

So... what is a Co-op?

By definition, a cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically controlled enterprise. Simply put, a cooperative is a not-for-profit, consumer-owned business.

Across the U.S. there are more than 29,000 cooperatives operating in every sector of the economy. More than 350 million Americans hold a membership to these various co-ops.

Cooperatives operate using the same seven principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

Electric co-ops began forming after President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to pass legislation to help electrify more than 5 million farms across America. With funding from the newly established Rural Electrification Administration, farmers began to form co-ops.

In Northern Virginia, Tri-County Electric Cooperative and Prince William Electric Cooperative were formed in 1939 and 1941. In 1983, these two co-ops consolidated and became what you know today as Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative.

NOVEC is one of the country's largest electric distribution cooperatives. It serves approximately 164,000 homes and businesses across more than 651 square miles throughout Northern Virginia.

As a NOVEC customer, you are a part-owner of this cooperative. Each customer-owner has a voice in how the cooperative is operated by casting votes for candidates running for the board of directors at the annual meeting each autumn.

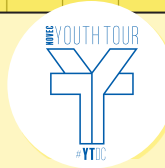
Since NOVEC is a not-for-profit business, any revenue the Co-op receives over the cost of doing business is periodically returned by the Board of Directors to customer-owners in the form of CashBack. In addition to CashBack, the Co-op does not earn a profit on wholesale power purchased or generated for customer-owners. For the past six years, these dollars in excess of power-supply costs have been returned to customers through a power-cost-adjustment (PCA) credit.

Did You Know? Today, NOVEC has grown from serving approximately 38,000 meters in 1983 to 164,000 meters in 2017, covering a 651-square mile territory in Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Stafford and Clarke counties, the Town of Clifton and the City of Manassas Park.

**Apply for
NOVEC
Youth Tour
Today!**

The deadline
for applications
is 2/17/17

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS!



Do you have a passion for American government and an interest in learning about Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia? If so, apply for NOVEC's Youth Tour program today.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour is a unique opportunity for students to explore history through the many museums, memorials, and monuments in our nation's capital. NOVEC's Youth Tour delegates also have a chance to meet with legislators on 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-expenses-paid, once-in-a-lifetime trip.

For more information and to download the application, visit www.novec.com/youthtour or request one from **Blair Cirulli** at youthtour@novec.com.

Energy Efficient Loan Program

As low as **3.90% APR*** Up to \$35K with terms up to 120 months

Let NOVEC Solutions help you make your home more energy efficient with low fixed-rate loans from ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union.

- Solar projects
- Generators
- Water heaters
- Insulation
- Windows and Doors
- Siding and Roofing
- Energy Star® appliances
- Furnaces
- Air conditioners
- Heat pumps



For program details call NOVEC Solutions at 703-392-1503



- 100% financing
- Attractive terms

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

Take the Chill Out of Winter Bills



Holiday houseguests, seemingly nonstop celebrations, shorter and fewer sunlit days, and often frigid cold are all reasons for electric bills to soar in winter. You can put a chill to those high winter bills with a few energy-saving measures.

Lower your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower)

Decreasing the temperature by just one degree can save up to 5 percent on heating costs. Consider a programmable thermostat that you can set to lower the temperature when away from home and increase before you come back.

Adjust blinds and curtains

Keep them open to let in sunlight during the day, and close at night to keep heat inside and protect from drafts.

Reduce hot water temperatures

Heating water accounts for 12 percent of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees or lower. Also, if you've had your water heater for more than 12 years, consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient model from NOVEC Solutions. Call 703-335-0500 or 888-335-0500.

Seal and insulate

This is the best way to keep heat in and air out. Areas that may need sealing include corners, cracks, door frames, and windows.

Consider ENERGY STAR®

You can save about 15 percent of your normal energy use with ENERGY STAR® appliances and get better insulation with ENERGY STAR® doors and windows.

Free your vents

HVAC systems will have to work twice as hard if vents are blocked by rugs, furniture, or doors.

Keep food cool

A temperature set between 34 and 37 degrees Fahrenheit is usually sufficient and won't force your fridge to work too hard.

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NOVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*Standard text messaging rates will apply. NOVEC will never send more than 10 messages a week.

Apply Online for NOVEC's College Scholarships

The Cooperative will accept applications for the NOVEC Scholarship Program from Jan. 3, 2017 until March 13, 2017. 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*™ — a secure website. Applicants can access the website through a link at <http://www.novec.com/scholarships>.

For more information, contact Donna Snellings at dsnellings@novec.com or 703-392-1511.

Holiday Office Closures

New Year's: Monday, January 2

The operations center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even on holidays. To report outages, call 703-335-0500 or toll-free 1-888-335-0500.



For additional information or to submit suggestions for future articles, contact: NOVEC Public Relations, P.O. Box 2710, Manassas, Va 20108 or email: communications@novec.com.