



WHAT IS A FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT?

The Fuel Cost Adjustment is a line item on your Woodruff Electric bill that usually does not get much attention. **Here is a brief explanation of the fuel cost adjustment:** If the amount paid by Woodruff Electric to its wholesale electric supplier for the energy purchased differs from what is built into the base electric rates, then this fuel cost adjustment is applied to each member's bill. This adjustment factor (charge or credit) is multiplied by kilowatt-hours used in the current month.

What sources does Woodruff Electric get its energy from? The base electric rates are based on the projected cost of energy. Woodruff Electric purchases its energy from Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC). AECC's electricity is generated by coal, natural gas, hydroelectric, wind, and solar, and AECC also purchases power from the regional transmission organization markets. For several years, the monthly fuel cost adjustment was very close to zero, and many times has been reflected on electric bills as a small credit. There is no markup included in the fuel cost adjustment. It is a direct pass-through from AECC to Woodruff Electric, which ultimately goes to the end-use cooperative member.

Why has the fuel cost adjustment risen so much? AECC has had to rely more on natural gas as a baseload fuel source for generating electricity, and the market price for natural gas has risen. To put the increasing price of natural gas in perspective, U.S. natural gas prices were as high as \$7.48/MMBtu in mid-April. Natural gas prices averaged \$2.66/MMBtu in April 2021 and were \$1.74/MMBtu in April 2020.

Where are we headed from here? Unfortunately, natural gas prices are projected to continue to remain high for the rest of 2022. However, given the need during the summer to use gas-fired generation in addition to coal, the fuel price over the next several months is expected to remain above average. This issue is not exclusive to Arkansas, as the United States is experiencing higher energy prices, caused by both the higher natural gas prices and supply constraints with the railroads.

What can I do to lower my electric cost? Sometimes simple measures can go a long way, such as implementing energy-efficiency measures like caulking and sealing around doors and windows, changing to more efficient LED lightbulbs, and adding insulation to your attic or crawlspace. Please contact us to learn more regarding energy-efficiency programs or low-interest loans that can assist with implementing these measures. We would be happy to schedule a free energy audit at your convenience.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY IS A PRIMARY CONCERN

Electrical safety is a primary concern for Woodruff Electric Cooperative employees and directors. **Removing electrical equipment carries the potential to harm yourself and others.** Neighboring members on the same line and utility personnel that work on those lines are all at risk when someone tampers with electricity or electrical equipment. In attempt to prevent these risks, Cooperative employees stress the importance of never cutting the seal on a meter base or removing a meter for any reason.



New technology and metering equipment helps cooperative staff monitor system reliability. When a member or electrician removes a meter, notification of that break in service is now sent to Cooperative personnel. It is known that sometimes members needing to perform electrical work on their side of the meter will temporarily pull the meter in order to complete that work. **That is illegal, unsafe and could result in fines to the member.**

Please contact your local office if you need your power disconnected.

Swim smart. Swim **safely.**

Prevent electric shock drowning.

Learn more at

 Safe
Electricity.org

SUMMER VACATION TIPS



5 EASY WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR *Vacation*

1. Set or program your thermostat to 85 degrees while you are away.
2. Unplug small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they do not draw power.
3. Adjust your hot water heater. For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low. For an electric version turn it off at the circuit breaker.
4. Shut all your curtains and blinds.
5. Make sure your sump pump is working.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov



STOP PHONE SCAMS



ENERGY CONSUMERS

Never give out personal information to a caller demanding immediate payment on the phone.

WECC Text Alerts

Scan this code or use your camera to scan and sign up for text alerts.



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