



Soaring Energy Prices Prompt Additional PCA Increase

The dramatic rise of natural gas prices continues to drive up the cost of generating electricity.

Through Rappahannock Electric Cooperative's (REC) wholesale power provider, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), natural gas is used to generate approximately 40% of all the electricity made available to its member cooperatives.

REC previously announced two power cost adjustment (PCA) increases that were effective May 1 and July 1. Since those announcements, ODEC implemented another energy rate adjustment that also went into effect on July 1. To help through these challenging times, REC elected to delay the pass through of this third increase until Aug. 1.

To put the impact into perspective, a residential member who uses an average of 1,350 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity each month will pay about \$18 more on their bill. Some businesses and commercial member-owners who are subject to the PCA could see an estimated increase of 13% to 16% from July.

"We are doing everything we can to hold down costs, but we cannot control the increase in national and international energy markets," said Casey Hollins, Managing Director — Communications and Public Relations.

The cost of energy is a direct pass-through of the electricity REC purchases from ODEC and distributes to you - our member-owners. REC's distribution costs - as noted on your electric bill, remain unchanged.

"Unfortunately, if global and national trends continue, additional upward adjustments remain likely," said Brian Doherty, Managing Director — External Affairs. "As always we want to be as transparent as possible with our member-owners. If and when the cost of energy stabilizes, we look forward to passing those savings on to our member-owners."

Unlike investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives such as REC provide power at cost. Increases are reflected in the Generation/Transmission Costs section of member-owner electric bills under the Power Cost Adjustments line item. The PCA changes periodically to reflect the Cooperative's current wholesale power costs, which includes both the costs of generating and acquiring the electricity you use, as well as the cost of transmitting that electricity from the power plants to REC's local substations.



We Are Here to Help

We are here to support you, your family, neighbors and friends who need assistance during this difficult economic time. Your communities are our communities, too, and we are all in this together.

REC WILL WORK WITH YOU!

- Your Cooperative offers a variety of bill-payment options and other tools to support members who need assistance.
- Are you falling behind on your bill payment? To catch up, consider paying a small amount every week, every other week or once a month.
- You can even set up a payment plan without speaking with a representative from REC. You can set up the plan in MyREC SmartHub or by using our automated phone system when you call 800-552-3904. If you'd like to speak directly with a Member Service Representative, we are here to help!
- Consider different payment options such as Budget Billing, where the monthly amount due is the average of the previous 12 months. In many cases, a set monthly payment helps take the guesswork out of your budget and can help you get on track.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OTHERS

- Anyone can purchase a gift certificate to help a neighbor, friend, family member — or stranger — with an electric bill. If you don't select a specific recipient, REC will ensure the donation goes to a member in need.
Learn more: myrec.coop/gift
- REC's Caring Notice assists member-owners who sometimes forget to pay their electric bills. If a member's account becomes delinquent, REC will notify the contact person who helps remind them about the payment.

OTHER AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

- Virginia's Department of Social Services offers Cooling Assistance programs to help Virginians in need. Please visit <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov>.
- Each county's social services team also offers a variety of support, so reach out to the agency closest to you.
- Call 211 or visit virginia211.org. This free assistance helps Virginians who are struggling to pay for basic services such as electricity.

FINALLY, WATCH OUT FOR SCAMMERS

Unfortunately, some people are taking advantage of these challenging times by attempting to scam people out of money. If you are uncertain if a call you received came from a legitimate REC representative, please call REC directly at 800-552-3904 to confirm.