

Lewis County REC Members,

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative we strive every day to keep costs low while still providing the safe, reliable, and quality service you expect. Unfortunately, Lewis County REC's power providers have issued a rate increase due to a variety of factors including efforts to sustain regulatory compliance, unpredictable fuel costs, and the need to maintain grid reliability. This coupled with a surge in cost of materials, supplies and equipment has eliminated Lewis County REC's ability to absorb the additional increases.

In our effort to continue to provide reliable and high-quality service, we must implement a rate increase that will take effect with April usage and be reflected on the May 2024 billing statements. We do not take this rate increase lightly and have done everything possible to minimize its impact on you, our member-owners. We are committed to minimizing the impact of increasing electric costs on your household. You can always contact us to learn about our energy efficiency rebates and incentives we offer that could save energy throughout your home.

This handout is intended to answer your questions about the rate increase, but if you have additional questions, please give us a call at 573-215-4000 or stop by our office.

Rate Increase Q&A

Q Why are rates increasing?

A The electric utility industry is experiencing a multitude of intricate challenges, many of which have a significant financial impact. This rate increase is necessary due to a surge in the cost of our supplies as well as an increase from our wholesale power providers.

Q How much will rates increase?

A **Energy Use Charge** - Residential members will see an average increase of \$.02 per/kWh. All other rate classes will see a similar increase.
Service Availability Charge - No increase.
Security Lights - No increase

Q When will my bill change?

A The change will be reflected in your monthly billing statements effective May 1, 2024.

Q How will this change affect the co-op's profits?

A We are a **not-for-profit**, member-owned cooperative. We exist to serve our members with safe, reliable, and affordable power and any margins (profits) we receive are invested into the electric system or allocated to you in the form of capital credits.

Q What is the Service Availability Charge?

A This is the monthly charge for service. The fee is set to recover a large portion of the fixed costs such as the poles, transformers, wires, and other equipment as well as the service required to provide safe and reliable electricity to your meter regardless of usage. This amount will remain **unchanged** in 2024.

Q What can I do to reduce my bill?

A There are many ways to reduce your energy use. Learn ways to save energy at www.lewiscountyrec.org You can also contact us to learn more about our energy efficiency rebates and incentives.