How Extreme Summer Temps Impact Reliability

When outdoor temperatures soar, our electricity use increases. That's because our air conditioners are running longer and more often to counteract sweltering outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times—in the morning and early evenings—and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

In summer months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if a prolonged heat wave occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call on consumers to actively reduce their energy use or initiate rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid. NorVal Electric will always keep you informed about situations like this.

We work proactively with our power supplier to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts and disaster response planning; but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the air conditioner running for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid during times of extreme summer heat:

- Select the highest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it up several degrees whenever possible. Your cooling system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.
- Use ceiling fans to make yourself feel a few degrees cooler. Remember, ceiling fans cool people (not rooms), so turn them off in unoccupied rooms.
- Close blinds, curtains and shades during the hottest part of the day to block unwanted heat gain from sunlight.
- Consider blackout curtains with thermal backing or reflective lining to block heat and light.

Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your cooling system to work harder than necessary.

As we face the challenges posed by soaring summer temperatures, understanding the impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme heat, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also contribute to the resilience of the grid, keeping our local community cool and connected.

HAPPY
4th of July

NorVal Electric will be closed Thursday, July 3, 2025, in observance of Independence Day.

Congratulations to the 2025 Scholarship Recipients

Mason Donaldson
University of Montana
Basin Scholarship

Kaylee Johnson
University of Montana
Basin Scholarship

Abigail Kulczyk
North Arizona University
NorVal Scholarship

Rex Monson
Montana Tech University
NorVal Scholarship

Abigail Olfert
MSU - Billings
NorVal Scholarship

Isaac Urban
Milwaukee School of Engineering
NorVal Scholarship

Mary Dykema
Montana State University
NorVal/Basin Scholarship

Ryan Halverson
Miles Community College
NorVal Scholarship

Rachel Pew
Harding University
NorVal Scholarship

NorVal Electric is proud to support the future of our community by offering scholarships each year for graduating high school seniors. If you have a student graduating in 2026, we encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity. Applications will open again this Fall for the 2026/2027 school year. Details can be found on our website or by contacting our office.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov

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