



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.twinvalleyelectric.coop

TWIN VALLEY
ELECTRIC CO-OP

NEWS

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FROM THE CEO

Factors That Impact Electricity Prices

We are occasionally asked about what impacts electricity prices, especially recently since the daily cost of living seems to have increased across the board.

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) in this month's issue of *Kansas Country Living*.

While there is no short answer, there are a few key elements that impact electricity prices and rates. Some of these factors Twin Valley Electric can manage, some of them you can impact and other factors are beyond our control. So, let me break it down.

There are three primary parts to

your monthly electric bill: a customer charge, a kWh/FRR charge and a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). To understand your total energy costs and what impacts your bill, lets unpack one piece at a time.

The first is a **FIXED MONTHLY CUSTOMER 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 TVEC's service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used. 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



Angie Erickson

Continued on page 12B ▶

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. 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: WWW.ENERGY.GOV**



4 KEY FACTORS THAT IMPACT ENERGY BILLS

You pay for the electricity you consume each month, but there are additional factors that impact your energy bills.

1 Fuel Costs

Before electricity can be delivered to your home, it must be generated at a power plant or from a renewable source. The fuel cost to generate electricity fluctuates, which is why you see a power or fuel charge on your monthly bill. This charge covers cost changes without having to continually restructure electricity rates.



2 Service Costs

Your bill includes a monthly service charge, which recovers part of the co-op's ongoing investments in poles, wire, meters, system maintenance and additional costs necessary to provide reliable electric service.



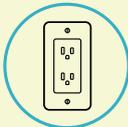
3 Weather

When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling or heating equipment must run longer and at maximum capacity, which can greatly increase your energy use. Extreme temperatures can also affect electricity market prices. When the need for electricity increases due to extreme heat or cold, the price of power typically rises.



4 Energy Consumption

This is the amount of electricity you use each month to power your home's cooling/heating system, appliances, lighting, electronics and more. The amount of electricity you consume is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). You control how much energy you use, which can ultimately help you manage your monthly costs.



Factors That Impact Electricity Prices *Continued from page 12A*

experienced supply chain issues and steep cost increases for some of our basic equipment. For example, the cost for a typical distribution transformer went from \$765 in 2021 to \$1,200 this year, and wait times to receive this essential equipment are up to 12-15 weeks. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, some of these expenses must be passed on to our members. I should note that the customer charge is the same for everyone and the costs are shared equally across the membership.

Another component of your monthly bill are the **kWh/FRR CHARGES**, which are based on 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 as high as you can tolerate during summer months.

The last component of your bill is the **PCA**, which is the same amount for all co-op members. The PCA recently increased because of higher fuel prices, which means the power that TVEC purchases from our wholesale provider is more expensive. The PCA covers fuel cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.

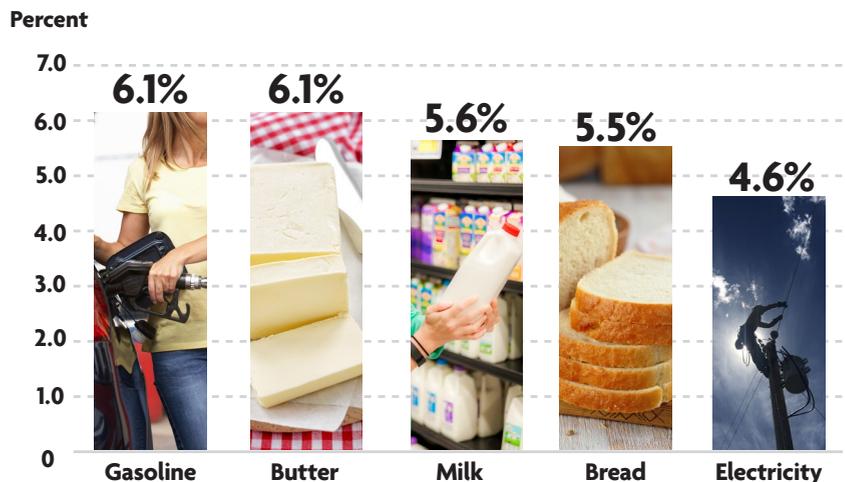
I hope this information sheds light on some of the factors that impact electricity prices. While we can't control the weather or the rising costs of fuels, please know TVEC is doing everything possible to keep internal costs down.

We're here to help you, too. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill or for advice on how to save energy at home.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2017-2022



SOURCES: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS & CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Make the Most of Your Electric Vehicle's Battery Charge

Whether you're a new electric vehicle (EV) owner, an experienced driver or just looking into your options, it's good to know how to make the most of an electric vehicle's battery charge. Different types of EVs have a wide range of mileage options, but there are things owners can do to increase their range.

In Town Versus Highway

Do you use your EV to run nearby errands or for a long commute to work? In-town driving usually benefits battery range, since EVs use the braking system to put energy back into the battery, called regenerative braking. Coasting toward that stoplight also helps because you can move forward without using power.

Driving It

Although painstakingly obvious, driving will always drain the battery. Higher speeds require more battery power than lower speeds.

How Full is Too Full?

Most EV owners avoid charging a battery to 100%, since fully charging affects battery life.

While some EV owners charge to a maximum of 80% capacity, many EV enthusiasts now recommend charging to 50% full.

Taking a long road trip? Some experts believe charging to full capacity now and then is not a major concern.

Rate of Acceleration

While driving EVs is fun because they get up and go, high (and rapid) acceleration requires more energy than taking off more slowly. Managing a "lead foot" helps improve your car's battery range.

Weather

While all types of conditions affect battery range, frigid temperatures cause the biggest drain. It requires more energy to keep the battery running when it is cold outside.

Heat/Air-Conditioning

Controlling the comfort inside your EV is the biggest power drain, second to driving it. Warming your EV's cabin takes more energy when it is cold outside. The same is also true when you use energy to blast the air conditioner while it is hot outside.

Weight

The size of your EV, how many passengers are on board and how much extra stuff you have in your trunk impact battery range. The lighter the car, the less energy the battery expends.

SOURCE: KELLEY BLUE BOOK



Got Electric Fencing?

INSPECT IT REGULARLY



MAKE SURE FENCING IS VISIBLE.

Use electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.



INSPECT FENCING REGULARLY.

Ensure everything is tight, secure and free from frays.



MAKE SURE FENCE IS TIGHT AND WELL-SUPPORTED.

A lack of support can cause it to sag.



CAP POSTS, ESPECIALLY METAL T-POSTS.

This prevents an animal (or human) from being impaled.



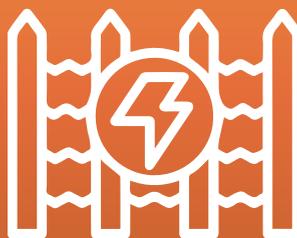
CHECK FOR A LOOSE OR SAGGING FENCE.

Not only can animals escape, but wires can fall out of insulators.

SOURCE: SAFE ELECTRICITY

SAFETY TIP

If you have electrical fencing, make sure everything is tight, secure and free from frays. A loose fence means wires can fall out of insulators.



SOURCE: SAFE ELECTRICITY

SPOT THE BIGGEST ENERGY USER

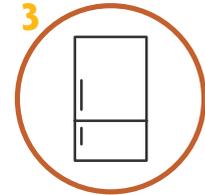
We use electricity every day, but we rarely think about the appliances and electronics that consume the most energy. Can you spot the biggest energy users?

Review each grouping below, then circle the one that you think consumes the most energy. Check your work in the answer key.



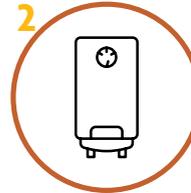
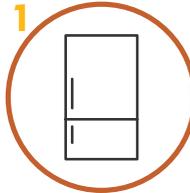
A

1. Heating and Cooling Unit
2. Clothes Washer
3. Refrigerator



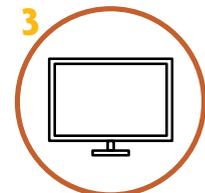
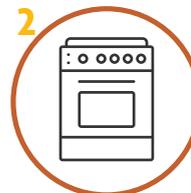
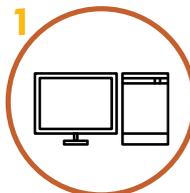
B

1. Refrigerator
2. Water Heater
3. Laptop Computer



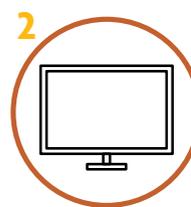
C

1. Desktop Computer
2. Electric Oven
3. TV



D

1. LED Lights
2. TV
3. Clothes Dryer



Answer Key: A. 1 B. 2 C. 2 D. 3



Save Energy!

- ▶ Wash clothing in cold water and air-dry when possible.
- ▶ Only run full loads in the dishwasher.

- ▶ Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- ▶ Take short showers instead of baths.
- ▶ Unplug electronic devices when not in use.