

THE OUTLET

The Official Member Newsletter of CORE Electric Cooperative

December 2025

Rate changes begin in January

As a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, CORE is not beholden to stockholders or investors. Our cooperative's margins are typically invested back into the grid and, whenever possible, capital credits are returned to members. We also work to provide members safe, reliable power and charge only what we need to acquire and distribute it.

Continued, significant increases in what CORE pays to deliver power have prompted our elected board of directors to approve changes to the cooperative's rates and regulations that take effect with January 2026 bills.

The changes will result in **an average rate increase of 6.7% across our residential, commercial, industrial and other services**. More specifically, the changes increase the demand charge and per-kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate for most services.

For members on our residential service, the on-peak demand charge will increase to \$5.47. The residential energy charge will increase to \$0.1155 per kWh. The monthly basic service charge will remain \$20.

Visit www.CORE.coop > My Cooperative > Rates and Regulations > Rate Changes for more information, including a redlined version of the Rates and Regulations that take effect in January.

Why rate increases are necessary

CORE raises rates only when absolutely necessary. Our most recent rate changes took effect with September 2025 bills and resulted in an increase of about 5% for most members.

The September 2025 and January 2026 rate increases are necessary to help cover many cost pressures we anticipate will continue for the foreseeable future. Those pressures include supply chain issues, tax incentive rollbacks, regulatory uncertainty and continued system growth.

What CORE is doing

Our goal is to keep rate increases as low as possible, even as we continue to deliver safe, reliable power. We have implemented our recent rate changes as multiple smaller increases instead of a single, large increase. This approach allows CORE to respond more accurately to real-time cost changes, carefully review budgets, delay non-essential capital projects and identify savings opportunities. It also is intended to make rate changes more manageable for our members.

We also have ended our legacy supply agreement with Public Service Company of Colorado — a subsidiary of Xcel Energy — to build a diverse power supply portfolio that gives CORE more flexibility and control.

Tips on how to be energy-efficient

We understand that rate increases affect our members and recommend several free actions to potentially reduce energy costs.

- Time your use of high-wattage appliances to **avoid the on-peak period of 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.**, or stagger such use during those hours. For example, use your oven from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and

your dryer from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., rather than use both at the same time. Visit www.CORE.coop > My Cooperative > Rates and Regulations > Demand Charge for more information.

- **Enroll in SmartHub**, our account management platform, which offers several functions that allow members to monitor and

manage their energy usage. Learn more at www.CORE.coop > My Account > SmartHub.

- **Visit our Energy Efficiency webpage**, at www.CORE.coop > News and Resources > Energy Efficiency, for tips on how to reduce consumption and lower energy costs.

Director districts adjusted

In accordance with CORE's bylaws, boundaries for the cooperative's seven director districts were recently adjusted to account for continued growth and population shifts within our 5,000-square-mile service area.

Most members remain within their same director districts, but some are now in new districts. Your current director district is identified in the account information section on

the front of your monthly bill. An interactive director district map is also available at www.CORE.coop > **My Cooperative > Service Area.**

Per the bylaws, director district boundaries will be reviewed again and potentially readjusted within nine years, or if total membership increases or decreases more than 10% due to changes to CORE's service territory.

CORE competes in International Rodeo



It was a competitive year at the 2025 International Lineman's Rodeo in Overland Park, Kansas, with nearly 300 teams and more than 350 apprentices showcasing their skills. Journeyman teams and apprentices competed in four events: Pole Climb, Hurtman Rescue and two Mystery Events.

CORE teams and apprentices truly rose to the occasion, leaving everything out in the yard and representing our cooperative with pride. Thank you to everyone who made it a memorable weekend!

For more information, results and photos visit www.CORE.coop > **News and Resources > CORE News.**



Join CORE in giving back this season

You can join with CORE to make a big impact in your community. CORE has worked with Colorado Gives so our members can make a difference for those struggling with economic hardship this holiday season.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Together, we can support those in need. Visit www.CORE.coop/core-gives, or scan the QR code below to make a donation.



Annual meeting set for April 25, 2026

The annual meeting of the membership of CORE Electric Cooperative will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 25, 2026, at CORE headquarters, 5496 N. U.S. Highway 85, Sedalia, CO 80135.

The meeting will include:

1. The presentation of reports covering the previous fiscal year.
2. All other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Please note: Registration is from 9 to 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

For more information, visit www.CORE.coop > **My Cooperative > Notice and Documents.**