

August 2007

What's CURRENT



Look for More **CASH**→**BACK** Credits This Month

Customers will see the second part of a \$12.3 million special CashBack return on their August bills. As approved by the NOVEC Board of Directors,

\$6.0 million in CashBack is being returned to current NOVEC customers as a credit on their August electric bills. In July, \$6.3 million was returned.

This special CashBack distribution is for current customers who have been on the NOVEC system since at least 2005.

CashBack allows customers to share in the financial success of the Cooperative.

The return represents 2.5 percent of remaining capital credit balances for the years 1988-1998 plus 4.5 percent for the years 1999-2005.

CashBack is a unique benefit of Cooperative membership, allowing customers to share in NOVEC's financial success. While margins of other companies go to stockholders who may or may not be customers, NOVEC's margins belong exclusively to customers. These margins are returned as CashBack distributions as financial conditions permit when approved by the board of directors.

You could be the lucky winner of a Dell laptop!

Attend NOVEC's Annual Meeting to Win

All customers attending NOVEC's annual meeting will have the chance to win one of more than 15 door prizes. When registering at the meeting, each customer's name will be placed in the prize drawing to occur at the end of the meeting. Customers must be present to win.

Some of the great prizes to be awarded

Grand prize: Dell laptop computer

Other prizes include:

Task Force electric lawn mower

Olevia 32-inch flat screen HDTV

Best Buy \$50 gift certificate

Pioneer 5.1 surround sound system

Brickman electric smoker grill

Troy-Bilt electric blower and vacuum

Black & Decker Grass Hog electric trimmer and edger

Phillips DVD/CD player

Proxy Prizes for those who can't attend

Members who can't attend annual meeting but submit their proxy cards also will be eligible for door prizes, including a Lowes \$100 gift card, Samsung 6.0 megapixel digital camera, TruTech 7" portable DVD, Target \$50 gift card and more!

2007 NOVEC Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 26

*6 p.m. dinner - 7:30 p.m. business meeting
Battlefield High School - 15000 Graduation Dr.
Haymarket, VA 20169*



**NOVEC Offices Closed
Monday, September 3**

The Operations Center is staffed
24 hours a day, seven days a week,
even on holidays.

Call 703-335-0500 or 1-888-335-0500
to report power outages.

Sales Tax Holiday
October 5-8, 2007



**ENERGY STAR
Sales Tax Holiday**

October 5-8, 2007, Virginians will be exempt from paying state and local sales tax (5 percent) on ENERGY STAR-qualified products that cost \$2,500 or less.

**Watch for more information next month or
visit www.dmme.virginia.gov**



Phantom Electric Loads

Did you know that many electronics continue to consume electricity even after they've been turned off? Often referred to as "phantom electric load," this hidden electricity consumption can be costing you quite a bit.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, electronics account for approximately 15 percent of the average home's electricity use. And, 40 percent of this electricity is consumed while the products are turned off. Not only do computers consume power when they sit idle (even in the sleep mode), but there's also the printer, television, cable receiver, DVD player, stereo and more.

How to really turn off electronics

For televisions, DVD players and other equipment, the plug must be removed from the socket to stop all phantom power use. An alternative is to plug the equipment into a power strip with an on/off switch and turn the switch off when the items are not in use. However, this may then require the reprogramming of some electronic features, such as clock and channel settings. A better option is to purchase equipment with the ENERGY STAR logo, which ensures that the electronics consume less phantom power.

The best option for a computer is to turn it off. Modern electronics are not susceptible to the on-off cycling wear and tear, as they were in the past. Use a power strip for the computer and all related equipment so it can be completely turned off when not in use. Set the energy-saver controls to put the system in sleep mode after a specified period of non-use.

What about wall pack boxes?

Most consumers have numerous black or grey wall pack boxes that power or charge cordless phones, hand-held vacuums, answering machines, rechargeable tools, and other electronics. As long as those boxes are plugged in, they are drawing two to six watts of power constantly, even after the appliance is fully charged. To save energy, unplug the wall packs when not in use.

For more information

Visit www.energystar.gov for more information.

Proactive Right of Way Maintenance

The most reliable and cost effective right of way maintenance program is a proactive one. Although the continual trimming of trees growing near overhead electric lines is a major expense, the alternative – not trimming trees – can be even more expensive. Once a tree falls onto or grows into an electric line, it's too late for proactive measures since the tree has most likely caused a power outage.

As part of the Cooperative's right of way maintenance program, contractors patrol NOVEC's 2,000 miles of overhead lines every three to three-and-a-half years, trimming or

removing trees where necessary. Contractors also apply environmentally friendly herbicides to small brush trees to eliminate them from rights of way and encourage low-growing ground cover instead. Additionally, trees along the edge of rights of way are monitored to predict their health and stability. Those found to be unsafe may be removed before they cause problems.



The application of environmentally friendly herbicides eliminates fast-growing brush in rights of way and encourages low-growing grasses, berries and wildflowers.

All these activities help NOVEC slowly shift the composition along rights of way from trees needing continual trimming, to species that require less attention.

Right of Way guidelines for customers

- ◆ No new trees can be planted under NOVEC overhead lines or anywhere within the right of way easement (usually 30 feet wide). Newly planted trees will be removed if the property owner does not relocate them when contacted.
- ◆ Property owners are encouraged to allow the removal of older trees growing under power lines. NOVEC will usually remove these trees at no cost.

For more information, visit www.novec.com or call 703-392-1661 or 1-888-335-0500, extension 1661.



If natural gas prices have left you in a lurch, it's time to call NOVEC Energy Solutions (NES). NES, a wholly owned subsidiary of NOVEC, offers low, one year fixed price contracts for natural gas supply. By locking in a fixed price for natural gas supply, you can avoid large fluctuations in your monthly natural gas bills.

Lock in now, and enjoy the peace of mind of knowing that no matter how volatile natural gas prices may become, you will be protected.



For More Information:
www.novecenergysolutions.com • 703-392-1663,
1-888-627-7283 or send e-mail to NES@novec.com

What's Current is produced by the NOVEC Public Relations Department for Cooperative customers. If you would like additional information or if you have suggestions for future articles, please contact: NOVEC PR, P.O. Box 2710, Manassas, VA 20108 or send e-mail to: ssmarrelli@novec.com

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