

## Rate adjustment required

*New rates will take effect with your January 2025 statement*

**S**helby Electric Cooperative (SEC) is committed to protecting the co-op membership from the economic impact of drastically rising energy costs. However, SEC has been experiencing the same price pressures our members have been facing. High interest rates, supply chain issues, high fuel costs, and historic inflation have continued to present challenges in recent years. Other economic and legislative issues have also impacted the cooperative and its ability to provide you with safe, reliable electric service at an affordable price.

SEC has experienced these same inflationary pressures at the distribution system level, as well as an increase in our wholesale power cost from our power supplier, Prairie Power, Inc., which makes up approximately two-thirds of SEC's total expenses.

The cooperative hired a third-party engineering firm to conduct a cost of service and rate study in 2024. After reviewing the results of this study, and diligent board discussion, it was determined that a 16.4% rate increase would be needed. This will be implemented through a \$10 increase on the *Service Availability Charge*, and the remainder will come from an increase in the per kilowatt-hour energy charge. "Due to the inflationary environment



we live in today, and in order to protect the cooperative's financial and operational reliability moving forward, the cooperative will continue to review this on an ongoing basis," said SEC President/CEO Josh Shallenberger. These rate adjustments will take effect on the member's January bill.

Learn more about the *Service Availability Charge* on page 18B

### This is an example of how the new rate adjustment may affect your bill.

This example is based on the average amount of kilowatt-hours consumed by a residential member on **Rate 1**.

*Comparing a 2024 bill to a 2025 bill. This information below can be found on your current bill.*

#### Average bill in 2024: Residential Rate 1

(Table does not include taxes, power cost adjustment, and other applicable fees.)

#### Average bill for 2025: Residential Rate 1

(Table does not include taxes, power cost adjustment, and other applicable fees.)

Usage	993 kilowatt-hours (kWh)	Usage	993 kilowatt-hours (kWh)
Energy Charge	993 kWh @ \$.1292 = \$128.30	Energy Charge	993 kWh @ \$.14993 = \$148.88
Service Availability Charge	\$ 58.00	Service Availability Charge	\$ 68.00
<b>NET DUE</b>	<b>\$186.30</b>	<b>NET DUE</b>	<b>\$216.88</b>

This member would see an increase of **\$30.58** under the new rate as adjusted.

NOTE: The effect of the rate change, both on a percentage and dollar basis, is dependent upon the member's energy usage.



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**SHELBY** News

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## Defining Service Availability Charge

The *Service Availability Charge* is used to describe the infrastructure and the corresponding operation and maintenance costs that are associated with providing our members with reliable power. In basic terms, it refers to the cost of service. This name represents the funding mechanism of the cooperative's fixed costs. The cooperative's fixed costs include, but are not limited to: utility poles, transformers, power lines, substations, fuses, breakers, insulators, maintenance, technology services, labor, vehicles, and taxes. This charge includes everything it takes for Shelby Electric Cooperative to provide you with your first kilowatt-hour. Regardless of how many kilowatt-hours are used, each member pays the same amount to bring dependable service available to them 24 hours a day. A recent cost of service study was completed by a third-party engineering firm, and they gave recommendations on what the charge should be to recover the fixed costs of operating the co-op. Based on these recommendations, the cooperative board of directors and management determined a \$10 adjustment would be needed. Effective with your January bill, the *Service Availability Charge* will now be \$68.

Faith's

## ROADTRIP



## From their backyard garage to all over the world

When Mike Walker returned home from serving in the Vietnam War, he took on many business ventures. "I owned a tavern. I went to beauty school and had a beauty shop. I even took the experience that I learned from being a paratrooper and opened a karate school," he laughed. Out of all the adventures Mike conquered, owning a karate school would be the one that changed his life. "When I had my karate school, I built a hot rod truck and took it to school one day. Someone saw it and asked if I would build them one, and I have not had a day off since," he shared.

Mike and his wife Alona own and operate Street Rods Only out of their backyard shop in Macon. "Mike has always had an interest in cars," Alona said. "He used to do some racing in Springfield with his dad's car when he was younger." At Street Rods Only, their main focus is on restoring and installing new engines in 1958-1967 Corvettes, which can be a year to a year-and-a-half process. Mike, along with Fabricator Jimmy Mardis (who is their full-time employee), have built over 100 cars since they started. "Derrick Krile, who owns Liquid Cutting Concepts in Windsor, builds the car chassis that we use, which is the load-bearing part of the car's frame," Mike said. "One time we received a phone call from a guy in Australia who had ended up with one of our cars." They have sold cars all over the United States, including California, New Jersey, and New York. "It's pretty cool that cars from our garage are now all over the world," he said.



*Pictured left to right: Fabricator Jimmy Mardis, Street Rods Only Co-owners Alona and Mike Walker standing behind one of their many custom projects.*

Over the years, Mike and Alona have attended the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) Show in Las Vegas. The SEMA Show is a trade-only automotive aftermarket event that showcases the latest products, services, and innovations for the automotive industry. One of the biggest car shows is the Grand National Roadster Show in California, which they won a couple of years ago with a 1958 Corvette. "It was a really big achievement to win the Grand National Roadster Show," Mike shared. "They have professional judges that look for the best paint, engine, and frame," he continued.

In 2007, they bought an old furniture store in Macon to use as a showroom, and they also use it as a storage unit for their 25 cars and parts. "Both of our favorite cars are Corvettes," Alona said. "They are sportier and lots of fun to drive!"

Originally from Cerro Gordo and



*Mike and Alona Walker have accumulated so many vehicles they had to buy an old furniture store to house them all and to store all of their parts.*

Shelbyville, Mike and Alona have been together for 42 years. "Cars were always his thing, but I grew into it," she laughed. "We have been lucky enough to meet great people and enjoy what we do every day!"

Street Rods Only is located at 11091 S. Woodcock Road in Macon and is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit [streetrodsonly.com](http://streetrodsonly.com) for more information!

*Thanks for riding along. I'll see you down the road!*

## Faster Speeds coming soon!

January ushers in a new year and at ShelbyFiber we are closer than ever before to turning up service in the Macon County area. Read what some of our beta test customers are saying about ShelbyFiber in their testimonials below.



**ShelbyFiber**  
*Connecting you. Faster!*



“Getting fiber was a game changer! I’m a remote worker and if I don’t have reliable internet, it is a huge interruption to my workday. We also no longer have to worry about drops or freezes when streaming a movie. We love our ShelbyFiber!” ~ Lisa Oakley & Doyle Nave

“Working with ShelbyFiber has been a great experience. Internet access in our area is limited, and the completion of this project brings us much needed internet connectivity for our farm. The installation team was very professional & left the work area clean & ready to go!” ~ Austin Rincker



“The speed is awesome, the connection is reliable, and when our kids visit they say it is much faster than what they have at their homes. The installation crew was kind and very professional. Highly recommend ShelbyFiber to all our friends and neighbors!” ~ Scott & Leanne Canaday

“Three words Speed, Speed, & more Speed! I like racing so let me put it this way, it is like going from a Yugo to an Indy Race Car. It is great to be able to live in the country and have reliable internet service. Very happy and they have great customer service!” ~ Susan Varvel



Learn more about ShelbyFiber and the Macon County project by clicking on the ShelbyFiber icon on the cooperative’s website ([shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop)) or give us a call at 217-774-3986.