online safety, you can decrease your odds of being hacked exponentially. Thus, preventing lost time and money, as well as annoyance. 🌐



Welcome to NorVal!

We are pleased to announce the recent hiring of Kat Compton to the position of Accounts Payable and Communications. Kat is a lifelong resident of Glasgow. She loves baking and spending time with her family. Her favorite places to travel are Bozeman and Idaho Falls. She is most looking forward to what each new day brings for opportunities to grow.

Welcome to the co-op family, Kat! 🌐

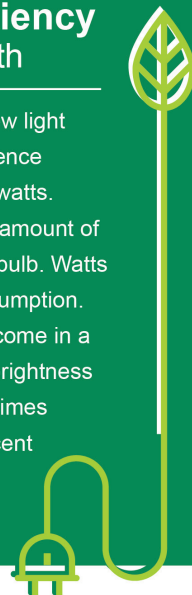
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts.

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: energy.gov



Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney

Line Superintendent

The crew has been busy finishing the new three phase primary underground along Baylor Road. They are also working on changing out poles North of the Tampico Road area. They are replacing the aged three phase poles and adding more to shorten the span lengths. This will make the line more reliable to high wind problems. While working on both of these projects the crew also installed a few new services in the Idlewild and Kirkland Ranch Estates subdivision area.

Our OCRs (Oil Circuit Recloser) are getting their yearly maintenance and testing done. These vital pieces of equipment can decipher the difference between experiencing temporary or permanent faults on the line. You can see these devices working when the lights in your house blink. When there is a temporary fault, like a tree hitting the line, the OCR will try to clear the fault by opening the line up and then automatically closing back in, keeping the power on. Hence the blink of your lights. If a permanent fault occurs, like a downed line, the OCRs are set to operate up to three times then open permanently until a lineman manually resets it. Our insurance company requires us to test a certain number of these devices a year in order to make sure they are operating properly. We use a contractor out of Rapid City, South Dakota. With the amount of these we have on our system, we need to test around 50 each year to stay on the correct rotation for our insurance requirements.

Looking forward to the upcoming winter season the crew will be working on tree trimming around the system. If you notice any problem trees in your area, please give the office a call and we will add them to our list. Have a safe and happy Fall! 🌐



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.