

Understanding Factors That Impact Your Energy Bills

By Dennis Herman General Manager

February brings with it some of the coldest weather of the year, and as our home heating systems work harder and longer to keep us warm, we typically see higher energy bills.

There are a few key factors that affect electricity prices, as well as a few ways you can make a meaningful impact on home energy savings.

When you receive your monthly bill from Highline Electric Association, you'll see a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle. You can even see how electricity use may have spiked on days when you used more electricity, such as a particularly chilly day or when relatives were staying with you.

But you might be surprised to learn that beyond your monthly energy consumption, there are external factors that can impact the cost of electricity.

FUEL PRICES

Highline purchases electricity from power generation partner, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., at a wholesale cost, then we deliver that power to our local communities. The cost of purchasing power from Tri-State accounts for a significant portion of the cost to provide electric service to local homes and businesses. And the cost of fuels that are



used to generate that electricity, such as natural gas and coal, fluctuate based on supply and demand. While these fluctuations can impact the cost of electricity, we work closely with Tri-State to plan ahead and help stabilize electricity prices for our members.

EXTREME WEATHER

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for times of extreme cold or heat when we know the demand for electricity will increase. But when temperatures become extremely cold and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of electricity may also increase.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

To cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home or business, Highline members pay a monthly service charge. This flat monthly fee ensures the cost of equipment, materials, labor, and daily operations are covered for all members in Highline's service territory. To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local grid, including power lines, substations, and other essential equipment.



Our mission is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state, and our nation.

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ENERGY POLICY AND REGULATIONS

Federal and state energy policies and regulations can have a profound impact on electricity costs. As energy generation shifts to the use of more renewable sources and stricter regulations for traditional, always-available fuel sources such as natural gas and coal plants, costly upgrades and technologies must be constructed and deployed. These additional costs are ultimately passed to consumers.

U.S. power consumption is expected to double by 2050. Across the country, electric cooperatives are working with members of Congress to advocate for smart energy policies that reliably power our local communities. We are urging the Trump Administration to take concrete steps to repeal the EPA’s power plant rule and bolster the long-term reliability of the nation’s grid.

YOU HAVE CONTROL

While many of these external factors that impact electricity costs are out of our control, we all have the power to manage our energy use at home. The most effective way to lower your electricity use is thermostat management. Since heating and cooling account for a major portion of home energy use, adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting can help you save energy and money. Remember to service your heating and cooling system annually and replace dirty filters as needed.

You can also reduce energy use by taking advantage of off-peak periods, when the demand for electricity is lower. Reserve energy-intensive chores for off-peak times, such as early in the morning or later in the evening, to save energy. Be sure to seal air leaks around windows, doors and other areas where gaps are possible. This will help your heating and cooling system work less and improve the overall comfort of your home.

YOUR LOCAL PARTNER

Highline is your local energy partner and we’re here to help. Visit us online at hea.coop to learn about our efficiency programs designed to help you save. As always, we will continue working diligently to provide you with reliable power at an affordable cost.

Effective Ways

To Lower Home Energy Use

Outside factors, such as fuel and equipment costs and extreme weather, can impact electricity prices. But you have the power to control home energy consumption by taking proactive steps to reduce energy use.



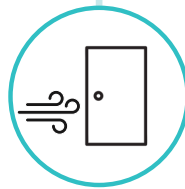
Thermostat Management

The thermostat is one of the best places to lower your energy use because heating and cooling account for a significant portion of home energy consumption. During winter months, adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting to reduce energy use. The Dept. of Energy recommends 68 degrees or lower.



Utilize Off-Peak Energy Times

Plan energy-intensive chores and tasks, such as running the dishwasher or washing clothing, during off-peak energy hours, when the demand for electricity is lower. Off-peak times are early in the morning or late evenings. By scheduling these activities during off-peak periods, you can help keep rates lower, reduce demand and relieve pressure on the grid.



Seal Your Home

According to ENERGY STAR®, about 20% of heated or cooled air that moves through a home is lost due to lack of proper insulation and air leaks. Ensure your home has sufficient insulation levels and seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weatherstripping. This is a simple, effective way to lower energy use and improve indoor comfort.



Maintain Equipment

The health of your heating and cooling system is essential for comfort and can greatly impact energy bills. Maintain your system by regularly replacing dirty filters and scheduling annual inspections for maintenance and necessary repairs.

YOUR CO-OP NEWS

RATE CHANGES

You are hereby notified that Highline Electric Association proposes to make the following changes in its tariffs, effective February 1, 2025. The increase in tariffs result in an average retail rate increase of 3.5% for the association.

Class of Service	Current Rate	Effective for Statements due March 17
Residential		
Rate Per Month		
Service Charge – per meter per month	\$38.00	\$42.75
Energy Charge		
First 750 kilowatt-hours per month	\$0.1085 per kWh	\$0.1085 per kWh
Additional kWh per month	\$0.0850 per kWh	\$0.0915 per kWh
Demand Charge per monthly peak kW	\$0.50 per kW	\$0.75 per kW
Residential Time of Use		
Rate Per Month		
Service Charge – per meter per month	\$38.00	\$42.75
Combined Demand and Energy Charge (October-April)		
On Peak		
12 p.m. – 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. (Mon-Fri)	\$0.1271 per kWh	\$0.1357 per kWh
Off Peak		
10 p.m. – 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. (Mon-Fri) 24 hours Saturday and Sunday	\$0.0527 per kWh	\$0.0563 per kWh
Combined Demand and Energy Charge (May-Sept.)		
First 750 kWh per month	\$0.1085 per kWh	\$0.1085 per kWh
Additional kWh per month	\$0.0850 per kWh	\$0.0915 per kWh
Commercial		
Rate Per Month		
Service Charge – per meter per month: single phase	\$40.00	\$43.50
Three phase	\$50.00	\$53.50
Energy Charge		
First 1,600 kWh per month	\$0.0853 per kWh	\$0.0821 per kWh
Additional kWh per month	\$0.0805 per kWh	\$0.0760 per kWh
Demand Charge per monthly peak kW	\$0.50 per kW	\$0.75 per kW
Irrigation - Annual Rate		
Facilities Charge - 3 phase (billed annually)	\$720.00	\$840.00
Facilities Charge - 1 phase (billed annually)	\$480.00	\$600.00
Demand Charge - annual billed over 5 months	\$12.15/BHP	\$14.50/BHP
First 400 kWh per billing horsepower	\$0.1196 per kWh	\$0.1196 per kWh
All additional kWh	\$0.1019 per kWh	\$0.1019 per kWh
Automated Metering Opt Out		
Rate Per Month		
Surcharge – Per meter per month	\$10.00	\$11.00
Demand Charge		
All kW/month	N/A	Per rate classification kW

You Are Invited to Highline Electric's Annual Meeting

Highline Electric Association's 2025 Annual Meeting is fast approaching. This will be Highline Electric's 87th anniversary.

Join us March 25 in the Phillips County Event Center at the fairgrounds in Holyoke. Members will receive a direct mailing notice in March with the most up-to-date information regarding the meeting. This meeting will also be livestreamed, details will be posted online at hea.coop.

Board President Mike Bennett and General Manager Dennis Herman will give their reports on the condition of the association.

Also at the meeting, an election will be held for four director positions. These positions require the nominee to be a member of Highline Electric and comply with Article III, Section 3 of the association's bylaws.

There will be one director position from District 1, and the nominees must reside in Logan, Weld, Washington, or Morgan County, Colorado. The incumbent director for this district is Leo Brekel.

There will be one director position from District 2, and the nominee must reside in Phillips or Yuma County, Colorado. The incumbent director for this district is Steve Oestman.

There will be one director position from District 3, and the nominee must reside in Sedgwick County, Colorado, or Deuel County, Nebraska. The incumbent director for this district is Ted Carter.

There will be one director position from District 4, and the nominee must reside in Chase, Perkins or Dundy County, Nebraska. The incumbent director for this district is Lisa Schilke.

Congratulations

The following Highline Electric employees celebrate an employment anniversary this month:

Bob Bradley - 28 years
 Dan Kafka - 26 years
 Deanna Deselms - 22 years
 Joanie Groshans - 17 years
 Derek Roberts - 6 years

Seth Baker - 9 years
 Karson Harryman - 8 years
 Morgan Eurich - 8 years
 Sarah Dille - 2 years

EV CHARGER REBATE

Highline offers a rebate for Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations – 50% up to \$250. The rebate total is split 50:50 between equipment and installation costs. Installation photos are required to qualify for the rebate. Contact Highline Electric at 970-854-2236 for more information.

ATTENTION IRRIGATORS

Letters were mailed in December about Highline's 2025 load control program. All irrigation wells that were in the 2024 load control program will be in the 2025 program and on the same option unless we are notified. If you want to have well(s) in the 2025 load control program that were not in the 2024 load control program, please call our office and contract(s) will be sent to you. **The deadline for all changes is February 28.**

CORRECTION: In last month's issue, we stated that discounts for the 2025 load control program had increased. This is incorrect – the discounts per option remain the same as they were in 2024. We apologize for the error and thank you for your understanding.