

Bills to Increase due to Higher Power Costs



REC NEWS

January 2018

Starting with this month's bill, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative's (REC) Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) factor will rise due to a significant increase in the cost of power purchased for your use. Your bill has increased by nearly \$8 per 1000 kilowatt hours (kWh) used. That increase, combined with the higher energy use that normally occurs during winter months, has caused your bill to be higher than it has been in the recent past.

"This increase is not related to REC's recent rate application," explained David Koogler, REC vice president of member services and external affairs. "This is entirely due to wholesale power costing more in 2018 than it did in 2017."

The majority of the rising cost is the result of last year's peak demand for electricity, which in part determines what REC pays in the current year. That peak occurred in the winter instead of the summer as it has in recent years. The remaining increase is due to higher rates for wholesale power.

"We all benefitted from unusually lower power costs in 2017. Now, we are experiencing a sudden change as power costs return to more normal levels," stated Koogler.

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Even with the change in the PCA factor, total charges will be less than they were in 2015 and most of 2016.

David Koogler, REC vice president of member services and external affairs

The average home uses more electricity this time of year, on average 300 more kWh. The increased energy use alone adds about \$30 to this month's bill. For homes using 2,000 kWh in January, the PCA will add approximately another \$16.

Steps To Save On Your Energy Bills

There are steps you can take to manage your bill, though. For example, you can sign up for the [Smart Response AC Switch program](#) and get a \$25 one-time credit on your bill at the end of the summer cooling season, as well as a \$6 credit during the summer months. This program also helps reduce the peak demand for electricity, which affects the cost of the power.

Another option is to sign up for [Prepay](#) or [Budget Billing](#). Budget Billing averages payments across multiple months to help avoid sudden month-to-month changes in the amount due. Both of these programs help you control the amount you pay each month for electric service.

REC's Energy Center provides multiple energy-saving resources online at myrec.coop/save. You can also take advantage of using the My Usage tool in MyREC SmartHub. This free tool displays your daily electricity use and even shows how the weather affects your bills.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, REC is owned by you, the people we serve. REC knows you're depending on us to provide safe, reliable — and affordable — electric service.



SMART RESPONSE

from REC

**Get a \$25 Bill Credit.
PLUS, a \$6 credit each
month this summer.**



See reverse side for how to enroll.

Receive bill credits with a **SMART RESPONSE AC Switch!**

Enroll and start earning bill credits! The Smart Response AC Switch allows REC to cycle your AC unit during peak summer days. Participation is easy, voluntary, and 100% free!

YOU PAY NOTHING – REC INSTALLS ALL THE EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

WE PAY YOU – Receive a one-time bill credit of \$25* AND a \$6 credit on your electric bill each month June – September.



SIGN UP TODAY

at www.MyREC.coop/ACSwitch
or call **800-851-3275**.

**\$25 credit provided upon active participation in the program through the end of the cooling season in which you enrolled.*