



# Increase in Electric Bill Driven by Higher Power Costs



## RECNEWS

May 2026

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) members will see an increase in the power cost adjustment (PCA) on electric bills issued on or after May 1. This change will increase costs by approximately \$9.81 for every 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) used, meaning higher use results in a greater impact to the overall bill. The PCA reflects the cost of wholesale power purchased by the Cooperative on behalf of its members, and is set by our wholesale electricity provider, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC). As a distribution cooperative, REC delivers electricity but does not generate it. This increase is driven by higher demand for electricity during this past winter with its prolonged extreme cold and rising wholesale energy costs.

“We know that any increase in costs can place added strain on our members, and we take that seriously,” said Casey Hollins, managing director – communications and public relations. “Many families are already facing difficult decisions when it comes to managing monthly expenses, including their monthly electricity bill. At REC, we’re here to help, whether that’s through programs, tools or one-on-one support, while continuing to provide safe, reliable service our members can count on.”

### We offer tools and support to help you manage your bill.

If you’re concerned about your bill or need support, we encourage you to explore the options below or connect with our team at [myrec.coop](https://myrec.coop) or by calling us directly at 800-552-3904. We can also help connect you with additional assistance resources available in your community and across the state.

### Earn bill credits with the Summer Savings Plan.

Reduce energy use during peak times from June to September and earn \$1.75 in bill credits for every kilowatt-hour (kWh) saved. Small changes can add up quickly. Sign up today to save! Learn more at [myrec.coop/summersavings](https://myrec.coop/summersavings).

### Choose a billing option that works for you.

REC Prepay and Budget Billing programs can help reduce surprises and give you more control over when and how you pay. Explore options at [myrec.coop/payment-choices](https://myrec.coop/payment-choices).

### Get to know your energy use.

Tools in MyREC SmartHub make it easy to track use, identify trends and understand what’s driving your bill so you can make informed decisions. Visit [myrec.coop/myrecsmarthub](https://myrec.coop/myrecsmarthub).

### Access additional financial assistance resources.

REC connects members with local organizations and statewide programs that may be able to help with energy bills. Visit [myrec.coop/heretohelp](https://myrec.coop/heretohelp) to explore available resources or contact us for guidance.

# SUMMER SAVINGS PLAN: ENROLL TODAY, BEFORE THE SUMMER HEAT ARRIVES



## 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

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, use the QR code to learn more and sign up today to save:  
[myrec.coop/summersavings](https://myrec.coop/summersavings).

## 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

## 5 Easy Ways to Save Energy This Summer

**Own the thermostat:** Set it to 78 degrees or the highest comfortable setting. REC says every degree lower can raise cooling costs by up to 3%.

**Block the sun:** Close blinds or use blackout curtains during peak sunlight hours to help keep your home cooler.

**Upgrade your tools:** Smart and programmable thermostats can help automate savings and keep your home comfortable when it matters most.

**Maintain your system:** Have your cooling system serviced annually and check filters monthly so your HVAC system doesn't have to work harder than it should.

REC also encourages members to use MyREC SmartHub and complete their Home Energy Profile to unlock personalized energy tips, alerts and monthly usage insights.