

Rate Change to Address Rising Costs

LIKE OTHER South Carolina utilities, Tri-County Electric Cooperative is impacted by rising costs that are affecting the energy industry. Prices for critical materials and equipment and for wholesale power have risen dramatically. After years of holding our rates steady, and after exhausting every possible option to avoid this step, we have reached a point where an adjustment is necessary. Our co-op faces significant cost increases that are beyond our ability to control or absorb. To continue delivering essential services while accounting for rising costs in our industry, a rate change will take effect in March 2025.

Why is this rate change necessary?

South Carolina cooperatives purchase electricity from suppliers like Duke Energy, Santee Cooper, and the Southeastern Power Administration. Wholesale power prices from these suppliers are increasing significantly, with additional costs arising from the end of Santee Cooper's court-agreed rate freeze on December 31, 2024.

Starting in 2025, Santee Cooper customers—including Tri-County members—will begin paying unbudgeted costs that accumulated during the four-year rate freeze. These costs, totaling hundreds of millions of dollars statewide, will be combined with other planned rate increases to cover higher fuel and material expenses.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, we work hard to avoid raising rates, but these rising supply and wholesale power costs are beyond our ability to absorb.

What does this mean for you?

For the standard residential member, this adjustment will result in an average increase of **\$19.50 per month**. The exact change may vary based on your energy usage and account type.

For a commercial, industrial, or irrigation member, this adjustment will result in an average increase of about **\$25.00 per month**. The exact change may vary based on your energy usage and account type.

Detail Rate information

For detailed rate information, please visit our website at www.tri-countyelectric.net and click on the **MyEnergyOnline** link.

Programs to Help You Save

We're here to help you navigate this change. Programs like **Help My House** and **Beat the Peak** offer practical ways to improve energy efficiency and manage costs. To learn more, visit our website or call us at **803-874-1215**.

As always, we're committed to supporting our members through this transition. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Chad T. Lowder
Chief Executive Officer