

# Save Money on Your Electric Bill *this Spring*



## RECNEWS

April 2025

As the weather warms up, spring is the perfect time to take steps toward reducing your energy use — and saving money on your electric bill.

### Optimize Your Thermostat Settings

- **Set your thermostat higher:** As temperatures rise during the day, you can increase your thermostat setting by a few degrees. Try to keep it around 78°F when you're home and a few degrees higher when you're away to reduce cooling costs.
- **Use a programmable thermostat:** If you don't already have one, consider installing a programmable thermostat that automatically adjusts temperatures based on your schedule.

### Switch to Energy-Efficient Appliances

- **Upgrade to ENERGY STAR® appliances:** If your refrigerator, washing machine, or air conditioning unit is old and inefficient, it might be time to upgrade to newer, more energy-efficient models. These appliances use significantly less energy and can save you money in the long run.
- **Use smart power strips:** Unplug devices when they're not in use, or use smart power strips that automatically shut off power to electronics when they're not being used.

### Maximize Natural Light

- **Open your blinds:** Instead of relying on artificial lighting, open your blinds and let in natural sunlight to brighten your home during the day.

- **Switch to LED lighting:** If you haven't already, replace incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs that use less electricity and last longer.

### Seal Gaps and Insulate

- **Check for air leaks:** Spring is an ideal time to check for drafts around windows and doors. Sealing these gaps with weatherstripping or caulk can prevent cool air from escaping and reduce the workload on your cooling system.
- **Add insulation:** If your attic insulation is insufficient, adding more can help regulate your home's temperature and reduce energy usage.

### Maintain Your HVAC System

- **Change air filters:** Dirty filters can make your HVAC system work harder, using more energy. Replace filters regularly to ensure optimal airflow and efficiency.
- **Schedule an HVAC tune-up:** Spring is a great time to have a professional inspect and service your air conditioning unit to ensure it's running efficiently.

### Embrace Energy-Efficient Landscaping

- **Use shade strategically:** Planting trees or installing outdoor shading can help block direct sunlight from hitting your home's walls, keeping the interior cooler without relying on air conditioning.



## A Critical Tool to Protect Your Property and Safety

By contacting VA811 before digging, you can ensure the safety of workers, protect your property, and avoid potential fines.

VA811 allows homeowners to request utility line markings before they begin digging. Whether you're installing a fence, planting trees, or digging out a new driveway, underground utilities such as gas, water, electricity, and telecommunications lines may be buried beneath the surface. Digging into these lines can cause dangerous accidents, service disruptions, and expensive repairs.

### HOW DOES VA811 WORK?

By submitting a request online to VA811.com, the service will notify utility companies in your area to send professional locators to mark the locations of underground lines. This simple step helps you identify where it is safe to dig and where you should avoid. This service is free, and it's required by law in Virginia for any digging project that involves disturbing the ground.



**So be sure to click before dig, by filling out a service ticket at VA811.com — and start your project with the knowledge that you are doing so safely!**



## Lineman Appreciation Month: Honoring the Unsung Heroes

Every April, **Lineman Appreciation Month** provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices of linemen who keep our electrical grid running. These skilled professionals are responsible for maintaining and repairing power lines ensuring that REC members have the power they depend on.

Lineman work is challenging and dangerous, often involving long hours in extreme weather conditions, from blistering heat to freezing cold. They work at great heights, navigating power

poles and towers, to restore service during storms, outages, and emergencies.

Their expertise and commitment are vital to our modern way of life, yet their efforts often go unnoticed — but not this month!

Take a moment this month to thank a lineman, whether through social media or another channel of your choosing. Their work ensures that we have the power to live, work and thrive.