NorVal Electric Cooperative, Inc.

NOVEMBER 2026

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OPTIMIZE YOUR HVAC SYSTEM

As November settles in and temperatures begin to drop, your HVAC system will soon become one of the hardest-working appliances in your home. Before your system undergoes all that extra work this winter, now is a great time to ensure it is optimized and ready to go. Start with something simple. One of the easiest and most effective measures you can take is checking filters. A clogged or dirty filter makes it harder for air to move through your system, which can cause it to work longer and harder than necessary. Check filters regularly and replace them according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Vents matter too. Take a look around your home to make sure furniture, curtains, rugs and other household items aren't blocking any supply or return vents.

If you have a heat pump, your outdoor unit also deserves extra attention this time of year. Falling leaves, limbs and other debris can collect around the unit and restrict airflow, so keep the area around your outdoor unit clear. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning recommendations. If you have a traditional central air conditioning system, your outdoor unit will likely remain idle during winter months, but it's still good practice to keep it clear of debris. Don't overlook what you can't see. With forced-air systems, ductwork plays an essential role in delivering heated air throughout your home. Leaks, gaps or disconnected sections can allow conditioned air to escape before it reaches the rooms where you need it. If you've noticed rooms that never seem to get comfortable or unusually high energy use, ask an HVAC professional to inspect your ductwork. Fall is also an ideal time for a professional tune-up. A technician can inspect your heating system, identify potential problems and make sure it is operating safely and efficiently before the coldest weather arrives. Regular professional maintenance can also help extend the life of your equipment. Finally, take more control of your energy use by proactively managing your thermostat. There's no reason to heat an empty house. Lowering the temperature when you're asleep or away can help reduce energy use. Better yet, a programmable or smart thermostat can make those adjustments automatically, taking one more thing off your to-do list.Your home heating system has an important job to do this winter—make sure it's ready to keep your home warm and comfortable all season long.



Power On Award Recipient:

NorVal Electric Cooperative is proud to announce that Cody Odom is the recipient of the 2026 Power On Award! This prestigious award is presented by the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA). It is awarded to an employee who exabits leadership abilities on a consistent basis, is involved in community and outside volunteer organizations, shows innovation and forward thinking, is dedicated to safety and embodies the cooperative spirit and values ethics in life. We at NorVal are incredibly fortunate to have someone of Cody's character and dedication as both a coworker and a leader. Congratulations Cody on this well-deserved recognition!









After serving as the District 2 Board Director since October 1999, Sam Gundermann made the decision to step down from his position this past October after **27 years** of dedicated service. We would like to sincerely thank Sam for his many years of commitment to NorVal Electric and the members he represented. Throughout his time on the board, Sam brought valuable knowledge, thoughtful insight and a great personality to every meeting. His dedication to District 2 and NorVal Electric has been greatly appreciated over the years. Sam will certainly be missed by his fellow directors and the entire NorVal staff. Congratulations, Sam, and thank you for 27 wonderful years of service! We hope you enjoy your well-deserved retirement!



Welcome to the Board, Mike!
NorVal Electric Cooperative is pleased to welcome Mike Ferestad as our new District 2 Board Director!
Mike is a lifelong Daniels County resident, and has farmed and ranched in the Four Buttes area for the past 35 years. With strong roots in agriculture and years of community involvement, Mike looks forward to representing District 2 and serving the members of NorVal Electric.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MANAGERS

District 1: Kevin Nelson 724-3202
District 2: Sam Gundermann 724-3405
District 3: Rick Molvig 367-5328
District 4: Chris Christensen 648-7303
District 5: Rick Stahl 762-7162
District 6: Brian Miller 525-3797
District 7: Rocky Kittleson 263-1510

Gretchen Boardman ~ General Manager
Nick Dulaney ~ Line Superintendent
Marie Donaldson ~ Office Manager

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