

Understanding Your Electric Bill

We understand that the electric bill can make up a large part of your monthly budget. That's why we think you should know exactly what you are paying for, and being able to understand your bill when it arrives every month is key to knowing what you're using. Some important parts of your bill include:

Services From and To - the dates the meter was read.

<u>Readings</u> - readings on the meter at the time the meter was read. These are used to calculate kWh usage.

<u>kWh Usage</u> - the amount of energy used during the billing cycle measured in kilowatt-hours.

 $\underline{\textit{Days}}$ - the number of days between readings (billing cycle).

<u>911 Address and Map Location</u> - the physical location where you are receiving electricity.

<u>Rate Number & Description</u> - the rate under which you are taking service and being billed.

<u>Balance Forward</u> - any charges that haven't been paid from previous months. A *CR* following this number indicates a credit balance forward.

System Charge - the fixed, minimum monthly charge established for the rate. Some may refer to it as a service charge.

<u>kWh Charge</u> - the charge for the energy used during the billing cycle.

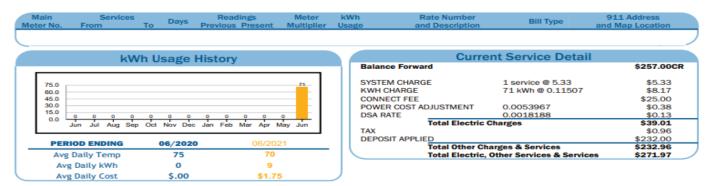
Power Cost Adjustment - the regulatory procedure for passing onto our members any increases or decreases in the wholesale power cost above or below the base purchased power cost established in the rate.

<u>DSA Rate</u> - the regulatory procedure for collecting from our members any increases or decreases in debt cost above or below the debt cost used to establish the rate.

<u>Total other charges & services</u> - includes state and local taxes, and in some cases a deposit and connect fee.

<u>Total Electric</u>, <u>Other Services</u> & <u>Services</u> - this is the total amount due taking into consideration all charges and credits since the last billing.

If you have questions about your bill, please contact us at 1-800-950-2667.



September 2021 www.columbusco-op.org Vol. 33. No. 9
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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



What To Do During a Power Outage

Unfortunately, power outages are something no one wants to have to deal with, but it's best to be educated and have a plan on what to do in case one does occur.

- ✓ The first thing that you want to do is check your main electric panel to see if a fuse has blown or a breaker has tripped. If the problem is not in the main panel check with your neighbors to see if they are experiencing an outage. Report all outages by calling (800) 228-0579. Please have your account number ready in the event that your phone number is not found in our database or if you have multiple accounts.
- ✓ It's important to keep your refrigerator and freezer closed to prevent food loss. A refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours if it is unopened. A full freezer will keep food frozen for approximately 48 hours if is unopened.
- ✓ Use coolers with ice if necessary.
- ✓ Have headlamps for every family member or several flashlights or battery powered lanterns to use instead of candles. Candles can create a fire hazard.
- ✓ If heat or cold is extreme it's best to go to a community location.
- ✓ Protect your assets. Use surge protectors. Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment and electronics.

If you have medical needs

✓ If you or someone in the home has medical needs talk to your medical provider about a power outage plan for medical devices powered by electricity or medications that require refrigeration. Consider having a back-up power source to ensure vital medical equipment stays on during a power outage.

Columbus Electric Cooperative Inc.
EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER
1-800-228-0579

Toll Free Office Number 1-800-950-2667



Annual Meeting Postponed

CEC is focused on protecting the health safety of and our employees, our members, and the public. Due to serious concerns relating to COVID-19, the CEC Board of Trustees, after serious consideration and discussion, made the decision at the August board meeting to postpone the 2021 annual meeting. We hope to be able to hold 2022 the annua1 meeting in the spring.



Emergency Response Number 1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number **1-800-950-COOP (2667)**