

What Goes into Your Power Bill

Each month, you may wonder, “Why does my power bill change so much?”

Your power bill is made up of three parts:

1. Base rate (per kilowatt-hour) – This typically stays the same each month but may change by season.
2. Fuel costs (per kilowatt-hour) – This amount changes based on the cost of the fuel needed to produce the electricity you use – it can go up or go down each month
3. The amount of power you use – This is always the most significant change month-to-month and is usually connected to temperature. If it is very hot or very cold outside, you tend to use more power.

TVA and Maryville ED set the base rate for your power, which includes the cost for TVA to generate and deliver the power to Maryville ED and for Maryville ED to deliver power to each customer. TVA passes along the fuel cost based on the actual amount they spend to generate electricity each month and each customer controls how much power they use each month.

- Summer and winter power bills are typically much higher than those in the spring or fall.
- Hot and cold weather typically result in increased power usage.
- Because more power is needed, it sometimes drives up the cost of fuel to produce it.
- TVA makes both long-term and short-term generating decisions based on a goal of keeping electric costs as low as feasible for customers.

How Does Fuel Cost Impact Your Bill

Electricity is made many ways, and each way has costs that can change:

- Coal and gas plants have fuel costs that can change rapidly, but they can generate power 24 hours a day, seven days a week in any kind of weather.
- Renewable energy (hydroelectric, solar, wind) has no fuel cost, but it is only available some of the time (the sun is not always shining, wind does not always blow, and less rain impacts the availability of hydroelectric generation).
- Nuclear power has fuel costs that remain very stable and are designed to operate 24/7.
- Maryville ED gets power from TVA, which has plants that produce power from all these different sources.
- Like everyone, TVA is impacted by rising costs in this challenging economy. The TVA fuel cost adjustment charge is factored into your energy charge portion of your power bill monthly so that this cost is recovered and varies month to month.
- Affordability is important, but so is a reliable and resilient power system that can deliver the energy you need on the hottest or coldest days, day, or night. Public Power works hard to balance ensuring your power bill is low with power that is reliable.
- Take advantage of an [EnergyRight Solutions energy evaluation and assessment \(https://energyright.com/\)](https://energyright.com/), which will provide you a list of energy-saving tips you can implement to reduce your power bill.

Summer 2022 Facts

The summer heat wave is expected to continue into August, but TVA and Maryville ED remain prepared to reliably provide the energy you need for safety and comfort.

- TVA plans for higher demands during hot weather – even with the increased power needs of the area’s growing economy – and we have safety margins built into our resilient public power system.
- The hard work and dedication of thousands of public power employees at TVA and your local power company continues to reliably deliver the energy needed to keep you safe and comfortable:
- TVA successfully provided peak power demands that were much higher than normal for weekend days – 29,263 megawatts on Saturday, July 23, and 29,147 megawatts on Sunday, July 24.
- In July, TVA supplied peak power demands above 30,000 megawatts five times, including the 7th highest July peak in TVA history of 31,161 megawatts on July 20.
- In June, TVA successfully supplied five of the top 10 power demands ever experienced during the month of June.
- TVA has experienced no demand-related outages this summer.
- TVA understands the concerns about higher power bills due to increased power use and higher fuel costs.
- More heat is expected in the coming days and weeks, but your public power team is continuing to take the necessary steps to ensure your electricity remains reliable during these extreme conditions