

What's Current



The Powerful Choice

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NOVEC Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

For the seventh year, NOVEC's Dollars for Scholars program is again helping outstanding local students in their pursuit of a college education. This competition awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school student in each of the counties where NOVEC provides electric service – Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William and Stafford – and the City of Manassas Park. A single \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a home-schooled or private school student living in NOVEC service territory. Because the majority of our customers live in Prince William and Fairfax counties, two \$1,000 scholarships are

High school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are NOVEC customers can also apply for a college scholarship sponsored by the Virginia, Maryland, Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. For details, visit www.co-opliving.com/community.

awarded in these counties. Children of NOVEC employees are eligible to apply for a single \$1,000 scholarship.

An additional \$1,500 Garber scholarship will be awarded to the top outstanding student. Once the initial scholarship recipients are selected, a second review is done to select the top student who receives a total of \$2,500.

Applications are being accepted now through Friday, April 7, 2006. For scholarship requirements and applications, please see the January issue of *Cooperative Living Magazine*, visit www.novec.com, send e-mail to dsnellings@novec.com, or call (703) 392-1511 or (888) 335-0500, ext. 1511.

New Year's Safety Resolutions

✓ **Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)** - A GFCI helps prevent electric shocks and burns by monitoring the flow of electric current to a specific circuit.

✓ **Make sure electrical cords are in good condition.** Discard any that are worn or frayed.

✓ **Discuss safe appliance use with your family.**

✓ **Install childproof outlet covers** to protect small children.

✓ **Keep space heaters at least three feet away** from any combustible materials such as curtains, furniture and rugs. Don't use them in rooms where children are unsupervised and remember to turn off and unplug when not in use.

Knowledge Booster

What is Electricity?

Electricity is a form of energy characterized by the presence and motion of elementary charged particles generated by friction, induction or chemical changes. Electricity is a secondary power source, meaning that we get it from the conversion of other sources of energy, such as coal, natural gas, oil, nuclear power or other natural sources, which are primary sources. The energy sources we use to make electricity can be renewable or non-renewable, but electricity itself is neither renewable nor non-renewable.

For more electricity facts and information, visit the Energy Information Administration's website at www.eia.doe.gov/fuelectric.html.

Distributing Power

Through NOVEC's Operation Roundup (ORU), many of our customers agree to round up each month's electric bill to the next dollar amount – by no more than 99¢ a month – to help pay the winter fuel bills of customers who cannot do so. Last winter the independent ORU Customer Advisory Board approved \$46,000 in fuel assistance to low-income families in our area.



Generating Energy

Neighbors helping neighbors is a familiar concept to NOVEC and its members. It's the foundation on which electric cooperatives were founded more than 50 years ago. Please share the warmth of this season with your less fortunate neighbors by participating in this community program. Enroll or make a one-time donation today. Call 1-888-335-0500 or e-mail dsnellings@novec.com to sign up or for more information.

Cost for distributing power – unchanged for 14 years.
Gas for generating energy to power the community – passes.



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Use Your Thermostat to Help Control Energy Bills

By John Krigger

Your home's thermostat controls how long your heating or cooling system runs. To save energy and money - learn how this simple device operates.

One common myth is that the higher you set your thermostat when you return home, the faster your furnace will heat up your house. This isn't true, since most furnaces deliver heat at the same rate no matter how high the thermostat is set. Just set your thermostat at the temperature you'd like, and your furnace will heat your home as fast as it can.

Another myth questions the efficiency of setting your thermostat lower when you don't need heating, such as at night or when no one is home. According to this myth, a furnace works harder than normal to heat your home back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set back, resulting in little or no savings. This is not true and it's been proven by years of research and field observation. The longer your house stays at a reduced temperature when heating (or at an increased temperature when cooling) the more energy and money you'll save.

This is because your heating or cooling cost depends mostly on the temperature difference between inside and outside. When you adjust your thermostat down in the winter (or up in

the summer) you simply reduce this difference. If you set your temperature back 10-15 degrees for eight hours while you're asleep or at work, your energy savings can be 5 percent to 15 percent.

You can install a programmable thermostat that automatically adjusts your home's temperature at preset times. On a winter night, for example, if you and your family are comfortable under blankets and don't need the whole house heated to 72°, you'd program your thermostat to lower the temperature to 65° from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m., then bring it back to 72°. Just that simple nighttime setback can save you up to 15 percent on your heating bills.

John Krigger is a nationally recognized author of numerous energy efficiency books, including "Residential Energy: Cost Savings and Comfort for Existing Buildings." For more information, visit his web site at www.srmi.biz.



A programmable thermostat can help you save 5 %-15% on energy bills.

Reduce Your Commute Electrify Your Career

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Meet the NOVEC Right-of-Way Team

Customers may occasionally see members of the right-of-way department on their property performing tree trimming or other work, so we're taking this opportunity to introduce them to you. You can contact these employees at (703) 392-1661, (888) 335-0500, extension 1661 or via e-mail at novecrightofway@novec.com. For more information, visit www.novec.com/rightofway.cfm.



Junior Martin, right-of-way manager, monitors the progress of contractors and determines work priorities.



Paul Carothers, property maintenance specialist, handles any out of the ordinary right-of-way related projects.



Rick Carpenter, contract forester, helps settle customer issues and oversees NOVEC's right-of-way maintenance program.



Yancey Sine is supervisor of Asplundh Tree contractor crews, who handle the majority of our tree trimming or removal projects.

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