



Dig With **CARE**



RECNEWS

April 2026

Request utility marking before you dig

Before you start any digging project, big or small — planting trees, fence posts, mailboxes, gardens, drainage work, grading or stump removal — request a utility marking from VA811.com. It's free! You can also dial 811 or 1-800-552-7001. Submit your request at least three business days in advance and confirm completion before you dig.

A simple three-step approach can help:

- **Gather your information.** Before calling or filing online, be ready with the address, nearby cross streets, type of work and a clear description of where you plan to dig — front yard, back yard or one side of the property. VA811 materials also note that access details, such as gates or dogs, can matter.
- **Make the request.** Submit your request online through VA811, or call 811, at least three business days before the project. Keep your ticket number so you can check the status later.
- **Dig only when you know it's safe.** Don't assume the job is clear just because a few flags or paint marks appear. Different utilities may respond at different times. You can check VA811's Positive Response system online or by phone to confirm whether utilities have marked their lines or reported no conflict.

A few reminders are worth keeping in mind:

- If a contractor is doing the work, make sure they have submitted the 811 request before digging starts.
- Keep powered equipment at least 24 inches away from marked utility lines. If your project must come within that area — including when crossing a marked line — carefully hand dig first to expose the line.
- Private lines, such as sprinkler or invisible fence systems, usually aren't marked through VA811.

Gather your information

Know the address, the type of project and exactly where you'll be digging.



Contact VA811

Submit a request online at least three business days before digging.



Verify and dig

Don't dig until the waiting period has passed and utility markings appear complete.



REC'S SUMMER SAVINGS PLAN: ENROLL NOW AND SAVE THIS SUMMER



Get Paid to Use Less

If you want another way to lower your electric costs, this is one of the simplest options: it's **free**, it's **voluntary** and it rewards you with **bill credits** for using less electricity during specific high-demand summer hours.

How it works

REC's Summer Savings Plan runs June 1 to Sept. 30. When electricity demand is expected to be high, REC will send you an alert by text, email or the MyREC SmartHub app asking you to reduce your electricity use. Events are typically on weekdays lasting for two hours between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

For every kilowatt-hour (kWh) you save during these events, you earn \$1.75 in bill credits. Your credit is applied to your next electric bill. There is no equipment to install and no penalty if you can't participate on a given day. You choose what works for your household.

Why your participation matters for everyone

Across the electric industry, a few peak-demand hours can drive a significant share of the wholesale power costs that show up in future rates. When more member-owners reduce usage during those peak hours, overall demand goes down and that helps keep electricity more affordable for everyone.



Learn more and sign up today

If you want to know more about how the program works and how it helps the entire Cooperative, go to myrec.coop and search for Summer Savings Plan, or use the QR code to learn more.

Easy ways to reduce usage during peaks



Increase your thermostat setting a few degrees and set the fan to AUTO



Delay using the stove, oven, dishwasher, washer or dryer



Turn off pool pumps, hot tubs and other large motors



Avoid heavy hot water use if you have an electric water heater



Delay charging EVs, power tools or battery equipment until later

Power Change in Our Communities

In 2025, more than **\$239,753** in funding was awarded to **71 nonprofits** across our 22-county service area. A small amount of your change can really add up to huge impact!

Learn more and enroll today at www.thepowerofchange.org.



Help Make a Difference!

