



P.O. Box 2710, Manassas, VA 20108
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Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb and watts measure the energy consumption.

What's Current

AUGUST 2025

KEEP CANINES, CATS, AND CANARIES COMFORTABLE WHILE CONSERVING COSTS

Are you cranking up the air conditioner to keep your pets comfortable — even when human householders are not home? Chances are you could have higher energy bills than necessary. NOVEC cares about people, pets, comfort, and costs. Most dogs and cats are generally comfortable indoors at temperatures between 75–80°F. Pets with thick fur or excess weight may prefer it slightly cooler. Good ventilation, and/or a fan, can keep the temperature comfortable without air conditioning. Remember, most indoor dogs are sedentary; they don't become overheated when they're lying down or sleeping. And cats often enjoy the heat. They'll naturally find a place in the sun, like a windowsill. Pets with medical or behavioral issues may require specific climate conditions, so it's best to consult a veterinarian. Here are some cost-saving summer energy-efficiency tips for pets — and people:

- Set the air-conditioner thermostat to 75-80 degrees for most pets. An automatic thermostat makes it easy.
- Replace traditional incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs to reduce lighting costs by about 75%. Since incandescents put out 90% heat, they increase air-conditioning costs.
- Use smart light switches controlled remotely from a smartphone to turn lights on only when needed.
- Turn on only one TV for pet theater and make sure it has an ENERGY STAR label to indicate it's energy efficient.
- Pet doors should close snugly so they don't let hot air in and cooled air out.
- Close shades, shutters, blinds, and curtains over windows and doors, or open awnings on the sunny sides of the house to block the sun's solar heat. Keep windows uncovered in north-facing rooms to give curious cats a view.
- Explore more ways to save at novec.com/save and take an easy online energy audit at NOVEC's Energy Resource Center.

Co-op members can call the Customer Care Center at 703-335-0500 if they have questions about their bills and energy consumption. We can help!

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG! NATIONAL 811 DAY IS AUG. 11

NOVEC recognizes National 811 Day on Aug. 11 — the 11th day of the eighth month. The Co-op reminds members to contact Virginia 811 — va811.com — at least three days before you or your contractor start a landscape or construction project. It's the law because digging in the wrong place can disrupt utility service for an entire neighborhood. More importantly, it can shock or electrocute someone, or cause a dangerous gas leak.

After submitting your request to Virginia 811, they will notify the appropriate utility companies, including NOVEC. Once a utility or contract locator has a chance to visit your proposed dig site, they will mark underground lines, pipes, and cables on your property so you will know where they are. Please dig at least 5 feet from markings that indicate NOVEC lines.



Flags mark the locations of underground utility lines, pipes, and cables.

NOTICE: NOVEC'S 2025 ANNUAL MEETING IS NEXT MONTH

The business meeting begins at 6 p.m. NOVEC Board Chairman Wade House, and President and CEO Kristen Senechal will give year-in-review presentations. This year's uncontested District 3 and District 6 election results will be formally announced at the meeting. (See the district map at novec.com/bod.)

You can also visit novec.com/annualmeeting or call NOVEC's Customer Care Center at 703-335-0500 for details and updates prior to the meeting. The business meeting format will not include dinner, displays, or prizes.

When:

6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025

Where:

NOVEC Gainesville Technical Center
5399 Wellington Branch Dr.
Gainesville, VA 20155

NOVEC OFFICE CLOSURE

Monday, Sept. 1

NOVEC offices will be closed for Labor Day.

Our system control center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even on holidays. To report outages, visit novec.com or call 703-335-0500.

LINEWORKER TRAINING WILL BE OFFERED LOCALLY THIS SEPTEMBER

This fall, Laurel Ridge Community College's Middletown campus will launch an electrical lineworker training program, offering a new pathway for students interested in skilled trades. The program has received strong support from NOVEC, which recently donated pole trailers for hands-on student training. According to AnnaJane Cribbs, trades program manager, students will use the trailers for various tasks, including driving practice with bucket trucks, loading and unloading poles, and potentially incorporating the equipment into commercial driver's license (CDL) training once more vehicles arrive in 2026.

The first cohort of the program will participate in a joint program with Southside Virginia Community College, where students will complete the first 11 weeks at Laurel Ridge and the final three weeks at Southside's Power Line Worker Training Facility. This initiative builds on Laurel Ridge's growing investment in skilled trades education.

Mark DeChristopher, NOVEC's system construction manager, emphasized that completing a pre-apprenticeship program strengthens a candidate's prospects when applying to the Co-op and can accelerate their advancement as an apprentice.

SCHOOLS THAT OFFER LINEWORKER TRAINING

- **Blue Ridge Community and Technical College,**
Martinsburg, West Virginia
- **Laurel Ridge Community College,**
Middletown campus, Virginia (starting fall 2025 semester)
- **North American Lineman Training Center,**
McEwen, Tennessee
- **Southside Virginia Community College,**
Blackstone, Virginia
- **Southeast Lineman Training Center,**
Trenton, Georgia