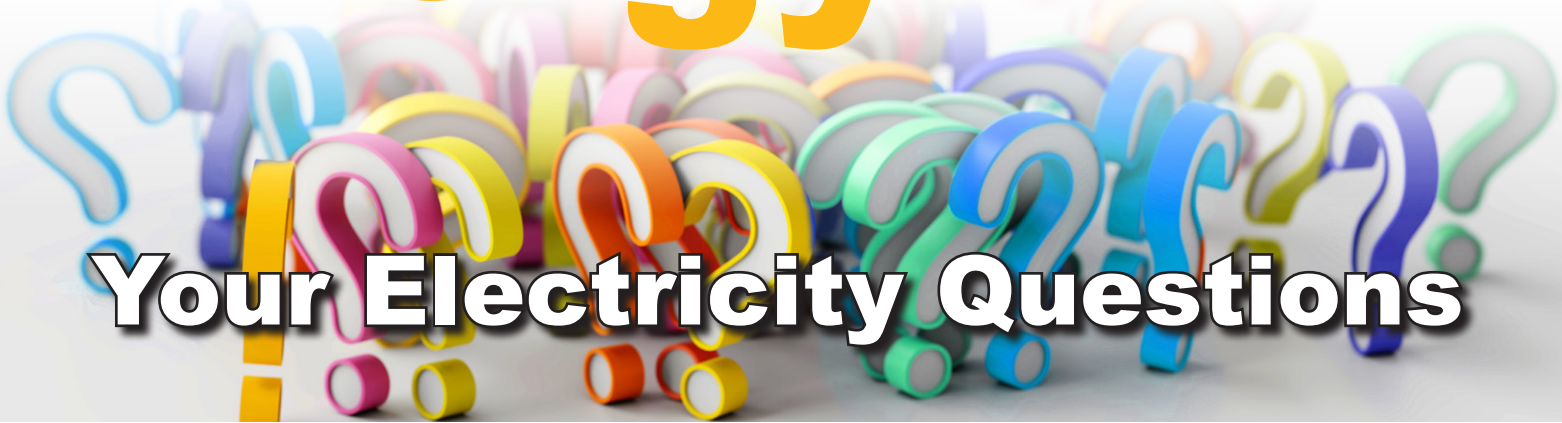


# Energy NEWS



## Your Electricity Questions

### 1. Why are Fort Chip residents seeing higher electricity bills?

#### The Short Answer

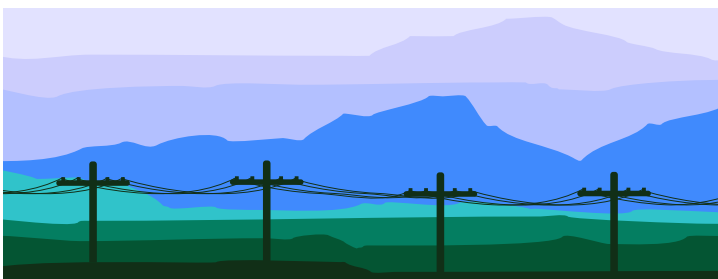
The demand for electricity has been higher than normal. High demand leads to higher prices for everyone in Alberta.

#### Did You Know?

Only Ontario and Alberta have deregulated their electric industry. The Ontario market is a hybrid, with the Ontario Power Authority regulated pricing. In Alberta, the generation business is competitive, while transmission and distribution are rate-regulated.

#### THE LONG ANSWER

- ◆ The recent extreme weather means more electricity is being used for heating and cooling indoor spaces.
- ◆ **The price cap on electricity was scrapped by the Alberta Conservative government in the fall of 2019. We have seen a rapid increase since then.** Before October 31, 2019, residential and small business consumers in Alberta didn't pay more than 6.8 cents per kWh.



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### 2. Does the Solar Farm affect my electricity bill?

#### The Short Answer

No, the price you pay for the electricity you use is independent of how that electricity is produced.

All Electricity Producers in Alberta – like the 3NE solar farm or ATCO – sell the electricity they produce to the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) at a “wholesale” price. The AESO controls the price.

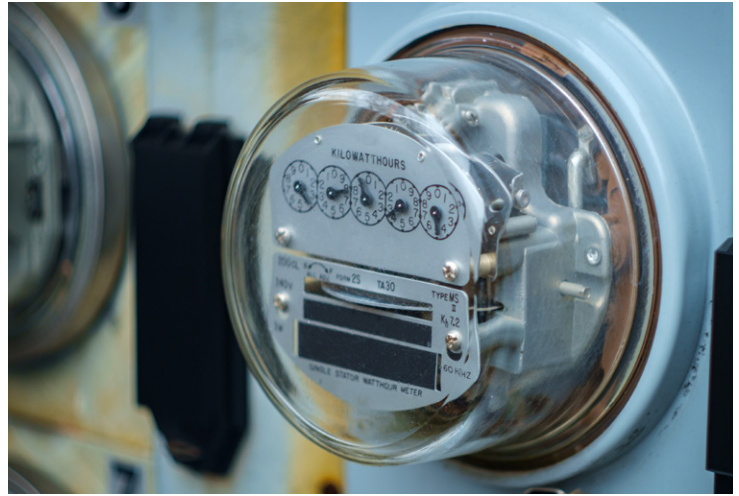
#### THE LONG ANSWER

- ◆ The price that Producers are paid for their electricity sales is based on an Alberta “pool price”, which varies hourly based on competitive bids by purchasers (Retailers and large consumers). *The pool price goes up when demand is high.*
- ◆ Electricity Retailers – like Direct Energy, Xoom, and other names you see on your electricity bill – buy electricity from the AESO at a wholesale price, then sell that electricity to consumers at a retail price. The retail price is what you see on your electricity bill.
- ◆ The 3NE Solar Farm does not affect your electricity bill at all and 3NE has no control over electricity prices.

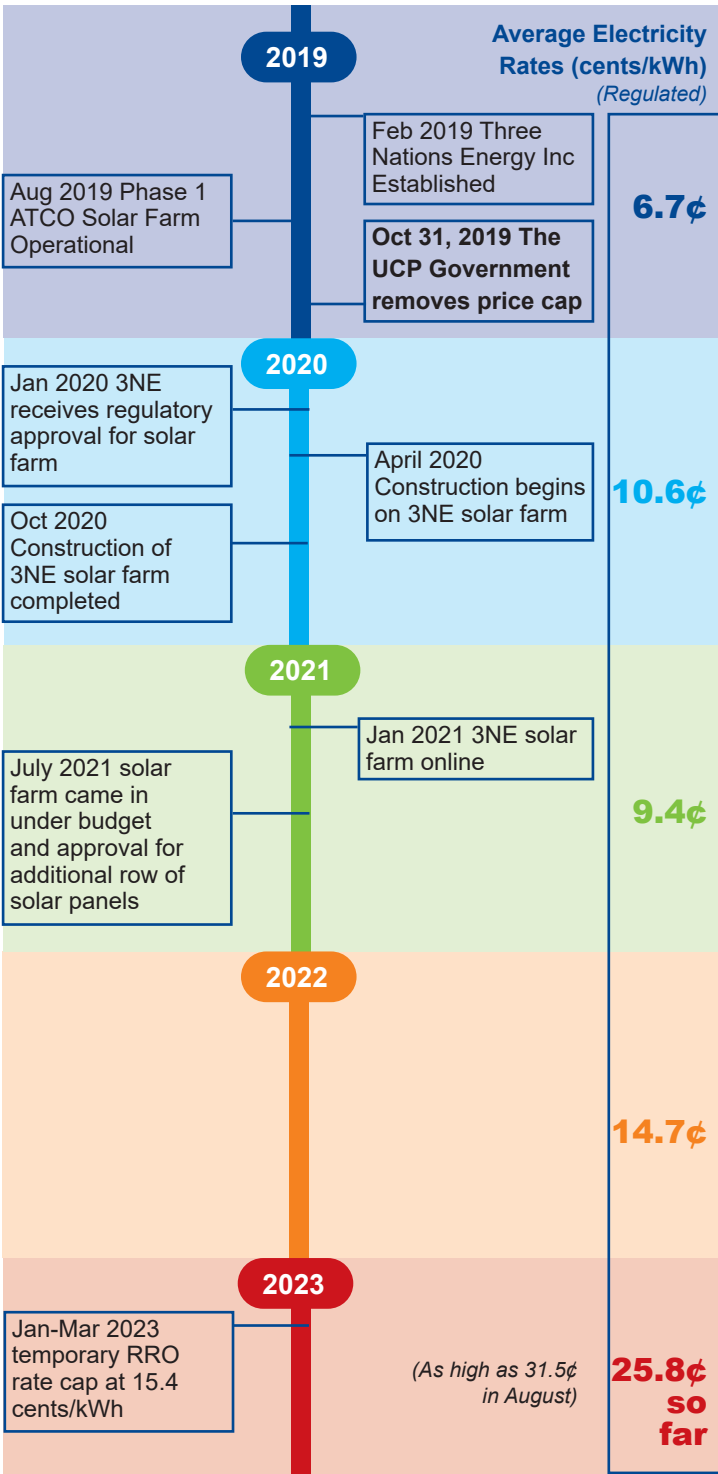
### 3. Why did my electric bill go up after the Solar Farm was built?

#### Short Answer

Prices have been going up for everyone since the Alberta Conservative Government removed the price cap in the fall of 2019. The solar farm had no effect on this. Here is a timeline showing the increases:



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#### Did You Know?

A kilowatt hour (kWh) is a way to measure the amount of electricity used in an hour. It would take approximately 1000 watts to run a microwave for one hour and that equals 1 kilowatt hour.

### 4. What are the other provinces paying for electricity?

#### Short Answer

Here is the average total cost of electricity by province, based on a monthly consumption of 1,000 kWh as of September 3, 2023:

Electricity Prices in Canada 2023	Cents/kWh
Northwest Territories	41.0
Nunavut	35.4
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>25.8</b>
Saskatchewan	19.9
Yukon Territory	18.7
Prince Edward Island	18.4
Nova Scotia	18.3
Newfoundland & Labrador	14.8
Ontario	14.1
New Brunswick	13.9
British Columbia	11.4
Manitoba	10.2
Quebec	7.8
<b>Canada Average</b>	<b>19.2</b>

from <https://www.energyhub.org/electricity-prices/>



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## 5. How does the Solar Farm benefit the Fort Chip community?

### The Short Answer

The ACFN, MCFN, and FCMN are Owners of the \$7M Solar Farm that will produce revenue from electricity sales for 25 years. The money is used by the Owner Nations to support community projects and local employment.

### THE LONG ANSWER

#### Before the solar farm,

- ◆ All electricity for the community was produced from diesel.
- ◆ ATCO was running out of storage for diesel due to the growing electricity demand.
- ◆ Climate change was making it difficult to guarantee the diesel fuel could be delivered on time due to the melting ice road.

#### After the solar farm,

- ◆ Three Nations Energy earns revenue from the sale of electricity from the Solar Farm.
- ◆ 25% of all power used in Fort Chip today is green for NO added cost to the homeowner.
- ◆ Reduced dependence on diesel fuel.
- ◆ Reduced wear and tear on the winter road. (About 24 large tanker loads per year are no longer required – 800,000 litres less diesel.)
- ◆ Reduced greenhouse gas emissions. (About 2500 tonnes of carbon dioxide are no longer going into the atmosphere each year.)
- ◆ Reduced noise and odour from the diesel generators. On sunny days (except in winter), all diesel generators at the ATCO Third Lake Plant will be turned off.)

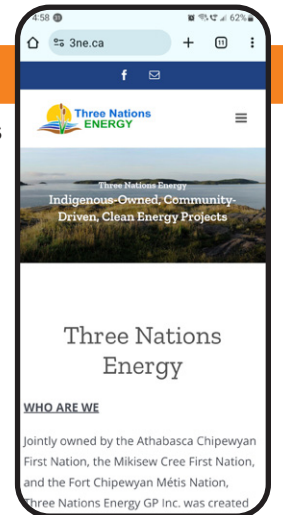
### Did You Know?

3NE is aware that some community members thought their electricity bills would be lowered by the solar farm and this is NOT the case. 3NE receives the funds and decides where the revenue goes.

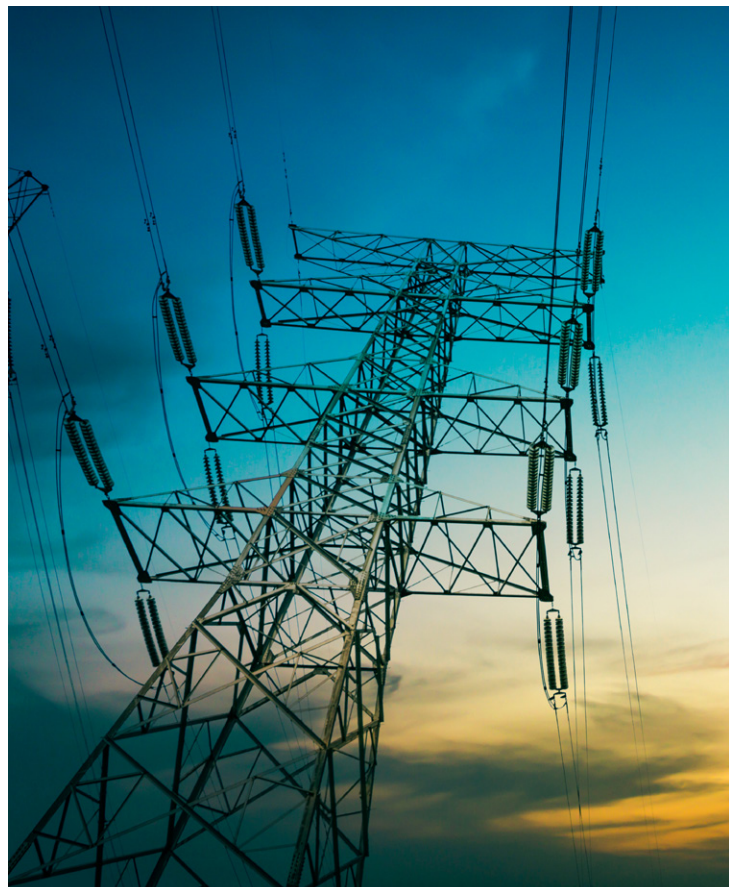
## 7. Who is Three Nations Energy?

### The Short Answer

- ◆ Three Nations Energy, or 3NE, is equally owned by ACFN, MCFN, and FCMN.
- ◆ 3NE was formed in 2018 as a corporate entity in order to receive the funds from the government of Alberta and government of Canada for the solar farm.
- ◆ One of its main goals is to bring reliable, clean electricity to the community.
- ◆ The profits from the electricity sales provide sustainable development opportunities for the community including job creation and funding for projects.



Visit [www.3NE.ca](http://www.3NE.ca) for more information.

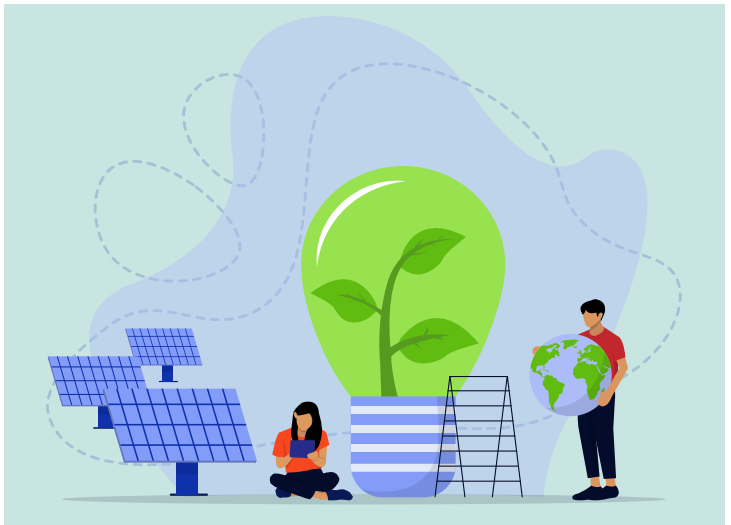


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# 8. Who paid For the 3NE Solar Farm?

## The Short Answer

This project was 100% funded by Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada through grants. No money from the Nations went into this project.



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## Find Out More:

### Indigenous Solar for Diesel in Canada's North



This video is all about Fort Chip's Solar Farm (Green Energy Futures)



### Alberta's Electricity System



This video explains how electricity produced in Alberta gets to our homes (AESO - Alberta Electric System Operator)



### Alberta Electricity Rates



Read a simple explanation on rising electricity rates and the history of provincial electricity price caps (Energycrates.ca)



## Watch for the Next Issue of 3NE Energy News!

- ◆ How does Alberta's electrical system work? Who manages it?
- ◆ What organizations help run electricity in Fort Chipewyan?



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## Did You Know?

**QR Codes** are machine-readable patterns used for storing websites

You can use your smart phone to read "QR Codes". Use your phone's camera:

- ◆ Point it at a the square of dots.
- ◆ Tap the notification the phone gives you to go to the website or YouTube video.

