



HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



Factors that influence your electric bill



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO

I'm often asked about what determines electricity prices. When speaking with members about these prices, we often talk about how the daily cost of living seems to have increased across the board.

Just as inflation has affected 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 your HWEC energy bill.

While there is no short answer, there are a few key elements that affect electricity prices and rates. Some of these factors Holmes-Wayne diligently prepares for, adjusts and manages, you have an impact on some of them, and other factors are beyond anyone's control. So, let me break it down.

There are three primary components of your monthly electric bill: a service charge, energy kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumed charge and a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). To understand your total energy costs and what affects your bill, let's unpack one piece at a time.

The first is a fixed monthly service charge, which helps cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home. This includes equipment, materials, labor, and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in HWEC's service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used. In order to ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local system, including 2,300 miles of power lines, 19 substations, and other necessary equipment. Like many other businesses, we've experienced supply chain issues and steep cost increases for some of our basic equipment. For example, the cost for poles has increased by 56%. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, some of these expenses must be passed on to our members. I should note that

the residential service charge is the same for everyone on that rate and the costs are shared equally by each of those members.

Another component of your monthly bill is the kWh charge, which covers how much energy you consume. You've likely noticed the amount of energy you use can vary from month to month and is typically affected by extreme temperatures. When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling and heating equipment runs 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. We offer great energy-savings tips weekly on our Facebook page and on our website. Also, you can schedule a home energy assessment to learn specific ways you can make your residence more energy efficient.

The last component of your bill is the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). The PCA fluctuates based on two major factors: the cost of fuels used to make your electricity and the price to deliver power through vendors' transmission lines. Transmission charges have increased significantly over the past couple years and now make up 25% of the overall cost of our generation and transmission bill. The PCA covers these monthly 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 cost of fuels, please know HWEC is doing everything possible to keep our internal costs down.

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



My power is out. Why?

There are many causes of power outages: wind, ice and snow, transmission line problems, lightning, wildlife, trees, construction/agriculture equipment contact, traffic accidents affecting power poles, equipment failure, and more.

The storm might be over or the accident cleared, but the work for Holmes-Wayne Electric to restore service is just beginning. It's a big job that involves a lot more than just throwing a switch or pulling a tree limb off a line. Holmes-Wayne's main goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

Repairing lines is a systematic process based on the delivery system of electric infrastructure. In major storms, crews will be distributed throughout the service territory to start at substations and work their way out. This not only allows for our goal of restoration to the greatest number in the shortest time but also provides safe working space for line crews and territory-wide surveillance of damage to estimate restoration times and efficiently supply equipment and staffing needs.

Power restoration is often a time- and labor-intensive process. Crews must inspect the entire line to identify all damage and keep the community safe. If they energize a line after repairing the first issue identified, they could potentially energize a line that is on the ground down the road or cause even more damage to equipment. Therefore, you may see trucks driving by your house or business inspecting line and driving to nearby circuit breakers to begin safety set-up and repair.

Estimated times for restoral are difficult until the problem is identified for small outages, and very difficult when there is system-wide damage. One broken pole can take four to six hours to replace. Because we have more than 44,000 poles and 2,300 miles of line, it

takes time to assess damage. Our outage management system assists greatly in providing us the number of members out of power and the specific substation, feeder, and single taps that are de-energized, but we do not know the extent of the damage that caused it until we make a visual inspection.

When you look out your window, you may not see damage, but remember: Your power comes from miles away and any damage to equipment between the substation and your house will cause an outage.

All of us at Holmes-Wayne understand power outages can be frustrating. We don't like them, either. As always, we appreciate your patience during power restorations.

We want outages to be as short as possible, but we will never ask our crews to compromise their safety to restore power quickly. We must always ground and lockout/tagout our equipment. These additional steps to restoration efforts are critical to everyone staying safe and going home.

We encourage you to visit our website for further information about power restoration, common questions asked, and ways you can prepare for an outage.

We can't prevent every outage, but we promise to work hard to restore your power efficiently and safely.

Any number of factors, from windstorms to vehicle accidents, can cause power lines to come down. If you see downed lines, keep your distance and contact Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative or call 911 so the experts can deal with what can be a very dangerous situation. Please remember to never go near a downed power line!



HOLMES-WAYNE HONOR TRIP PARADE

**OCTOBER 1 - 6:00 PM
SHREVE**

**24 local veterans are returning home from an honor trip to Washington, D.C.
Line the streets of Shreve from the elementary school to CVS Pharmacy with
signs to celebrate. Following the parade, please join us in the parking lot beside
CVS for a brief ceremony to honor this year's participants.**

**Donald Baney - Air Force/Vietnam
Bob Bell - Army/WWII
Leonard Bilek - Army/Vietnam
Artie Cartwright - Army/Vietnam
Allen Colter - Army/Vietnam
Jim Emerson - Army/Vietnam
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Jim Grogg - Air Force/Vietnam
Lynn Johnson - Air Force
Ken Kinney - Army/Vietnam
Ron Martin - Air Force & Army/Vietnam
Terry Martin - Army/Vietnam
Dick McCune - Air Force/Vietnam
Dennis Miller - Army/Vietnam
William Pennell - Army/Vietnam
Curt Sheely - Army/Vietnam
Bill Shrimplin - Army/Vietnam
Jeff Stair - Navy/Vietnam
Sam Strausbaugh - Army/Vietnam
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CONGRATULATIONS!!



CARTER QUAY

CARTER HAS COMPLETED HIS 5-YEAR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO BECOME A CLASS A LINEMAN!

 Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative






Welcome to the team!



GARRETT SMITH
APPRENTICE LINEMAN

As we continue the transition of several retirements and develop and promote staff, we are excited to welcome Garrett Smith to our team. He will be an apprentice lineman at our Millersburg location.



**The Holmes-Wayne
office will be closed on
Monday, Sept. 4, to
observe Labor Day.**



**Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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