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Holiday Décor Tips for an Energy-Wise Home

Whether you have already decked your halls or you are just getting started, there is still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they are made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking—and they are cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you are using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it is weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers like Lowe's and Home Depot, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new



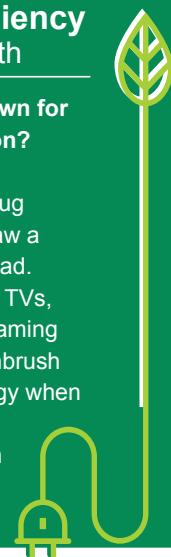
(essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30—and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season.


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.



Welcome to NorVal!

We are pleased to announce the recent hiring of Christina Crum to the position of Operations Coordinator. Christina is from Hiram, GA. She and her family are thrilled to be in Glasgow! Christina loves crafting, photography and spending time outdoors. She loves to explore and travel to places she has never been. Christina is most looking forward to meeting folks in our community and getting more familiar with the NorVal Electric system. Welcome to the co-op family, Christina! 



2022 Scholarships Available

NorVal Electric offers a variety of scholarship opportunities for member dependents including the NorVal Electric Scholarship, the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association Memorial Scholarship, the Basin Electric \$1,000 Scholarship and the NorVal Electric Work Force Development Scholarship. **The deadline for all of these is January 25, 2022.** More information and the scholarship applications can be found on our website at www.norval.coop or you may call the office at (406) 228-9351 with any questions. 📞



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM OUR CO-OP FAMILY TO YOURS,
WISHING YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR.

**NORVAL ELECTRIC WILL BE CLOSED DEC 24 FOR
CHRISTMAS AND DEC 31 FOR NEW YEARS EVE.**

Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney
Line Superintendent

NorVal had a very busy 2021 construction season and our crews made great use of the nice weather and daylight that was available, maximizing our efficiency and productivity through the busy summer months. During these nicer months, we prioritize our new services and larger scale projects. Now that the weather patterns have shifted, our office staff begins to close out any open work orders to prepare for inventory and year end reporting. Our outside crews focus on annual line inspections, meter change outs, and right of way clearing.

As winter settles in, the workload is steady both inside and out. We will start planning to update our plant records, system maps, and next year's work load in the coming months. With decreased availability in both raw materials and vehicles in 2021, I feel that 2022 will offer vast opportunities for growth and improvement. NorVal's staff is working diligently to stay proactive for 2022. We are working with our vendors to order materials well in advance, so that we are prepared for any forthcoming situations. 📞



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