

MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles
Across The President's Desk

MCEC Board approves rate adjustment effective with September usage

The Monroe County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has approved updates to its rate schedules that will take effect with September 2026 usage and be reflected on October billing statements.

A primary component of the change is the incorporation of the average Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) into the base energy charge and to reset the energy cost to the current Southern Illinois Power Cooperative power cost. Over the past year, the PCA has averaged approximately \$0.008 per kilowatt-hour. By including this cost directly in the energy charge, members will see a lower PCA on their monthly bills and a more

stable, predictable rate structure.

For residential members, the increase in the energy charge is largely offset by a reduction in the PCA and adjustments to the distribution delivery charge, making those changes essentially revenue neutral. The residential consumer charge will increase from \$1.73 per day to \$1.90 per day to better reflect the fixed costs of maintaining and operating the electric system.

The board also approved the elimination of the Electric Heat Rate. This rate has been gradually phased out over the past several years as wholesale power costs have increased. What was once a beneficial rate structure has

become a subsidy that is no longer sustainable or equitable for the membership as a whole.

For an average residential member using 1,250 kilowatt-hours per month, the overall bill increase is expected to be approximately \$5.19 per month, or 2.26%.

Members with security lights will see device charges increase by \$1.10 per month.

MCEC remains committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service while managing rising operating and power supply costs. A complete schedule of the new rates and charges is provided in the accompanying rate chart.

Monroe County Electric Rate Summary

Rate 1 - Residential	Current	New
Consumer Charge	\$1.73 per day	\$1.90 per day
Distribution Delivery per kWh	0.03	0.029
Energy Charge per kWh	0.104	0.11263
Power Cost Adjustment	TBD	TBD
* Consumer Charge ~ \$57.79/month		

Rate 13 - Large Commercial	Current	New
Consumer Charge	\$1.00	\$1.10
Demand Charge per kW	\$9.25	\$9.25
Energy Charge per kWh	0.0804	0.08669
Power Cost Adjustment	TBD	TBD

Rate 23 - Small Commercial	Current	New
<u>Consumer Charge</u>		
Transformer Size <= 75 kVA	\$75.00	\$82.50
Transformer Size > 75 kVA	\$99.00	\$108.90
<u>Demand Charge</u>		
Demand >= 20 kW	\$12.25	\$12.25
<u>Distribution Delivery Charge</u>		
Demand < 20 kW	0.0408	0.0408
<u>Energy Charge</u>		
Demand < 20 kW	0.10524	0.11021
Demand >= 20 kW	0.09105	0.09535
Power Cost Adjustment	TBD	TBD

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.



Rate 16 - Electric Heat	Current	New
Consumer Charge	\$1.73 per day	
Distribution Delivery per kWh		
Winter Months		
First 800 kWh / 200 kWh	0.032	* Eliminated - Will all move to Rate 1
Next 3200 kWh / 2800 kWh	0	
Over 4000 kWh	0.032	
Summer Months	0.032	
Energy Charge per kWh	0.1097	
Power Cost Adjustment	TBD	

Rate 17 - Unmetered Services	Current	New
Consumer Charge	\$25.00	\$30.00
Energy Charge (Block 1)	\$14.00	\$14.00
Energy Charge (Block 2)	\$35.00	\$35.00
Energy Charge (Block 3)	\$70.00	\$70.00
Energy Charge (Block 4)	\$98.00	\$98.00
Power Cost Adjustment	n/a	n/a

Security Lights - ALL rates will be increased by \$1.10

MCEC line outages May 2026

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
05/04/26	2:04	2	Mule Rd	Equipment	E. Carondelet
05/05/26	1:17	36	Press Rd	Public Accidents, Other	Smithton
05/06/26	0:17	61	Lake Lucille/ Floraville Rd	Maintenance	N. Waterloo
05/07/26	1:19	216	Millstadt South	Small Animals or Birds	Millstadt
05/13/26	0:25	2	LL Rd	Small Animals or Birds	Poe
05/13/26	0:35	2	Turner Hall Rd	Other, Deterioration	Smithton
05/16/26	1:13	4	RT 156	Small Animals or Birds	Waterloo
05/17/26	1:12	52	Brandt Rd	Other, Faulty Equipment	Fulfs
05/18/26	0:31	2	Bluff Rd	Lightning	Fountain
05/18/26	2:38	30	Chas Young Rd	Other, Faulty Equipment	E. Carondelet
05/18/26	3:42	2	D Rd	Trees, Other	Columbia
05/23/26	1:45	47	Maus Rd/ Grant Rd	Other, Faulty Equipment	Fulfs
05/27/26	0:58	3	Riechmann Rd	Small Animals or Birds	Fountain

Cooperation among cooperatives helps MCEC invest in future reliability

One of the seven cooperative principles is Cooperation Among Cooperatives — the belief that cooperatives serve their members most effectively when they work together. Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) recently experienced that principle in action through a partnership with neighboring cooperative Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA).

Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program, EECA served as the intermediary for a \$1 million zero-interest loan that allowed MCEC to purchase a location to use as a new utility pole yard and storage facility near its Waterloo headquarters.

The additional property will provide much-needed space for storing utility poles, transformers, wire and other critical materials and equipment. As supply chain challenges and longer lead times continue to affect the utility industry, maintaining an adequate inventory has become increasingly important to ensuring reliable electric service.

“Cooperatives are built on the idea of helping one another, and this project is a great example of that principle at work,” said Alan Wattles, president and CEO of Monroe County Electric Cooperative. “We appreciate EECA’s partnership in helping us secure this financing, which will strengthen our ability to serve our members and respond quickly when outages or emergencies occur.”

By expanding its storage capacity, MCEC will be better positioned to maintain inventory levels, improve operational efficiency, and enhance system reliability for the more than 6,700 homes, farms and businesses it serves across Monroe, Randolph and St. Clair counties.



The USDA REDLG Program helps rural communities and organizations access funding for projects that support economic development and infrastructure improvements. Through the cooperative network, programs like REDLG demonstrate how electric cooperatives can work together to create opportunities that benefit the members and communities they serve.

While the new storage facility will provide tangible benefits for MCEC’s operations, the project also serves as a reminder that cooperatives are strongest when they work together. Through partnerships like this one, cooperatives continue to fulfill their shared mission of improving the quality of life in the rural communities they serve.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS ⚠️

Scammers are increasingly using “smishing” — fake text messages designed to look like they’re from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you’re owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message appears urgent. Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.



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