



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box B
1564 S. 1000 Rd., Council Grove, KS 66846
620-767-5144
www.flinthillsrec.com



FLINT HILLS
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**FLINT HILLS RURAL
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

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- ▶ Viasat Internet Services
- ▶ Online Payment Options
- ▶ Outside Security Lighting
- ▶ Power Surge Protection
- ▶ Rebate Programs

For more information, call us at 620-767-5144 or visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

FROM THE MANAGER

Notice to Members: Board to Consider Rate Changes

The Flint Hills REC Board of Trustees will discuss and vote upon a rate change proposal at their December board meeting. This meeting is open to the membership and will be held on **MONDAY, DEC. 19, 2022, AT 6:30 P.M.** at the cooperative's office at 1564 S. 1000 Road in Council Grove.

If you are unable to attend or have questions, you may call the office at 620-767-5144 or send written comments to Flint Hills Rural Electric Cooperative Assn., Inc., PO Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846-0610. Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104d(g) to petition the Kansas Corporation Commission for review of a rate change.

Rate Increase Needed

In 2021, the board engaged a consultant to prepare a study of the co-op's cost of providing electric service and the rates charged for this service. The

purpose of this study was to determine the revenue needed to cover the co-op's operating expenses and debt obligations and to examine the equitability of rates among the various customer classes.

It was determined that an increase is needed to cover increased expenses for building, maintaining and upgrading the electric distribution facilities, wages and benefits, inflation, and the overall cost of doing business. The last time the board addressed a rate increase was seven years ago in November 2015.

The electric rate revenues need to be increased by \$934,486 annually, or an increase of 7.7% when compared to 2021 revenue. The proposal, if approved by the board of trustees, will be implemented in two phases.



Chuck Goeckel

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Happy Holidays
Our office will be closed on Dec. 23, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 for the holidays.

Notice to Members: Board to Consider Rate Changes

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Comparison of Current and Proposed Rates by Customer Class				
CUSTOMER CLASS	CURRENT RATE	1/1/2023 PHASE 1 CHANGE	10/1/2023 PHASE 2 CHANGE	PROPOSED NEW RATE
SINGLE PHASE DOMESTIC (RATES 1, 2, 101)				
SINGLE PHASE DOMESTIC (1, 101)				
Customer Charge, \$/mo	\$32.50	\$5.00		\$37.50
Demand Charge per kW			\$1.50	\$1.50
Energy Charge, \$/kWh				
Winter (Oct.-May)	\$0.12016		\$(0.00030)	\$0.11986
Summer (June-Sept.)	\$0.13516		\$(0.00030)	\$0.13486
SINGLE PHASE DOMESTIC-ELECTRIC (2)				
Customer Charge, \$/mo	\$32.50	\$5.00		\$37.50
Demand Charge per kW			\$1.50	\$1.50
Energy Charge				
Oct.-May First 1500 kWh	\$0.12016		\$(0.00030)	\$0.11986
Oct.-May Excess	\$0.09409		\$(0.00030)	\$0.09379
June-Sept. Energy Charge	\$0.13516		\$(0.00030)	\$0.13486
SINGLE PHASE DOMESTIC-GRANDVIEW PLAZA (RATES 5 AND 501)				
Customer Charge, \$/mo	\$17.00	\$3.00		\$20.00
Demand Charge per kW			\$1.50	\$1.50
Energy Charge				
Winter (Oct.-May)	\$0.11496		\$(0.00800)	\$0.10696
Summer (June-Sept.)	\$0.12996		\$(0.00800)	\$0.12196
SMALL COMMERCIAL (RATES 11 AND 14)				
SMALL COMMERCIAL (11)				
Customer Charge	\$32.50	\$5.00		\$37.50
Demand Charge per kW			\$1.50	\$1.50
Energy Charge, \$/kWh				
Winter (Oct.-May)	\$0.10065		\$0.00250	\$0.10315
Summer (June-Sept.)	\$0.11565		\$0.00250	\$0.11815
SMALL COMMERCIAL LOAD MANAGEMENT (14)				
Customer Charge	\$32.50	\$5.00		\$37.50
Demand Charge per kW			\$1.50	\$1.50
Energy Charge, \$/kWh				
Charge per kWh	\$0.10154		\$0.00250	\$0.10404
IRRIGATION (RATE 19 NON LOAD MANAGEMENT)				
Customer Charge	\$32.50	\$5.00		\$37.50
Horsepower Charge (\$32.50/motor horsepower)	\$32.50			\$32.50
Energy Charge				
Winter (Oct.-May)	\$0.16726			\$0.16726
Summer (June-Sept.)	\$0.18226			\$0.18226
SECURITY LIGHTS				
LED Security Lights	\$10.35	\$1.28		\$11.63
Unmetered-100 Watt High Pressure Sodium (HPS) Light	\$12.88	\$1.28		\$14.16
Metered-175 Watt Mercury Vapor Light	\$3.65	\$1.28		\$4.93
Metered-100 Watt High Pressure Sodium (RPS) Light	\$9.10	\$1.28		\$10.38
IDLE SERVICE CHARGE (RATE 9 AND 10)				
Entire Territory (Except Grandview Plaza)	\$28.00	\$5.00		\$33.00
Grandview Plaza	\$15.00	\$3.00		\$18.00

Phase One

The first phase, shown in the chart at left, will take effect on Jan. 1, 2023. This phase will increase the customer service charge by \$5 for Single Phase Domestic, General Service Small, General Service Small Load Management and Irrigation, and \$3 for Single Phase Domestic Grandview Plaza. Also included in this phase is a \$1.28 per month increase on all security lights. There will also be an increase in the Idle Service Charge tariff of \$5 per month, except Grandview Plaza will see an increase of \$3 per month.

Phase Two

The second phase will take effect on Oct. 1, 2023. It will implement a kilowatt (kW) demand charge of \$1.50 per kW of demand for the Single Phase Domestic, Single Phase Domestic Grandview Plaza, General Service Small, General Service Small Load Control and Irrigation classes. The Single Phase Domestic and Single Phase Domestic Grandview Plaza kWh energy charge will also see a slight decrease whereas General Service Small and General Service Small Load Control will see a \$0.00250 increase.

Rate Change Summary

Rate charts for each phase can be found on Pages 12B-C. The amount of the rate change will vary by customer class. The cost to provide service varies with each customer class depending on the size of the loads and the relative level of consumption.

Based on the current rates and the costs to provide service, the cost-of-service study showed that some classes needed more of an increase to cover the co-op's cost of providing service to that class.

New Commercial Master Metered Rate

The study also showed the need for a new rate for accounts that have sea-

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sonal usage with a significant amount of infrastructure past the electric meter that the cooperative maintains. This new rate is called Commercial Master Metered and will go into effect on June 1, 2023.

Other Changes

Also addressed will be editorial changes to the power cost adjustment (PCA) tariff to include the co-op's "leased and rented distributed generation." The PCA tariff currently includes all purchased power costs and owned distributed generation costs, but does not include the co-op's leased summer peaking generator.

The board will discuss and possibly vote to set a rate for three phase commercial wind farms and eliminate the tariff General Service Large Frozen due to the inactive use of this tariff.

Monthly Customer Charge

One part of the proposal is to increase the monthly customer charges. This charge is designed to recover those costs that do not vary with the amount of electricity used. A portion of the co-op's costs are the same for all customers whether they use very few or a significant amount of kWh energy per month.

The co-op has made similar

Comparison of Current and Proposed Rates by Customer Class

CUSTOMER CLASS	PROPOSED NEW RATE 6/1/23
**COMMERCIAL MASTER METERED-NEW RATE (28)	
Customer Charge	\$750.00
Demand Charge per kW *	\$10.00
Energy Charge per kWh Summer (June-Sept.)	
First 125 kWh/kW	\$0.12084
Next 125 kWh/kW	\$0.11084
Next 125 kWh/kW	\$0.09584
Over 375 kWh/kW	\$0.08584
Energy Charge per kWh Winter (Oct.-May)	
First 125 kWh/kW	\$0.11584
Next 125 kWh/kW	\$0.10584
Next 125 kWh/kW	\$0.09084
Over 375 kWh/kW	\$0.08084
**Commercial Master Metered rate will go into effect on June 1, 2023. This rate currently includes all commercial seasonal accounts with significant infrastructure behind the meter that the coop continues to maintain.	

investments in poles, wires, transformers, and meters for all customers and incurs similar costs for reading meters, billing, and consumer accounting. Increasing the customer charge closer to the actual cost helps to minimize the amount of increase on the energy charges and more accurately tracks the costs of providing electric service.

Monthly kW Demand Charge

Adding the kW demand charge will allow the cooperative to continue to take steps to ensure that a rate is as fair as possible to all classes of members and to all members within each class. The kW demand charge will better recover what each member costs the co-op and help reduce the subsidies between members among rate classes.

What Can You Do to Reduce Your Bill?

Flint Hills REC continues to do all it can to keep its costs to a minimum and continue to provide reliable service

to our members. Members can also reduce their bill. Depending on your operation, there may be several ways you can reduce your demand on the electric system. Spreading out when you use various electrical equipment and implementing energy efficiency improvements are two actions that can reduce your kW demand.

For example, try not to run high usage appliances at the same time, such as the clothes dryer and dishwasher. Look for energy efficiency improvements, like sealing all cracks and leaks around your home's exterior, make sure you have adequate insulation in your home, and sign up for our Peak Alert Rebate Program. These are just a few examples that will help reduce your demand. We will continue to provide information about kW demand and how to manage that demand in future articles of the *Kansas Country Living* magazine and on our website. For more information on demand please visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com or feel free to call our office at 620-767-5144.

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Electricity Remains a Good Value

These days, we're all feeling a strain on our wallets as everyday expenses continue to rapidly rise. One expense that remains historically stable and has not risen like other goods and services is electricity.

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value because we have a huge appetite for it. Electricity is not expensive. It's that we use it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, working, entertainment, communications and even transportation these days.

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last seven years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value.

For example, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics the cost of a loaf of bread in 2014 was \$1.36/loaf and in 2021 it was \$1.54/loaf, that is a 13% increase. One pound of ground chuck cost \$3.59/lbs. in 2014, and in 2021 it was \$4.31/lbs., a 20% increase. The consumer price index, a broader measure of goods and services, shows an increase of 19% over the past seven years. In contrast electric rates for Flint Hills REC members increased a comparably modest 7.8% in the 2014-2021 period.

Flint Hills REC works hard to keep your electricity safe, reliable, and affordable. But you play a role in the price of your power. Just as you might cut back on buying ground chuck if your budget is tight, we can work with you to reduce your monthly electric bill. Visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com to learn more or call our office at 620-767-5144.

It's Time to Apply for the Trip of a Lifetime

2 winners will receive a trip and 3 scholarships will be awarded

Flint Hills RECA will be awarding three scholarships, one trip to Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp and one trip to Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in 2023. Youth must be finishing his/her sophomore or junior year of high school to be eligible.

APPLY BY MARCH 1, 2023.

Visit the Nation's Capital

Imagine — a chance to visit our nation's capital with more than 1,800 students from across the U.S. during **ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR**. Students will meet with state and national legislators and nationally-recognized speakers and visit many of the major monuments and memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Adventure in the Rockies

How big is a bald eagle? How thrilling is white water rafting? How does a cooperative work? Find the answer to those questions and more at the **COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP**. Enjoy nature like never before in the beautiful Colorado Rockies. Meet nearly 100 students your age from cooperative communities in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming while creating memories to last a lifetime. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/cylcvideo>.

Contest Application Due March 1, 2023

Complete and return this application to Flint Hills RECA, Attn: Travis Griffin, P.O. Box B, Council Grove, KS 66846, or tgriffin@flinthillsrec.com.

Name of Applicant _____

Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____

Year in School _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Phone Number _____

I AGREE THAT ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION IS ACCURATE AND TRUE.

Signature of Applicant _____

I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION FOR _____ TO APPLY FOR THE 2023 COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP OR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR SPONSORED BY FLINT HILLS RECA.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____