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### Tip of the Month

Severe storms can bring heavy rains that lead to flash flooding. Never drive through a flooded area. Remember — turn around, don't drown.

# What's Current

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SEPTEMBER 2023

## SEASONAL CHANGES CAN AFFECT YOUR ENERGY USE

Fall is just around the corner — that means cooler temperatures and shorter daylight hours. Your energy use will change as you utilize your home heating system and turn on indoor lights more often, so it's time to reevaluate your energy use. Visit NOVEC's Energy Resource Center to access tools that help you compare the costs of various lighting improvements, thermostat options, and appliance upgrades. Within the Energy Resource Center, you can also conduct a virtual energy assessment of your home by clicking on "Residential Energy Advisor."

Save electricity by following these five energy-saving tips. For more helpful information, visit [novec.com/save](https://novec.com/save).

- 1. Adjust your thermostat** — With a few people or no one at home during the day, turn your air-conditioner thermostat up by a few degrees. You can save 1% on your electricity bill when you make your home just one degree warmer. A programmable thermostat makes it easy by setting the thermostat to adjust itself up and down automatically.
- 2. Be frugal with the fridge** — When making school lunches or preparing dinner, decide what you need, take it out of your refrigerator, and close the door. Leaving the door open or repeatedly opening and closing the door forces the fridge to use more energy to maintain a constant temperature.
- 3. Don't overload outlets** — Make sure your electrical system is up to code and can handle the power needs of computers, printers, music equipment, and — when homework is finished — video game consoles.
- 4. Use LED bulbs and fixtures** — Provide excellent illumination for homework and other tasks with LED — light-emitting diode — lighting. LEDs use far less energy than incandescent bulbs and they last for years.
- 5. Use more fans and less A/C** — September's cooler temperatures are an invitation to open windows at night and run ceiling, floor, and window fans instead of expensive air conditioning.

## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

NOVEC provides important storm preparation tips and power outage information at [novec.com/safety](https://novec.com/safety). The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) also is an abundant source of information on preparing for storms, flooding, fires and other dangers.



**Before a disaster strikes, DHS recommends developing an emergency plan. Remember to consider:**

- Medical needs, including prescriptions and equipment
- Dietary needs
- Pets or service animals and their food or medications
- Multiple evacuation routes, including alternate routes to accommodate the very young and elderly
- A meeting place in case family members get separated
- An out-of-town contact to notify regarding your location and safety, if you cannot get in contact with family members

Visit [ready.gov/make-a-plan](https://ready.gov/make-a-plan) for more information on emergency preparedness.

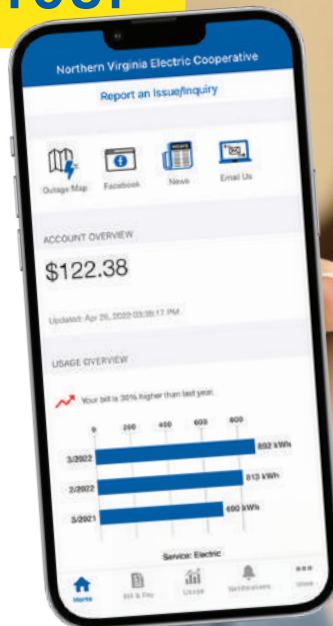
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