

Board of Directors Releases 2023 Service Charges and Fees

After careful review and consideration, the ECI REC Board of Directors has determined that an increase in some of the Cooperative's electric service charges and fees is necessary. The following fees will be effective for member-owners on June 1, 2023.

- » **Disconnect Member-Owned Security Light:** \$100.00 (unchanged)
- » **Disconnect Power (Non-Remote):** \$150.00 (unchanged)
- » **Locate, Member-Owned Underground Fault:** \$107.00* (unchanged)
- » **Locate, Member-Owned Underground:** \$107.00* (unchanged)
- » **Outage Service Call, After Hours:** \$321.00*
- » **Outage Service Call, Regular Business Hours:** \$160.50*
- » **Reconnect (Non-Remote), After Hours:** \$321.00* (unchanged)
- » **Reconnect (Non-Remote), Regular Business Hours:** \$160.50* (unchanged)
- » **Test Meter:** \$26.75* (unchanged)
- » **Returned Check:** \$30.00 (unchanged)
- » **Non-Payment Posting:** \$150.00 (unchanged)
- » **Non-Payment Disconnect (Remote):** \$50.00 (unchanged)
- » **Non-Payment Reconnect (Remote), After Hours:** \$80.25* (unchanged)
- » **Non-Payment Reconnect (Remote), Regular Business Hours:** \$53.50* (unchanged)

*Includes applicable state and local taxes



CEO TERESA FLOYD

Message From the CEO: Power Cost Adjustment Explained

This message was originally published in the March/April issue of the *Heartland Link*. This version includes updated information that has since been released.

Each month, ECI REC includes a line-item charge on members' electric bills called the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). The PCA reflects an adjustment for the actual cost of wholesale power during each billing period—above or below ECI REC's base rate. The Iowa Utilities Board allows ECI REC (and all other electric utilities) to use the PCA component to offset monthly increases or decreases in the cost of wholesale power.

The PCA is a separate line item on your energy bill. When the PCA factor is negative, your bill amount is reduced, and when the PCA is a positive factor, your bill increases.

Why is the PCA necessary? ECI REC's wholesale power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), obtains electricity from many sources, including natural gas, wind, solar, hydro, and coal. CIPCO sets its rates each year based on variables that include the cost of fuels, the cost of power to be purchased in the market, and the amounts needed of each.

If CIPCO's costs are greater than or less than their base rate, they pass on the difference (+/-) to ECI REC and other member-distribution cooperatives via our monthly wholesale power bill. ECI REC in turn can pass on the difference to our member-consumers in the PCA component.

How is ECI REC leveraging the PCA? Your Cooperative has elected to utilize the PCA component rather than include the full 2023 wholesale power cost increase we received from CIPCO in the rate increase that went into effect on March 1. The rate increase—almost \$0.01/kWh—comes after CIPCO was forced to raise wholesale power rates three times in 2022.

In my message published in the March/April *Heartland Link*, I shared that we expected members to see an average PCA rate of \$0.014/kWh, depending on fluctuations in wholesale power cost. While we fully expect the cost of power to continue to be volatile and increase, we were pleasantly surprised to learn that effective February 1, CIPCO lowered their energy charge by \$0.005/kWh. Because we elected not to include CIPCO's full 2023 rate increase in our new rates, any fluctuation (+/-) can be handled via the PCA. ECI REC's strategy gives us the flexibility to pass the savings from the lower kWh rate to our members.

How can I calculate my PCA? Members can calculate their own PCA each month by multiplying the PCA amount (listed on their electric bill) by the kilowatt hours (kWh) used during the billing period. This formula charges all ECI REC members equally for the increase or decrease in the cost of generating electricity, based on fluctuating costs.

Current Service Detail		
Balance Forward		\$0.00
Facility Charge		\$44.00
kWh Charges	2380 kWh @ 0.1022	\$243.24
Power Cost Adj.	2380 kWh @ 0.004	\$9.52
HeatPlus Facility Charge		\$10.00
HeatPlus kWh Charges	1040 kWh @ 0.0500	\$52.00
HeatPlus kWh Charges	1060 kWh @ 0.0500	\$53.00
County Tax		\$4.12
Total Electric Charges		\$415.88
Total Amount Due 05/01/2023		\$415.88
<i>\$6.24 (1.5%) late charge applies after 05/01/2023</i>		<i>\$422.12</i>

Members Help Members by Contributing to RECare



Contributing to RECare is one easy way to help your fellow members! The program distributes funds to low-income energy consumers in Benton and Buchanan Counties via community action agencies. Donations help pay these members' heating bills or weatherization costs.

In 2022, 68 members donated \$7,354 to RECare. Some donated in one payment, while others had the Cooperative add a few dollars to their electric bills each month. No matter the size or frequency of the donation, it made a difference! There are many members who have trouble making ends meet, and we are proud so many of our members are digging into their pockets to help others.



Scan to fill out form online.

YES, I want to contribute to RECare.

- I will make a one-time contribution to RECare.
- I will contribute \$_____ per month to RECare. (I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.)
- My check is enclosed. (Make payable to ECI REC.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Account Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mail form to: ECI REC | Billing | PO Box 248 | Urbana, IA 52345-0248

To sign up for RECare or make a one-time donation, call **877-850-4343** or fill out and return the form above or at **ecirec.coop** (under Account Services, look down the list for Member Programs, then click on the RECare program).

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

At least two days prior to digging

April is Safe Digging Month

Arbor Day is April 28! If you're planting a tree this year—or planning a different spring landscaping project—remember to call Iowa One Call by dialing 811 before you dig. Although light gardening typically doesn't call for deep digging, other seemingly simple tasks like planting shrubs or installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines. A severed line can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm the person digging, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Your Co-op Connections® Card offers you Healthy Savings and local and national deals. Use your card to start saving today! Questions? Email coopconnections@ecirec.coop.



Use SmartHub to pay for FREE online! Visa, Discover, American Express, and MasterCard accepted. While you're there, view your monthly usage data in helpful chart formats.