



REC's Power Supplier Announces Rate Increase

As a result of higher natural gas prices, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) has implemented a rate increase to cover the higher generation costs resulting primarily from those natural gas price increases. Along with 10 other electric cooperatives in Virginia, Delaware and Maryland, REC is a partial owner of ODEC.

What this means: A typical residential household that uses nearly 1,350 kWh of electricity each month will see an increase of about \$2.90 per month.

"In recent years we have not seen any mid-year rate change by ODEC, but greater volatility in the markets and the higher costs for natural gas used to generate electricity have necessitated this rate increase," said Brian Doherty, Managing Director — External Affairs at REC.

"Similar costs are being faced by other utilities in the mid-Atlantic and other regions of the country – this is not unique to us here in Virginia."

The high winter demand for natural gas coupled with cold temperatures (particularly in January) impacted the price of natural gas, and significant volatility on some days drove short-term prices even higher. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other global economic factors further exacerbate price increases and volatility.

"REC works year-round to keep expenses as low as possible," Doherty said, "and we want to be as transparent as possible about these increasing costs."

6 Easy Ways to Save Energy – and Reduce Your Bill

As the temperature heats up outside, you can take a few simple steps in your home to keep your energy costs down.

1. Raise your thermostat. During the day, turn your thermostat up to 78 degrees – or the highest comfortable temperature. If you have a programmable thermostat, you can set it to be warmer in the house when you are not at home.
2. At night, lower your thermostat to cool off the house.
3. Run ceiling fans only in occupied rooms.
4. Don't block supply vents or return air vents with furniture or other objects.
5. Avoid placing lamps, TVs or other heat-producing devices near your air-conditioning thermostat.
6. Close drapes and curtains to keep the sun out during the day.



Electrical Safety: Don't Look the Other Way

Whether you're working from home, learning from home or just spending more time at home, it's important to make sure your home is electronically safe, secure and efficient.

Each year, about 31,000 fires and 200 deaths involve home electrical systems.

As we mark Electrical Safety Month in May, now is a great time to pause and inspect electrical equipment and cords in your home.

"There are no second chances when it comes to the dangers of electricity," said John Medved, Director of Safety, Compliance and Security Services at REC. "It's easy to downplay the danger of an electrical hazard we see every day at home. We urge you not to do that. Take steps this month to protect yourself and your family."



What you can do **right now**:

- Inspect cords for excessive wear and replace as needed. Error on the side of caution.
- If you have any concerns, contact a licensed electrician to inspect your electrical system for potential hazards – especially if it has been more than 10 years since the last system inspection.

Electrical System Hazard **Warning Signs**:

- **Dimming or flickering lights.**
- **Sizzling or buzzing sounds.**
- **Odor of overheated plastic.**
- **Plugs that pull out of the receptacle easily.**
- **Flashes or showers of sparks.**
- **Hot switch plates or outlet covers.**

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*Based on the average residential electricity used by REC members in 2021.



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