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BROWN-ATCHISON
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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FROM THE MANAGER

Rate Design Changes and Net Rate Decrease Effective Jan. 1, 2024



Michael Volker

Brown-Atchison Electric Cooperative announces new base rates effective with usage beginning Jan. 1, 2024.

The changes result in a

decrease of approximately 0.1%. Of course, not all members will see lower bills and much of what happens to individual member bills is dependent on weather. The changes include increases to the Customer Delivery Charges and decreases to the Energy Charges.

These changes are being put in place to continue modernizing Brown-Atchison's rate design and more accurately reflect "cost-causation" — which means gradually setting prices the way costs happen at the cooperative. Setting prices in this way reflects the trustees desire to have rate designs that are fair and do not benefit one member at the expense of another. The table summarizes the rate changes.

With inflation continuing to hurt farmers, small businesses, and individual homeowners alike, Brown-Atchison Electric is pleased to pass on a net rate

Summary of Electric Changes

PROPOSED FOR JAN. 1, 2024

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE (R-23)	PROPOSED	CURRENT
Customer Delivery Charge - MONTHLY	\$30.00	\$25.00
Energy Charge - \$ PER kWh	\$0.113420	\$0.118720
TOTAL ELECTRIC SERVICE (TE)	PROPOSED	CURRENT
Customer Delivery Charge - MONTHLY	\$30.00	\$25.00
Energy Charge - \$ PER kWh ALL kWh 5/1 THRU 9/30 ALL kWh	\$0.113420	\$0.118720
Energy Charge - \$ PER kWh ALL kWh 10/1 THRU 4/30 FIRST 750	\$0.106420	\$0.108720
Energy Charge - \$ PER kWh ALL kWh 10/1 THRU 4/30 OVER 750	\$0.096420	\$0.098720
GENERAL SERVICE SMALL SINGLE PHASE (GSS-10)	PROPOSED	CURRENT
Customer Delivery Charge - MONTHLY	\$30.00	\$25.00
Energy Charge - \$ PER kWh ALL kWh	\$0.113420	\$0.118720
GENERAL SERVICE SMALL THREE PHASE (GSS-30)	PROPOSED	CURRENT
Customer Delivery Charge - MONTHLY	\$40.00	\$35.00
Energy Charge - \$ PER kWh ALL kWh	\$0.123110	\$0.125030
GENERAL SERVICE LARGE (GSL)	PROPOSED	CURRENT
Customer Delivery Charge - MONTHLY	\$40.00	\$35.00
Demand Charge	\$15.00	\$15.00
Energy Charge - \$ PER kWh ALL kWh	\$0.080990	\$0.081040
PUBLIC BUILDING SERVICE - THREE PHASE (PB-3)	PROPOSED	CURRENT
Customer Delivery Charge - MONTHLY	\$40.00	\$35.00
Demand Charge	\$15.00	\$15.00
Energy Charge - \$ PER kWh ALL kWh	\$0.069830	\$0.069880

decrease while modernizing rates. Please contact us if you have any questions.

5 Factors to Consider Before INSTALLING HOME SOLAR

Find out your home's energy use.

Look at your energy bill(s) to review kWh usage for the past 12-24 months and calculate the average monthly usage.

Contact your electric utility.

Because most residential systems are tied to the power grid, reach out about connection requirements, fees and possible incentives.

Location, location, location.

Start considering panel location. Assess the age, size and condition of your roof as well as available ground space.

Get several quotes.

There are costs other than equipment, such as permitting, installation and inspection. Make sure all costs are included in quotes.

Do your homework.

Ensure the company you are considering has installers who are specially trained and certified to install solar, among other factors.

To learn more, visit www.energy.gov and search for "Homeowner's Guide to Going Solar." Use the drop-down titled "How Much Power Can I Generate with Solar?" for information on PVWatts, a solar energy production and cost estimator.

A Portable Generator Produces as Much CO as a Parking Lot of Cars

Firing up one fuel-powered portable generator produces as much carbon monoxide (CO) as hundreds of combustion-engine cars, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Using a portable generator in a home, garage or too close to an enclosed area is like starting a parking lot full of cars and letting the CO poison seep into that area. The devastating result is almost immediate: The CO from one generator can kill in minutes.

CO Facts

CO is colorless and odorless. Poisoning can happen so quickly that exposed persons may become unconscious before recognizing any symptoms.

Each Year in the U.S.:

- ▶ Approximately 85 individuals die from CO poisoning.
- ▶ Most deaths (81%) occur in residential locations.

African Americans are at greater risk of CO poisoning, accounting for 23% of generator-related CO deaths, nearly double their estimated 13% share of the U.S. population, according to the U.S. Census.

Safety Tips

To use a portable generator safely:

- ▶ Always use a portable generator at least 20 feet away from your home. Apply the 20-foot distance rule to other locations, such as a shed, cabin, camper or trailer.
- ▶ Never operate one inside a home, on a porch or near windows and doors.
- ▶ When shopping for a generator, look for one that gives off reduced emissions.

- ▶ Also look for one that shuts off automatically when high levels of CO are present.
- ▶ Keep your generator well maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ Operate it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot pool underneath.
- ▶ Ensure CO detectors are installed on every level of your home and near or in bedrooms.
- ▶ Test CO alarms monthly; also track their age. They need to be replaced every seven years.

A portable generator is usually gas powered and movable. A generator should have more output than the wattage of the electronics plugged into it. This way, the generator will be able to create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure there is nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on.

Besides portable generators, there are also standby generators. The standby versions are attached directly to the house and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

To prevent feeding power back into the power grid and endangering electric line crews and others, standby generators should have a transfer safety switch installed by a professional. Never plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system for the same reason.

For more electrical safety information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

SAFETY TIP

If you are considering a home solar array, contact your local electric utility early in the process. Your utility will work with installers to ensure proper and safe connection to the power grid.



SOURCE: SAFE ELECTRICITY

Hearing Loss Common in Farming, Can Be Prevented

Effects are cumulative, says K-State safety experts

BY MADDY ROHR, K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION NEWS SERVICE

Natural hearing loss comes with age, but exposure to a loud environment — common in agriculture — can cause noise-induced hearing loss, said a pair of Kansas State University safety experts.

Loud machinery, equipment and even animals can play a role in hearing loss related to farming and ranching, said Brad Dirks, associate director of the K-State physician assistance program.

“Exposure hearing loss can be from a one-time experience like a loud concert or using a circular saw without protection,” Dirks said. “Cumulative (hearing loss) can happen over time, like working 40 to 50 years around machinery that push you above the decibel cutoff of 80 to 85.”

For reference, Dirks said people talk at about 60-70 decibels, a movie theater ranges from 75-105 decibels and a motorcycle produces 80-110 decibels.

“How close you are to the noise and how long you’re exposed is very important,” Dirks said.

Tractors with a cab are more muffled compared to those without, and machinery in open spaces will dissipate noise compared to those in enclosed

areas. Tractors normally produce 110-120 decibels.

Animals can also cause exposure hearing loss. Their effect is often overlooked when compared to machinery.

“Pigs squealing can be around 100 decibels, and so prolonged exposure to something like pigs ... in a closed environment can be a problem,” said Tawnie Larson, project coordinator with the Carl and Melinda Helwig Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

She also mentioned the noise from working cattle and calves that are calling back and forth with mothers as being a cause of hearing loss.

Dirks recommends using foam plugs in ears or earmuffs as a preventative measure.

“If you really want to protect your ears, do both; use the foam earplugs and then put the headphones or the earmuffs over and it becomes much more protective in those environments,” he said.

Ear plugs are convenient to keep in pockets and many headphones can be carried around the neck until needed.



“Producers, parents or managers need to think about providing everyone that’s working with them and working on the farm or ranch to have something that can protect their ears,” Larson said.

Youth and babies are also at risk of induced hearing loss and should be provided with appropriate protection at an early age.

“It’s a cumulative thing, so the younger you start with that noise exposure, the more years you have to be exposed to high noise levels,” Dirks added.

Hearing safety is important because it is permanent, and not something that can be fixed.

“And you can get hearing assistive devices, hearing aids that will amplify (sound), but that vocal range and the high range of those sound waves is gone — and once it’s gone, it’s gone. You can’t bring them back,” Dirks said.

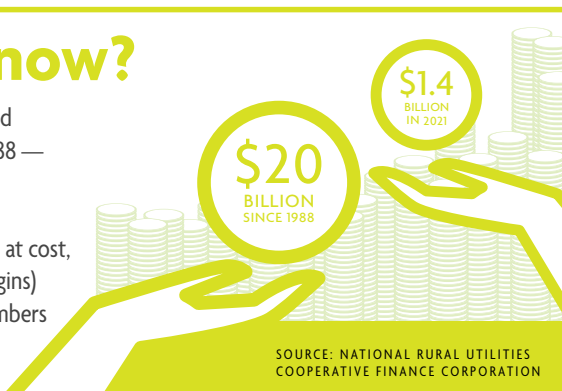
Dirks added that hearing loss can also come from an obstruction in the canal, such as wax or build up. Those can be solved by a doctor.

“(Hearing loss) is preventable,” Larson said. “You can turn it down, walk away, or you can wear hearing protection. (Protection) is pretty easy to find at any hardware store.”

Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$20 billion to members since 1988 — \$1.4 billion in 2021 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.



HELP THE LINEWORKER RESTORE POWER

Occasionally, severe weather can cause power disruptions. When outages occur, our lineworkers get to work! They restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Help the lineworker reach the transformer to fix the power outage.

