



FACTORS THAT IMPACT ELECTRICITY PRICES

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

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).

While there is no short answer, there are a few key elements that impact electricity prices and rates. Some of these factors Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) can manage, some of them you can impact, and other factors are beyond our control.

There are three primary parts to your monthly electric bill: a facility charge, an energy charge, and a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). To understand your total energy costs and what impacts your bill, let's unpack one piece at a time.

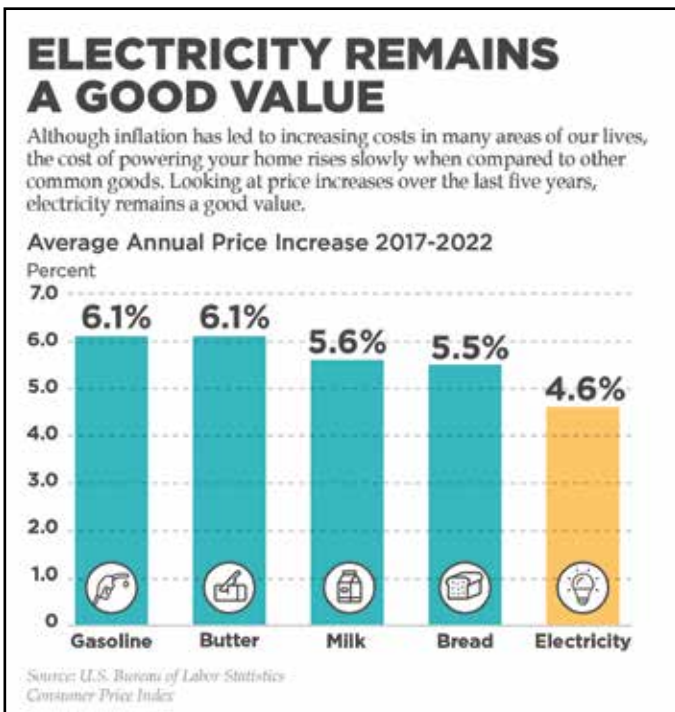
The first is a fixed monthly facility charge, which covers the costs associated with providing electricity to your home. This includes equipment, materials, labor, and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in OEC's service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used. In order to ensure 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 an underground distribution transformer (which looks like a large green metal box) went from \$1,605 in 2021 to \$2,217 this year, and wait times to receive this essential equipment are up to 12 months. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, some of these expenses must be passed on to our members. I should note that the facility charge is the same for everyone and the costs are shared equally across the membership.

Another component of your monthly bill is the energy 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 reducing energy use. Your thermostat is a great place to start, so be sure to keep it close to 78 degrees during summer months or while you're away from home.

The last component of your bill is the PCA, which is the same amount for all co-op members. The PCA covers fuel cost fluctuations from our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, 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 cost of fuels, please know OEC is doing everything possible to keep internal costs down. Our cost of service/rate study is almost complete. Look for more information in next month's magazine on any future rate increases.



A New Look for SmartHub Coming this Fall



The new SmartHub appearance will be simplified with a more user-friendly interface. The debut will be Fall of 2023.



CO-OP KIDS BUILD CONNECTIONS AT YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Flying into its 60th year, Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) sponsored 15 students from seven area schools to the annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC). This event is sponsored and facilitated by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) with OEC covering program fees for high school juniors to attend. More than 70 teens from electric cooperatives across the state gathered for the three-day event, held July 11–13, at the University of Wisconsin–Stout.

The YLC program is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills, while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative business. It is a by-teens, for-teens cooperative leadership conference that

is planned and developed by a youth board elected at the previous year's event.

Students enter YLC timid but ultimately make lifelong friends through days packed with team-building activities, leadership break-out sessions, an etiquette dinner, and campaigning for Youth Board. The students learned and interacted with motivational speaker Craig Hillier, safety presenter Ben Bella, and guest speaker Green Bay Packers Hall of Famer "The Grave Digger," Gilbert Brown.

Following YLC, students have scholarship opportunities to apply for through WECA and OEC. Interested in attending YLC next year? Contact Jackie McGlin, jmcglin@oakdalerec.com, to learn how you can take part in this cooperative tradition.



Oakdale Electric Delegate Elected to Youth Board

For the first time in four years, OEC would like to congratulate Carson Welter of New Lisbon for being elected to the Youth Board, which means he'll work with his fellow elected Youth Board members to plan and direct next year's YLC event. He will also be attending Youth Tour in Washington D.C. next summer. Way to let your leadership skills shine, Carson!

Oakdale Electric's YLC delegate, Carson Welter, dressed up for the formal etiquette dinner.

Save the Date!

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, October 14

7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Located at Oakdale Electric Cooperative
Hwy. PP, just north of Interstate 90/94



FREE Family Fun for All Members!

- Pancake Breakfast by Tomah Lions Club
- Bill Credit Drawings
- Flu Shot Clinic
- Demonstrations
- Ice Cream by Oakdale Credit Union
- Gift Bags
- Face Painting by Tappy
- Hotline Demonstration
- Games & Prizes
- Popcorn
- Basket Giveaways
- Educational Booths
- Balloon by Kevin
- Crafts by Craft Time Studio

Last Call for Your Best Shots!



There's still time to enter our Member Photo Contest to be featured in our 2024 calendar. Photo winners will receive a \$25 bill credit and \$50 to the cover winner. Photos must be submitted by **Friday, September 1, 2023**. For contest details, visit www.oakdalerec.coop.

ARIANNA BECKER SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNER

Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) is proud to announce Arianna Becker as the winner of the Electrical Safety Poster Contest that was sponsored by Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) and OEC. In the month of May, all third-graders whose parents or guardians are members of OEC were eligible to submit an original work supporting electrical safety. Arianna received a \$25 gift card, an OEC goodie bag, and her poster displayed in our lobby until next year's contest.

Congratulations, Arianna!



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. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. 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: Dept. of Energy



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**Oakdale Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 833-526-0293

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.