



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

Ninnescah Rural Electric Co-op, Inc.

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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 800-828-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

FROM THE MANAGER

Factors That Impact Electricity Prices

I was recently asked by one of our members about what impacts electricity prices. We talked about how the daily cost of living seems to have increased across the board.

Just as inflation has impacted everything from the price of gasoline to the price of eggs, costs for the fuels required to produce electricity have also risen. This is a timely topic, so I wanted to help explain some of the factors that impact electricity prices (and energy bills) in this month's issue of *Kansas Country Living*.

While there is no short answer, there are a few key elements that impact electricity prices and rates. Some of these factors Ninnescah Rural Electric can manage, some of them you can impact and other factors are beyond our control. So, let me break it down.

There are three primary parts to your monthly electric bill: a customer charge,

an energy consumption/kWh charge and a Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA). To understand your total energy costs and what impacts your bill, lets unpack one piece at a time.

The first is a **FIXED MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGE**, which covers the costs associated with providing electricity to your home. This includes equipment, materials, labor and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in Ninnescah Rural Electric's service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used. To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local system, including power lines, substations and other necessary equipment. Like many other businesses, we've experienced supply chain issues and steep cost increases for some of our basic equipment. For example, the cost for a distribution transformer

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Brody Cronister

Ninnescah Welcomes New Employee

We would like to welcome **BRODY CRONISTER** to Ninnescah. He joined our line department on July 10 as apprentice III lineman. Cronister grew up in Pratt and graduated with an associate degree in the electrical power technology program from Pratt Community College.

We're glad to have you on staff, Brody!

4 KEY FACTORS THAT IMPACT ENERGY BILLS

You pay for the electricity you consume each month, but there are additional factors that impact your energy bills.

1 Fuel Costs

Before electricity can be delivered to your home, it must be generated at a power plant or from a renewable source. The fuel cost to generate electricity fluctuates, which is why you see a power or fuel charge on your monthly bill. This charge covers cost changes without having to continually restructure electricity rates.



2 Service Costs

Your bill includes a monthly service charge, which recovers part of the co-op's ongoing investments in poles, wire, meters, system maintenance and additional costs necessary to provide reliable electric service.



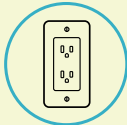
3 Weather

When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling or heating equipment must run longer and at maximum capacity, which can greatly increase your energy use. Extreme temperatures can also affect electricity market prices. When the need for electricity increases due to extreme heat or cold, the price of power typically rises.



4 Energy Consumption

This is the amount of electricity you use each month to power your home's cooling/heating system, appliances, lighting, electronics and more. The amount of electricity you consume is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). You control how much energy you use, which can ultimately help you manage your monthly costs.



Factors That Impact Electricity Prices

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(which looks like a tall metal can at the top of a power pole) went from \$890 in 2021 to \$2070 this year, and wait times to receive this essential equipment are up to 115 weeks. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, some of these expenses must be passed on to our members. I should note that the customer charge is the same for everyone and the costs are shared equally across the membership.

Another component of your monthly bill is the **kWh CHARGE**, which covers how much energy you consume. You've likely noticed the amount of energy you use can vary from month to month and is typically impacted by extreme temperatures. When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling and heating equipment run longer, which increases your home energy use. Regardless, energy consumption is an area that you have some control over, and you can lower your monthly bill by actively reduc-

ing energy use. Your thermostat is a great place to start, so be sure to keep it close to 78 degrees during summer months.

The last component of your bill is the **ECA**, which is the same amount for all co-op members. The ECA recently increased because of higher fuel prices, which means the power that Ninnescah Rural Electric purchases from our wholesale provider is more expensive. The ECA covers fuel cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.

I hope this information sheds light on some of the factors that impact electricity prices. While we can't control the weather or the rising costs of fuels, please know Ninnescah Rural Electric is doing everything possible to keep internal costs down.

We're here to help you, too. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill.



LABOR Day
Office Closing

In observance of Labor Day,
our office will be closed on
MONDAY, SEPT. 4.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

SOURCE: WWW.ENERGY.GOV



Stay Safe During Harvest — Get Proper Rest

For many farmers, fall requires long days in the field and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible, combined with fatigue and looming deadlines, increases the risk of injury. In fact, most injuries occur during the spring and fall when stress and fatigue are often at their highest.

The safety and health of workers, including making time for sleep, should be a priority when considering a farm's productivity, according to Josie Rudolphi, University of Illinois Extension associate research scientist.

"Rushing and cutting corners can lead to injury, which no one has time for, especially during the harvest," Rudolphi says.

Rudolphi grew up on a farm and understands the pressures of harvest season. She says that getting proper rest can make a huge difference in staying safe, but during the time crunch of harvest season, farmers sacrifice sleep to work late into the night.

"Sleep deficiency has been associated with increased injury, reduced reaction time and reduced concentration," Rudolphi says. "All of which could impact health and safety, as well as productivity."

The demands of harvest are stressful, and a lack of sleep can intensify that and lead to errors in the fields or even on the roads.

To improve sleep, Rudolphi advises farmers to go to bed and wake up at regular times when possible. They can

Sleep deficiency has been associated with increased injury, reduced reaction time and reduced concentration. All of which could impact health and safety, as well as productivity.

**JOSIE RUDOLPHI, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION ASSOCIATE RESEARCH SCIENTIST**

use rainy days to catch up on sleep. Other sleep health tips include:

- ▶ Create a bedroom environment that encourages sleep; keep it quiet, dark and cool.
- ▶ Limit electronic device use.
- ▶ Avoid large meals, caffeine and alcohol before bedtime.

In addition to improving sleep, managing stress is an important component to injury prevention, health and safety, according to Rudolphi.

"By using the 'Four A' Method of **AVOID** (planning ahead), **ADAPT** (changing expectations), **ALTER** (changing the situation when you can) and **ACCEPT** (acknowledging that a situation is what it is), farmers can successfully manage the stress of long hours and unpredictability," she adds.

For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.



INSPECT IT REGULARLY



MAKE SURE FENCING IS VISIBLE.

Use electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.



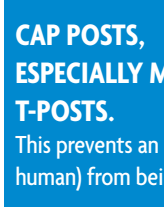
INSPECT FENCING REGULARLY.

Ensure everything is tight, secure and free from frays.



MAKE SURE FENCE IS TIGHT AND WELL-SUPPORTED.

A lack of support can cause it to sag.



CAP POSTS, ESPECIALLY METAL T-POSTS.

This prevents an animal (or human) from being impaled.



CHECK FOR A LOOSE OR SAGGING FENCE.

Not only can animals escape, but wires can fall out of insulators.

SOURCE: SAFE ELECTRICITY

Welcome *New Members*

Croell Inc – Pratt

Robert Snead – Camano Island, WA

J&R Bohrer Family Farm LLC – Lebo

Austin C &/or Autumn P Jackson – Pratt

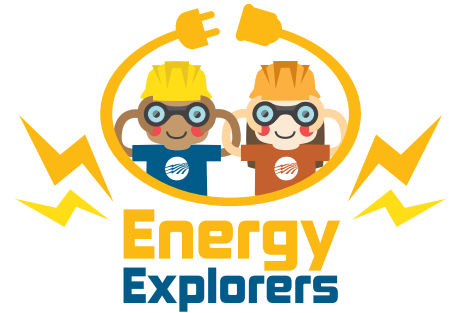
Skylar J Evans – Macksville

Kirkpatrick Properties LLC – Ellinwood

SPOT THE BIGGEST ENERGY USER

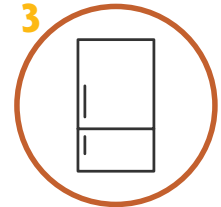
We use electricity every day, but we rarely think about the appliances and electronics that consume the most energy. Can you spot the biggest energy users?

Review each grouping below, then circle the one that you think consumes the most energy. Check your work in the answer key.



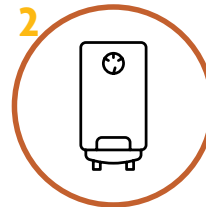
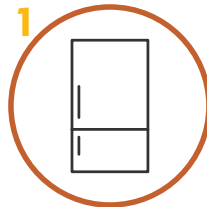
A

1. Heating and Cooling Unit
2. Clothes Washer
3. Refrigerator



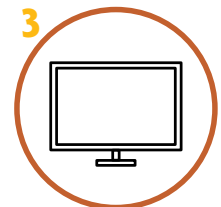
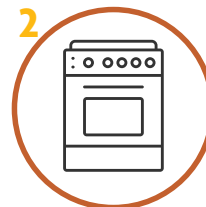
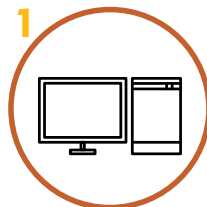
B

1. Refrigerator
2. Water Heater
3. Laptop Computer



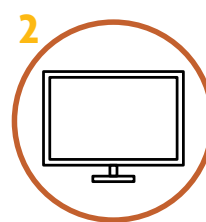
C

1. Desktop Computer
2. Electric Oven
3. TV



D

1. LED Lights
2. TV
3. Clothes Dryer



Answer Key: A. 1 B. 2 C. 2 D. 3



Save Energy!

- ▶ Wash clothing in cold water and air-dry when possible.
- ▶ Only run full loads in the dishwasher.
- ▶ Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- ▶ Take short showers instead of baths.
- ▶ Unplug electronic devices when not in use.