



How Cold Weather Affects Your Electricity Bill

Colder-than-normal winter weather has Wharton County Electric Cooperative members using more energy than usual. Frigid temperatures can cause heating systems to work over time, and since heating and cooling can make up nearly half of your electric bill, you may experience sticker shock when you open your next bill. WCEC is encouraging members to be aware of their energy use and take steps to help manage electric bills, which are also expected to be higher than usual as a result of increased usage.

WCEC BILLING CYCLES: For the **December** billing cycle, **27 of 30 days were considered “heating days”** where the mean temperature is lower than 65 degrees. On average, heating systems had to work to maintain a 10 degree temperature difference between outside and inside temperatures. The highest difference based on a mean outside temperature of 38 degrees occurred on December 7 with difference of 27 degrees. By comparison, the **January** billing cycle will include **30 “heating days”** with an average of 18 degrees difference in temperatures. *The highest difference of 39 degrees (with an outside mean temperature of 26 degrees) occurred on January 17.*

Why Your Bill May Be Higher Than Normal...

- The weather makes a big impact on electric bills, accounting for nearly half of your bill. Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather.
- When extreme cold temperatures hit, our heaters work overtime. The greater the temperature difference, the harder your heating system has to work to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature. For example, if you want your house to be 70 degrees inside and it's 20 degrees outside, your HVAC system has to make up 50 degrees difference in temperature. Even on a 100-degree summer day, the HVAC system only has to make up about 30 degrees difference versus that 50-degree variance in winter.
- The number of consecutive hours and days temperatures remain low outside is another factor. Without adequate insulation, the roofs and exterior walls stay cool, which means your system has to work harder to keep your home warm.
- We tend to use more electricity by staying inside watching TV, using computers, playing video games, etc.
- Using space heaters or fireplaces, which are inefficient sources of heat. If you run three space heaters in different rooms for 10 days within the same energy billing period—that's an extra \$60 a month.

How To Track Your Usage...

WCEC members can check their electrical usage through SmartHub account management. SmartHub is available online and as a mobile app. Visit mywcec.coop to manage your account or download the SmartHub mobile app.



WCEC

Wharton County Electric Cooperative

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We Are YOUR Electric Cooperative!

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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