

THE OUTLET

The Official Member Newsletter of CORE Electric Cooperative

October 2023

Bills below CO averages

Statewide survey of electric utilities shows CORE members pay less

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, CORE works to provide safe and reliable electric service at affordable rates.

According to a recently released survey, CORE's average bills – residential, small commercial, large commercial and industrial – are **lower than the average bills of other reporting Colorado electric utilities**. Nearly 50 electric utilities – including cooperatives, municipalities and investor-owned utilities (IOUs) – participated in the Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities' (CAMU) July 2023 survey.

Per the survey:

- The average cost for 700 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of service on CORE's residential rate – \$101.08 – is lower than both the \$105.67 average among all types of electric utilities and the \$109.61 average among electric cooperatives.

- The average for 2,000 kWh with a 10-kilowatt (kW) peak on CORE's small commercial rate is \$252.88. Averages among all types of electric utilities and cooperatives are \$266.44 and \$258.72, respectively.
- On CORE's large commercial rate, 45,000 kWh with a 130-kilowatt peak costs an average of \$4,897, compared to the average of \$5,188 among cooperatives, municipalities and IOUs.
- Under CORE's industrial rate, 1,900,000 kWh with a 3,000-kilowatt peak costs an average of \$166,358, compared to \$167,365 among all utility types.

CORE is committed to keeping electric service affordable. While most other electric utilities introduced rate increases in the last year, we will have no general rate increase in 2023. We also returned \$5 million in capital credits to members in September, bringing our 10-year total to more than \$120 million.



Residential
(700 kWh)

CORE

\$101.08

State Average

\$105.67



Small Commercial
(2,000 kWh + 10 kW)

CORE

\$252.88

State Average

\$266.44



Large Commercial
(45,000 kWh + 130 kW)

CORE

\$4,897.35

State Average

\$5,188.15



Industrial
(1,900,000 kWh + 3,000 kW)

CORE

\$166,358.00

State Average

\$167,364.59

Source: Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities (www.ColoradoPublicPower.org)

Why is my bill lower or higher than the average?

Even if you consume approximately 700 kilowatt-hours of electrical energy in a billing period, your bill might not exactly match CORE's residential average of \$101.08. This is due to several factors, including:

- Your monthly **demand charge**, which is based on your electrical demand measured at the meter and allows CORE to accurately charge for your highest rate of electricity usage during the "on-peak" hours of 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. This "peak window" is when members typically consume the most electricity and place the highest electrical demand on our system. For CORE's residential members, the demand charge is \$2 multiplied by the highest electric demand (in kilowatts) that occurred within one 60-minute interval during the peak window. This "peak demand" occurs only once during each billing period. Members who limit their use of electricity during on-peak hours will see a lower demand charge, whereas high electricity use in that window creates a higher demand charge.

- The current **wholesale power cost adjustment** (WPCA). The WPCA is recalculated quarterly in response to, or in anticipation of, variances in costs of the wholesale power we purchase and distribute to members.

- **Your location.** Members who reside in incorporated towns and cities that have franchise agreements with CORE are on a different residential rate, but typically pay franchise fees and/or municipal taxes as part of their monthly bill. Franchise fees and municipal taxes appear as line items on your monthly bill and vary based on where you reside. Some members do not have any franchise fees or municipal taxes applied to their electric service.

For more information about the demand charge, WPCA and CORE's rates, visit www.CORE.coop > **My Cooperative > Rates and Regulations**.

Xcel trial this month

CORE Electric Cooperative's lawsuit against Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo), a subsidiary of Minnesota-based Xcel Energy Inc., goes to trial this month.

Our lawsuit alleges that Xcel breached its contractual obligations related to the operation and maintenance of the Comanche Unit 3 power plant, of which CORE owns a 25% interest. The plant, which is located near Pueblo, has significantly underperformed peer facilities in net output, availability and outage rate, and will be retired nearly 40 years short of its expected production life.

CORE is committed to providing affordable, reliable power to our members. Xcel's breach of contract unjustifiably increased our power costs and damaged an asset co-owned by CORE. As Xcel's mismanagement of the facility continues, we took this step to protect our members' interests.

Visit www.CORE.coop > **News and Resources > Xcel Dispute** for the latest updates, as well as additional information regarding the lawsuit and trial.

Shoulder season energy efficiency tips

Members can expect their electricity use to go up as cooler weather approaches. Increased use means higher bills, but you can **minimize this by taking the following steps**:

- Insulate the walls of any crawl spaces or basements. Consider fully insulating your garage, especially if there is a living space above it.
- Reevaluate your home's temperature. Lowering your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees while you're out of the house can save you up to 10% each year.
- Seal air leaks throughout your home. Leaks are often found around pipes, outlets, dryer vents and unfinished spaces. Consider adding caulk or weather-stripping to seal the leaks.
- Have your heating system serviced to keep it operating efficiently. Change the furnace filter as recommended.
- Take advantage of sunny days by opening south facing curtains and blinds.
- Consider purchasing a smart or programmable thermostat. Most of these thermostat models reduce heating and cooling use by an estimated 10-15% and pay for themselves within two years.