

# NorVal

## News

APRIL 2024



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## Shaping Our Energy Future Through Innovation:

The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by technology and the transition to more sustainable forms of energy. Innovation is essential in addressing these challenges and ensuring a continuous, reliable and affordable power supply.

Electric co-ops are no strangers to adapting to the needs of the local communities we serve. NorVal Electric Cooperative has always leaned into change as we explore new ways to meet your energy needs.

### Advanced Technologies:

Investing in smarter technologies can enhance the monitoring and control of electricity flow so we can respond swiftly to changing needs. Smart electric meters remotely collect data on how electricity is being used. This helps in promptly prioritizing and dispatching crews during an outage, reducing restoration time during weather-related disruptions. Even before adverse weather is here, advanced analytics from our systems, combined with data on weather patterns and other information, allows us to be proactive in taking preventative measures to shore up our system.

### Preparing for Increased Energy Use:

Today, we depend on electricity more than ever before. From vehicles to farming equipment to home heating options, more products and appliances that we depend on run on electricity. Interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing. Automakers are transitioning many or all new vehicles to electric-only models in the next 10 years. Electric providers must start planning to have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet future EVs charging needs,

without jeopardizing the ability to provide reliable power.

### Innovative Efficiency Solutions:

NorVal Electric is driven by a commitment to community and member satisfaction. As consumers become more proactive in managing their energy use, we are providing new ways to help our members lower their use and save money. Energy evaluations for a home or business can help you take advantage of actionable energy-saving advice. While NorVal Electric does not provide energy audits, we can direct you to those who can. We do offer rebates for members that install new, or replace existing, ground source heat pumps or water heaters. Restrictions do apply, so please call the office for details. NorVal Electric is here to help you take control of your energy use.

### Cooperation Among Cooperatives:

You may not realize it, but NorVal Electric Cooperative is part of a larger network of 900 electric co-ops nationwide. While we are locally-owned by you the members of the Co-op we also have the advantage of working with co-ops across the country to share ideas and leverage the innovations our colleagues might have tried first. As cooperatives, we're collaborators instead of competitors. It's a unique aspect of our business model, and we're stronger because of it.

Our energy future will look different than it has in the past, but NorVal Electric Cooperative is prepared to adapt for the members we serve. Our mission and commitment to you remains steady to provide reliable power at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

# NICK'S NOTES

NICK DULANEY - LINE SUPERINTENDENT

## 2024 Lineworker Appreciation

On April 18th, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day to honor the men and women who power our lives! Lineworkers are ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country. Rain or shine, day or night, our lineworkers brave challenging conditions to make sure we have electricity when we need it. From learning the intricacies of the electric grid, climbing utility poles, carrying 40+ pounds of equipment, lineworkers also spend thousands of hours training and learning their career. Their dedication is nothing short of extraordinary and a testament to their commitment to powering our local communities. Don't forget to thank your local linemen in April for the incredible work they do!!

### Here are some favorite things of our lineworkers:

	<u>Colors:</u>	<u>Drinks:</u>	<u>Hobbies:</u>
<u>Kyle Shipp:</u>	Blue	Dr. Pepper	Fishing
<u>Jace Young:</u>	Grey	Ice Tea	Outdoor Activities
<u>Tracy Henry:</u>	Pink	Water	Outdoor Activities
<u>Jayson Nelson:</u>	Green	Ice Tea	Flying
<u>Logan Sims:</u>	Orange	Cranberry Juice	Bird Watching
<u>Brock See:</u>	Purple	Shirley Temple	Poetry
<u>Ryan Bergtoll:</u>	Red	Blue Gatorade	Hunting
<u>Cody Odom:</u>	Carolina Blue	Water	Outdoor Activities
<u>Kyle Barras:</u>	Red	Mountain Dew	Sporting Activities



## To the Top!

### Training Stages for Electric Lineworkers

Known for their strength and agility, lineworkers are dedicated to ensuring our communities have reliable power. Safety is always top priority on the job, which is why lineworkers spend thousands of hours training as they advance their skills.

#### *Here's a look at the career progression of a lineworker.*

##### **Crew Leader**

A crew leader is an advanced position that requires supervising lineworkers on job sites, coordinating with contractors and directing daily activities for crews.



##### **Journeyman Lineworker**

Post-apprenticeship and with roughly 7,000+ hours of training under the belt, journeyman lineworkers are fully trained in their field. They repair, update and install overhead and underground power lines, as well as other electrical equipment.

##### **Apprentice Lineworker**

Before reaching lineworker status, they are required to work as an apprentice. Apprentice lineworkers earn competitive wages while receiving hands-on training and experience in the field. They typically spend four years in their apprenticeship.



##### **Groundperson/Linehelper**

Many lineworkers begin their career as a groundperson, or linehelper. They assist line crews with tools, keeping job sites safe and operating smaller equipment.



*Regardless of stage, all lineworkers continue education and training throughout their career. Training and testing requirements vary from utility to utility.*

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)

