



As we mark the beginning of every year, Americans set ambitious resolutions, which are often thrown out the window by the end of January. This New Year, make a resolution to shrink your energy costs.

This checklist of long-term and short-term changes will improve your home's energy efficiency and increase your energy savings.

1. **Install and set a programmable thermostat.** You could save an estimated 10 percent per year on heating and cooling costs with a programmable thermostat. NOVEC recommends maintaining a temperature of 68 degrees for heating.
2. **Use sunlight to your advantage.** The sun's rays can contribute heat in the winter but force air conditioners and fans to work harder — and use more energy — in the summer. Using natural lighting effectively will also reduce the need to use artificial light.
3. **Go ENERGY STAR.** Your home's appliances and electronics account for close to 20 percent of your energy bills. Using ENERGY STAR® certified products — which incorporate advanced technologies that use 10-15 percent less energy and water than standard models — throughout your home could save nearly \$750 over the lifetime of the products.

4. **Change your lighting.** About 10 percent of the energy your home uses goes to lighting costs. By just replacing five of your home's most frequently used lights with energy-efficient ENERGY STAR bulbs, you could save \$75 a year in energy costs.
5. **Use power strips.** Many electronic devices and equipment continue to consume unnecessary energy even when not in use. Often called energy vampires, these devices cost families about \$100 a year. Use a power strip for electronic devices and turn it off when not in use to eliminate energy vampires.
6. **Reduce energy for water heating.** Water heating is a large energy expense in your home, accounting for about 14-18 percent of your utility bills. Make sure your water heater is set to no higher than 120 degrees, install low-flow showerheads, and insulate your hot water pipes.

For more energy-saving tips, visit [www.novec.com/save](http://www.novec.com/save).

## NOVEC's 2016 PCA Credit is a Win for Customer-owners

For the fifth consecutive year, NOVEC customers will receive a power-cost-adjustment (PCA) credit on their monthly bills in 2016.

The 2016 adjusted rate is expected to be a credit of just over 1.2 ¢ per kilowatt-hour for the entire year. Pending the Virginia State Corporation Commission's final approval, this credit translates to an estimated reduction of \$15 per month on the average residential energy bill, which is about 1,200 kWh.

As a customer-owned cooperative, NOVEC is committed to controlling costs and purchasing electricity at the most competitive prices available. Also, as a regulated cooperative, NOVEC does not earn a profit on the wholesale power purchased or generated for its customer-owners. Therefore, any earnings above its power supply costs are returned to customers through a PCA credit.

"NOVEC customers will be paying less per kilowatt-hour for their energy used in 2016 than they were when NOVEC took over full responsibility for its power supply activities back in 2009," says Stan Feuerberg, NOVEC President & CEO. "The NOVEC team continues to stay focused on providing its customer-owners the absolute best price-value relationship for their power."

START THE NEW YEAR



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## Apply Online for NOVEC's College Scholarship



The Cooperative will accept applications for the NOVEC Scholarship Program from, Jan. 5 until March 14, 2016. High school seniors in Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, and Stafford counties as well as the City of Manassas Park — where NOVEC provides electric service — may apply for \$1,500 scholarships.

The majority of Co-op customers live in Prince William, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties, so the selection committees will award scholarships to two public school students in each of these counties. The committees will also award a single \$1,500 scholarship to a home-schooled or private school student. In addition, the overall top student will receive the \$1,500 Garber Scholarship.

The entire application process will be online through *AwardSpring*<sup>TM</sup> — a secure website. Applicants can access the website through a link at [www.novec.com/scholarships](http://www.novec.com/scholarships).

For more information, contact Donna Snellings at [scholarships@novec.com](mailto:scholarships@novec.com) or 703-392-1511.



## High School Students May Apply for NOVEC's Youth Tour

**Attention NOVEC members:** Do you have a student graduating high school in 2017 or 2018? Does he or she have an avid interest in American government and would enjoy trips to Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia? If so, NOVEC's Youth Tour program is a perfect fit.

Youth Tour is a unique opportunity for students to explore history through the many museums, memorials, and monuments in the nation's capital. Youth Tour delegates also have a chance to meet with members of Congress at Capitol Hill as well as spend a day at the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond.

Five students who receive electric power from NOVEC will be selected for this all-expense-paid, once-in-a-lifetime trip.

To learn more and download the application, visit [www.novec.com/youthtour](http://www.novec.com/youthtour) or email a request to [youthtour@novec.com](mailto:youthtour@novec.com).

**The deadline for applications is Feb. 24.**

## Holiday Office Closure

### President's Day - Monday, February 15

To report outages, call 703-335-0500 or 1-888-335-0500, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**NOVEC IS GIVING ME MONEY BACK**

**It's CashBack!**

In a cooperative, margins are returned. Review your December power bill to check out your return!

NOVEC. Owned by the people they serve.

For more information, visit [NOVEC.com](http://NOVEC.com).

NOVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.   