

What's Current

NOVEC

The Powerful Choice

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Special Cash Back Return this Month Brings 2006 Total Distribution to \$42.4 Million

The NOVEC Board of Directors authorized another special retirement of Cash Back to be distributed in December. A total of \$6.3 million is being refunded to customers as a credit on December billing statements. As with prior special Cash Back returns, this distribution will be to current customers who were on the NOVEC system anytime between 1988 and 2005.

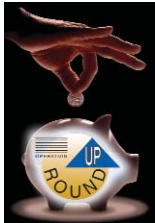
What Is CASH→BACK

Cash Back is a unique benefit you enjoy as a cooperative customer. As a not-for-profit business, NOVEC allocates to customers any revenue that is received over and above the cost of doing business. This extra revenue (or margins) is proportionately allocated to and held in a Cash Back account for each customer. NOVEC retains some of the margins to provide funding for the growth and maintenance of our electric distribution system and for extreme emergency service restoration.

Join ORU & Help Others Stay Warm

It's going to be a cold winter, but you can help the less fortunate stay warm by joining Operation Round Up (ORU) and having your monthly bill rounded up to the next higher dollar. The extra change goes to the ORU fund to be distributed through social service agencies to local families needing assistance paying winter heating bills. You can also make contributions by writing in the extra amount on your billing statement and including this amount with your payment (even if you're not enrolled in the program).

To join ORU: Call the customer service center at (703) 335-0500 or (888) 335-0500, or visit www.novec.com/oru2.



2006 Cash Back Distributions

June: \$6.1 million special* return.

July: \$5.8 million special return.

August: \$5.5 million special return.

September: \$12.2 million regular return to current and former customers on the system anytime between 1987 and 2005.

October: \$6.5 special** return.

December: \$6.3 special return.

* June-August 2006 special Cash Back returns were distributed to current customers who were on the system anytime between 1987 and 2004.

** October and December 2006 special Cash Back returns were distributed to current customers who were on the NOVEC system anytime between 1988 and 2005.

Holiday Closings

All NOVEC offices will be closed on:

Friday, December 22

Monday, December 25
Christmas Day

Monday, January 1
New Year's Day

However, our operations center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even on holidays.
Call (703) 335-0500 or (888) 335-0500 to report power outages.



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.

NOVEC Energy Solutions
the neighborhood expert

For More Information:

www.novecenergysolutions.com • (703) 392-1663,
(888) 627-7283 or send e-mail to NES@novec.com

Safety Tips for Holiday Decorating

- ✦ Be sure all holiday lights contain the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label, which means they meet UL safety standards. And, be sure you buy the right set, either for indoor or outdoor use, or both.
- ✦ Operate lights for no more than six hours a day to keep energy use under control. Timers are a simple way to do this. If you leave your lights on 24 hours per day, you will spend four times the money.
- ✦ Always unplug your lights before going to bed or leaving the house.
- ✦ Protect little fingers: Make sure there's a bulb in each socket. If a bulb is burned out, leave it in until you have a replacement.
- ✦ Before installation, check for frayed wires, damaged sockets, or cracked insulation. If you find any defects, replace the entire set.
- ✦ All outdoor cords, plugs and sockets must be weatherproof. Also, use a ground fault circuit interrupter on each circuit.
- ✦ Remember that hot bulbs can ignite dry tree branches. To avoid damage and injury, keep trees well watered and keep extension cords and light strings away from the water.
- ✦ As an extra precaution, keep a fire extinguisher handy, and be sure your home's smoke detectors have new batteries and that they're working properly.
- ✦ Don't overload your electric circuits.

➤ For more safety information, visit the Electrical Safety Foundation International Web site at www.esfi.org/safety-tips/winter-safety-tips.html.

Some Holiday Lights Are Energy Hogs

If you're a fan of those old-fashioned, two-inch (C-7) bulbs for decorating, keep in mind that they use about five watts of electricity each. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, lighting six, 100-light strands of these large bulbs around the clock for 30 days costs more than \$18, based on an average of eight cents per kwh.



A more energy-conscious choice would be the miniature white or colored lights, which use only about half a watt each. A typical display of small lights, about five strings, totaling 500 lights, only uses 250 watts.


Even less costly and more efficient are LED (light-emitting diodes) holiday lights, which use .04 watts per bulb. Over a 30-day period, lighting 500 LED bulbs would cost about 19 cents. According to the Alliance to Save Energy, LEDs also last a long time and produce no heat, which helps to eliminate fire hazards. Despite the higher initial cost, over their lifetime LED lights can be very cost-effective. Especially considering that you'd likely never have to change a bulb since they will typically last for more than 60,000 hours.

➤ For more information, download the holiday lighting fact sheet from the Energy Ideas Clearinghouse at www.energyideas.org/documents/factsheets/HolidayLighting.pdf.

RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY GREENERY

December 27, 2006 - January 6, 2007

@ NOVEC Gainesville office: 5399 Wellington Branch Drive



When the holidays are over and you're ready to dispose of your tree, wreath and other greenery don't just throw them in the trash.

Trees picked up by trash services are typically dumped at landfills, which are not supposed to accept "green waste." Instead, bring your tree to NOVEC's Gainesville office for recycling. From Wednesday, December 27, 2006 through Saturday, January 6, 2007 we will accept Christmas trees at the Gainesville office located at 5399 Wellington Branch Drive. Asplundh Tree crews will recycle the trees by chipping them and creating wood chip mulch.

Please leave trees in the front parking lot in the area outlined with orange safety cones to the right of the office. Remember to remove all lights and decorations from the trees.

Free wood chips available

We can deliver a six to ten yard load of wood chip mulch to your property at no charge if right-of-way crews are working in your area. This mulch is generated from year-round tree trimming and maintenance activities. Wood chips make good mulch for tree beds and can also help control erosion.

➤ For more information, contact the NOVEC right-of-way department at (703) 335-0500 or (888) 335-0500, extension 1633 or 1661, or send e-mail to novecrightofway@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.