



# Connect

## Apply Now!

### MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**\$2,000 4-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY**

**\$1,500 2-YEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**\$1,500 AT LARGE SCHOLARSHIP**



**SEE MORE DETAILS AND APPLY AT [MENARD.COM/SCHOLARSHIPS](http://menard.com/scholarships) BY MARCH 1, 2026.**



#### **Bonus! TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Applicants may also apply for an all-expense-paid chaperoned trip on Youth to Washington Tour, where he/she will travel with other Illinois students for a weeklong tour of Washington, D.C., June 15-22, 2026

Applicants must be a high school senior or equivalent, graduating during 2026. Applicant's parent/legal guardian must be a Menard Electric Cooperative member with their primary residence or business served by the cooperative.

### SHARING SUCCESS FUNDING IS AVAILABLE *Apply by March 1, 2026*

Each year we partner with CoBank to provide funding to local projects sponsored by eligible 501(c)(3) charities and others serving a public purpose in local communities within our service territory. These might include schools, government agencies, service/civic organizations, fairgrounds and many more. Past funding has provided for a park restoration, firehouse roofing, playground equipment, summer meals and school supplies for students, theater lighting, food pantries and much more!

**TAKE NOTE OF OUR EARLIER DEADLINE!**

See more details and apply at  
[www.menard.com/sharingsuccess](http://www.menard.com/sharingsuccess)  
by March 1, 2026.



## 2026 rate increase



**Alisha Anker**  
*General Manager*

As an electric co-op we do not seek to earn profits for investors; we were built by the communities we serve, and our mission remains, as always, to provide you with safe and reliable service at a reasonable cost. We set our rates to recover our costs. The costs of general supplies, materials and

services have continued to rise. In addition, our wholesale power costs are certain to increase in 2026.

Given the state of the industry, your board of directors has approved a 6% rate increase. The increase will appear on your February 2026 billing statement, which collects for January usage. All billing determinants will be impacted — facility charges, energy rates, demand rates and outdoor light fees.

The increase impacts every rate class. To summarize, we have provided the most widely utilized rate tariff determinants in a table shown on the next page. Our Residential Rate 10 class is most common for our Farm and Residential members. You can find your rate class in the top-right portion of page 2 on your billing statement and can view the specific changes for each rate tariff on our

website at <https://menard.com/rates>. As always, you may also call the office to speak with someone about how the increase will affect your service.

As a reminder, at a minimum your bill includes two charges each month — an Electric Charge and a Facility Charge:

- The Electric Charge reflects the specific amount of electricity your service location consumed during the prior month, measured in kilo-watt-hours (kWh). The Electric Charge per kWh is increasing 6%; for the typical residential Rate 10 class member using an average of 1,000 kWh/month, that is an \$8.00/month increase in the Electric Charge.
- The Facility Charge covers all the costs involved in providing you with electricity regardless of how much electricity you use; costs include a portion of the meters, poles, transformers, substations, employees, member services and more. Every utility has this charge, although it can be broken into several charges and/or identified differently, such as “customer” or “service” charge. The Facility Charge is increasing 6%; for the typical residential member that is a \$3.00/month increase.

Some Small Commercial, all Large Commercial and Irrigation service locations also include a Demand Charge on the bill due to the 3-phase nature of their operations. The Demand rates are also affected by this 6% increase. A Demand Charge is calculated based on the highest amount of electricity measured in kilo-watts (kW) during a 15-minute period in the month. Residential rates are not billed Demand charges.

The most popular Irrigation rate is Rate 51 due to the flexible nature of the interruptible obligation and a lower Facility Charge than its Rate 52 interruptible counterpart. Rate 51 provides the member the benefit of a hybrid Demand rate in return for allowing the cooperative to utilize the member’s web-based remote-management application during load control periods. For a 40-HP system during the peak of summer watering, a fair estimate assumes 6,000 kWh of energy use, which results in a total monthly increase of \$61 to the bill.

Some members also have a dusk-to-dawn Outdoor Light. For this service, a flat fee is charged each month per light and shown as a separate line item on the bill; this fee covers the cost of the light, maintenance and the energy used. The charge for our standard Basic Residential Outdoor Light package is increasing \$1.00 per month.



## Rate increases per rate class

Effective with Feb. 1, 2026 billing cycles

Current	New
<b>Rate 10 - Farm &amp; Residential</b>	
Facility Charge	\$49
First 1,500 kWh	13.9¢
Over 1,500 kWh	12.7¢
<b>Rate 17 - Electric Heat &amp; Geothermal</b>	
Facility Charge	\$49
<i>Summer (June-Sept.)</i>	
First 1,500 kWh	13.9¢
Over 1,500 kWh	12.7¢
<i>Winter (Oct.-May)</i>	
First 1,500 kWh	13.9¢
Over 1,500 kWh	11.7¢
<b>Rate 20 – Small Commercial w/Demand</b>	
Facility Charge	\$109
Energy Charges, per kW Demand:	
First 250 kWh	13.5¢
Over 250 kWh	11.8¢
Demand kW	\$5.10
<b>Rate 60 - Small Commercial, No Demand</b>	
Facility Charge	\$54
First 1,500 kWh	14.1¢
Over 1,500 kWh	13.0¢
<b>Rate 30 &amp; 31 - Large Power Commercial</b>	
Facility Charge	\$145
Energy Charges, per kW Demand:	
First 250 kWh	9.4¢
Over 250 kWh	8.8¢
Demand kW	\$12.60
<b>Rates 50, 51 &amp; 52 - Irrigation</b>	
Facility Charge 50 & 52	\$1,368/yr \$228/mo
Facility Charge 51	\$1,248/yr \$208/mo
All kWh in-season	9.5¢
All kWh non-season	10.1¢
Demand kW 50	\$12.60
Demand kW 51 & 52	\$5.10
<b>Rate 81 – Large Generation Station Power</b>	
Service Charge	\$550/mo
Energy Charge	1.39¢ (13.9 mils per kWh)
<b>Outdoor Light</b>	
Basic Residential Outdoor Light	\$15
Basic Residential Outdoor Light	\$16

# Board highlights

Oct. 28, 2025

- All Directors present; also General Manager & Attorney.
- Reviewed 2026 Budget. Director of Accounting & Finance, Engineering Manager, Director of Member Services, HR Admin & Operations Manager participated as needed and then left the mtg.
- Approved Resolution to increase co-op's maximum debt limit.
- Reviewed September monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$3,083,388 compared to \$3,105,214 last year; equity at 43.24%; 12-mo TIER 2.83 & DSC 2.03.
- Reviewed operations report: 69 incidents; longest duration of outage 220 min due to downed tree; largest # affected by single outage 79.
- Appointed Director of Member Services as CRC alternate voting delegate. Approved submission of CoBank ballot for ByLaws.
- Approved Resolution to retire approx. \$750,000 in capital credits allocated to members for patronage during 2004 & portion of 2005.
- Next mtg 11/25/25.

For full minutes visit [menard.com](http://menard.com)  
or contact the office.



**Congrats**

**Operations Manager  
Dalton Whitley earned  
his NRECA Supervisor &  
Manager Development  
Program Certification.**

**Linemen Austin Baskett and  
Carrigan McMahon have  
completed the Lineman  
Apprenticeship Program.**

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter weather can cause your home heating system to work overtime. Check for air leaks and drafts around doors and windows, then seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Close fireplace dampers when not in use, and consider installing insulating curtains to help keep warm air inside. You can also save energy by lowering your thermostat a few degrees. Even small adjustments like these can reduce heating costs and improve comfort during the coldest months.



## 2026 Holiday Closings

Closings are also printed on billing statements and on Facebook as applicable.

Jan. 1	.....	New Year's Day
Jan. 19	.....	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb. 16	.....	Presidents Day
April 3	.....	Good Friday
May 25	.....	Memorial Day
July 3	.....	Independence Day
Sept. 7	.....	Labor Day
Nov. 11	.....	Veterans Day
Nov. 26-27	.....	Thanksgiving
Dec. 24-25	.....	Christmas