



Need Assistance to Heat Your Home this Winter?

With the bitter cold this winter, heating bills are on the rise. The following programs are here to help your family through the winter months!

LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program)

Action for Eastern Montana covers the 17 Eastern Counties of Montana. If you live in Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roo-

sevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley or Wibaux Counties, please apply for our program to see if you qualify for assistance.

The LIEAP program is designed to help Low-Income families and individuals with a portion of their heating bills from October - April; it doesn't matter if you rent or own your home. LIEAP eligibility is based on your household income (all money brought in) and resources (any assets you have in the bank, property or real estate, CD's, Stocks and Bonds, etc.).

One question often asked by a potential client is: "If I get LIEAP, will it take assistance away from someone else that might need it more than me?" The answer: NO. If you qualify for the program based on your income and resources, the state of Montana has put aside some assistance for you. If you bypass this assistance, you're only hurting yourself or your family. It's your tax dollars at work. LIEAP is here to help you achieve self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

Once you are approved for LIEAP, a one-time payment will be sent to your utility. This benefit amount will be posted to your account and will be used for charges during the winter months. Any unused benefits will be returned to the state of MT at the end of the heating season.

All households must reapply each year, if assistance is still needed. If you are Native American, living on an Indian Reservation, you must apply for Tribal LIHEAP.

Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns. We are here to help.

All records and information about your situation are kept confidential. The LIEAP benefit amount is figured according to the number of household members, bedrooms, type of home, primary heat source and the total household income for 12 months.


Find more information online at www.aemt.org! Applications are available online or at the NorVal Electric Office!

Energy Share of Montana

Energy Share of Montana is a private nonprofit organization. The primary purpose is to help Montanans faced with energy emergencies meet their needs and move toward self-reliance. They raise money through private donations and coordinate the efforts of energy providers and human services agencies to distribute resources to those most in need. Energy Share offers funds to any family with any energy emergency. Recipients are encouraged to repay these funds if and when they are financially able to do so.


One of the main ways they help people is with their heating bills. Often, families who live from paycheck to paycheck face some type of financial emergency when an unexpected expense occurs. This could be something like a vehicle break down, lay off from work, or medical expense/emergency.

Energy Share is the only assistance available to Montana families who have income too high to qualify for LIEAP assistance. Applicants must first apply for LIEAP before they can apply for Energy Share. If applicants are ineligible for LIEAP or are still in need of assistance once receiving LIEAP, they can apply for Energy Share.

NorVal has both the LIEAP and Energy Share Applications available. Please give us a call and we will mail them to you! 

Scholarship Deadline Nearing!



NorVal Electric is pleased to offer multiple scholarship opportunities to graduating Seniors! The scholarship applications have been mailed to local high schools within our service territory and are available online at our website www.norval.coop. The Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association Memorial Scholarship and the NorVal Scholarships are for eligible applicants. If your parents or guardians are members of NorVal and you will be graduating in 2020, you may apply! Congratulations to all soon-to-be graduates and best of luck in your future! 

Recipe Corner

Chicken Rice Soup

Ingredients



- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 onion minced
- 3 large carrots peeled and diced
- 1 stalk celery diced
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 5 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 2 chicken breasts
- 1 cup brown rice
- 1 cup evaporated milk

Directions

In a large soup pot, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add onion, carrots and celery. Cook and stir for 3-4 minutes until onion begins to turn golden. Add garlic, parsley and thyme and cook for 1 minute. Add salt, pepper, broth and chicken. Then add rice and stir. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low (a simmer). Cover and cook for 30 minutes stirring every 10 minutes until vegetables and rice are tender. Remove chicken from pot and shred. Add back to the pot with evaporated milk and serve. 🍲

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

Two NorVal Linemen Selected for Bolivia Trip



Linemen from around Montana hear information regarding the Bolivia Trip.

NorVal's very own Kirk Capdeville and Cody Odom will be headed to Bolivia to participate in a very exciting NRECA International electrification project in February.

They will be among some of the finest in the state to work on this project and we are very proud of them! We will share information about this exciting trip in future editions of NorVal News and on our social media page.

Operating Report

| | October 2018 | October 2019 |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Number of Meters | 3434 | 3437 |
| kWh Sold | 42,839,962 | 41,569,842 |
| kWh Purchased | 47,564,457 | 46,576,173 |
| Revenue | \$ 6,398,507 | \$ 6,189,878 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 6,115,932 | \$ 6,117,612 |
| Operating Margins | \$ 282,576 | \$ 72,266 |

Excess Frost on Powerline

Excess frost on the powerline caused by heavy fog in December caused some unusual activity in the Lustre area. The line became so heavy that it broke and while still energized it burned the pole and the surrounding ground area.

Please remember to assume all power lines are energized when you come across a downed line. Always call the office or 911 right away to report the incident and stay away until our line crews arrive! ⚡



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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: energy.gov

