



What's It About

UNDERSTANDING Residential Electricity Costs



2 Types of Costs

Electric bills can be a bit confusing, especially if you are trying to find out how you are being charged and how to reduce it.

If you have a LINK ENERGY bill, look at page 3 of the bill for these details.



Variable Costs

These are based on the amount of electricity you use each month. If you use less electricity, your bill will be lower.

Fixed Costs

These are charged monthly and are NOT affected by how much electricity you use.

Lower your bill!

Reduce your electricity use to reduce all the the Variable Costs (marked in blue)

A Reading: the meter reading before and at the end of the billing period.

The difference between the first START meter reading and the last END meter reading is the amount of energy you will pay for (see C).

B Bar Graph: shows your electricity use at a glance for the past year.

C Amount: the electricity that was used during the billing period in kilowatt hours (kWh).

D Rate: what you are being charged for your electricity - the same rate as ALL Albertans.

E Cost: the electricity used x your energy rate (This is variable, which means if you use less electricity, this cost will go down.)

F Unaccounted for Energy (UFE) is a settlement amount allocated to sites and represents energy not accounted for by meters and losses.

G Administration: covers billing and customer service. This is a fixed cost.

Distributor Charges

For descriptions, see page 2.

H **Balancing Pool Allocation:** This hands back the costs and benefits resulting from deregulation to ratepayers.

I **Local Access Fee:** On behalf of local government, the electric company collects this fee to access municipal land.

J **Transmission Charge:** The costs of building, operating and maintaining the provincial power grid

K **Distribution Charge:** The costs of building, operating and maintaining the distribution system (power lines, transformers, substations, etc.) in your area. A portion is a fixed rate, the rest is variable.

Rate Riders: Adjustments to compensate for differences between the actual cost of electricity and the approved rate for the service. (This can be a credit or a charge.)



Consider some energy efficiency improvements:

- ◆ Install LED lighting.
- ◆ Use a smart or advanced power bar.
- ◆ Improve the weatherstripping around doors and windows.
- ◆ Change your furnace filters.



How to Lower Your Electric Bill

Change how you do things:

- ◆ Turn off the lights when you're not in a room.
- ◆ Only open the fridge door briefly.
- ◆ Lower your thermostat when you sleep or when you leave during the day.
- ◆ Use a low heat setting on your dryer.
- ◆ Clean out your dryer vent.
- ◆ Only run full loads in the washing machine or dishwasher.
- ◆ Wash clothes with cold water.
- ◆ Use an indoor drying rack.

Useful Links:

Enmax: <https://www.enmax.com/home/understanding-your-bill>



Enmax: <https://www.enmax.com/business/customer-care/business-services/billing/how-to-read-my-bill-page-3>



Link: <https://linkenergy.com/faq/>



ATCO: <https://energy.atco.com/en-ca/blog/understanding-your-bill.html>

