

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



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LREC Electric Rate Increase

You might not give a second thought to what's behind your light switch when you flip it on. Or how the electricity that brews your morning coffee gets to your home. Unless the power goes out, we get it. For most of us, reliable, affordable electricity is a given. Why bother thinking about how electricity is generated and delivered to your home when you're busy juggling work and your kids' soccer, school, and dance lessons? It's LREC's job to do that for you. And it's also our job to ensure that the electricity keeping your shower hot, and your drinks cold, is reliable and affordable.

The cost of wholesale electricity LREC purchases and delivers to your home is the biggest impact on your monthly electric bill. It is roughly 60% of every single dollar you pay LREC. If our cost of wholesale power goes up, which is, primarily due to the increased prices of natural gas to generate electricity, your rates aren't too far behind. Unfortunately, wholesale power cost is the most expensive cost for LREC to address.

Secondly, the cost of living has increased, so does LREC's overall operations cost of doing business. These increases, like vehicles, fuel, poles, wire, impact your bill also. These costs only make up a smaller percentage of LREC's overall expenses; these costs are increasing.

With both increased cost of operations/ maintenance and wholesale power, LREC management and the board hired a third-party, Guernsey Engineering to conduct a rate study.

As a result of the rate study, LREC's board and management understand that with the increases in power cost in 2023 and the increasing cost of daily operations. A rate increase is needed to keep your co-op financially stable and continue to provide reliable service.

The rate change will go into affect in January 2023. The residential service availability fee on your bill will change from \$32.50 to the new rate of \$42.50. You will also notice the new rate for kWh usage will come down slightly as all kWh will cost \$.0792. The average member on our system used roughly 1,180 kWh a month. Below is a chart showing the difference between the current rate and the new rate.

New Residential Rates

	Current	New Rates
Service Availability	\$32.50	\$42.50
Energy Charge per kWh	\$0.08224	\$0.0792
PCA	-0.00795 / kWh	0 / kWh

Current Breakdown of Charges		
Service Availability	\$32.50	
Energy Charge 1,180 kWh @ 0.08224	\$97.04	
PCA 1,180 kWh @ -0.007945	-\$9.38	
Total	\$120.16	
New Rates Breakdown of Charges		
Service Availability		\$42.50
Energy Charge 1,180 kWh @ 0.0792		\$93.46
PCA 1,180 kWh @ 0.000		\$0.00
Total		\$135.96

Rates & PCA continues on next page ►

PCA / Rates

What is Power Cost Adjustment? Rather than generating our own power, LREC purchases the power at wholesale cost and delivers it safely to members' homes and businesses. The PCA is a separate line item on each bill that reflects the increases and decreases of the power we purchase from Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. (AECI).

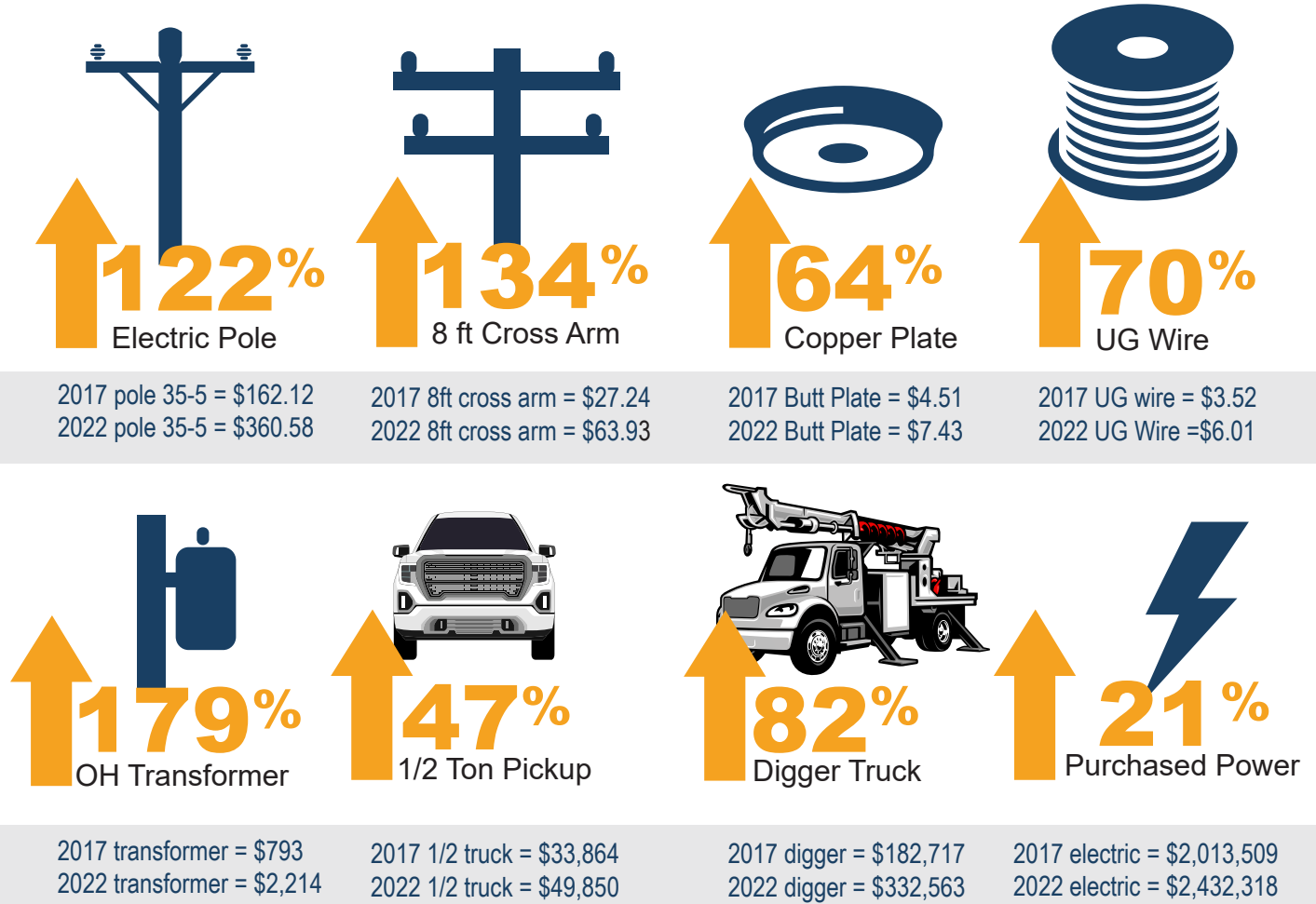
The fluctuation in the PCA is caused by changes in the cost of fuel for electric generation, mainly natural gas. Last summer, natural gas costs were around \$3-\$4/MMBTU — they currently sit at \$7-\$8/MMBTU. A portion of LREC's cost of power is already included in the energy charge, or (kWh) charge. When the cost of power is greater than the amount included in the energy charge, the PCA reflects that increase. When

the cost of power purchased is less, the PCA appears as a credit on electric bills, which LREC has had a credit for the last three years.

Starting in January, our members will no longer see a credit on the PCA line on your bill. This will move back to a zero PCA cost, we are no longer able to pass along the credit we were receiving on our energy cost due to the increased cost of natural gas. The electric industry has experienced record highs in the cost of generating electricity. These increases are caused mainly by the record high natural gas prices but are also believed to be results of the international crisis in Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 winter storm that caused the increase demand for natural gas, inflation, and government regulations.

LREC continually works with AECI & KAMO to ensure our rates remain affordable and can cover our costs to bring reliable electricity to all our members.

Rates of Inflation on LREC Cost 2017 Prices vs 2022 Prices



ON CO-OP LINES Sasquatch RV Park



Carroll and Patricia Germany started Green Country Gardens in 1972, growing plants successfully for 49 years before deciding to sell the nursery. The buyer for their nursery backed out last minute, basically putting Green Country Gardens out of business, with no plants growing to sell for the season.

Carroll and his wife then listed the greenhouses for sale and were going to close up shop; when the last individual was working on taking down the greenhouse, asked Carroll what do you see you have here with this land?

“A mess,” said Carroll. Not knowing they had a ready-made RV park. Water lines everywhere, electricity, sizeable greenhouse pads for travel trailers, and excellent locations right off the highway between Hulbert and Tahlequah. This generated Carroll’s interest, and after some time, visiting other RV Parks in the area and doing plenty of research. They decided to start Sasquatch RV Park.

“Our property didn’t sell, and here we are, 80 years old, starting a new business. Yes, we were nervous. We thought we knew how it would go, but we have run into some things and have made some mistakes, but we are learning the RV Park Business,” said Patricia.

“We are getting several calls, and when you start this type of business, you have to be friendly and kind to your guests. This is a people business. We listen to our guests; we are on the property everyday, working or just down the road if anything is needed. We recently added hiking trails and are working on adding a shower and laundry room for our guests. We have missed a few guests not having these amenities,” added Carroll.

Carroll has always been a hard worker with his nursery business; he did all the plumbing himself and helped the electrician build the RV spots, as well as keeping the property clean.

“I had a great experience with your LREC staking tech and construction crew setting a new pole and transformer and the outdoor wifi system. We have several guests who use the park Wifi. Lake Region has always been great to work with throughout my years in the plant business and now the RV park,” said Carroll.

The Germanys keep the park very clean and there is a great story and history with the property, if you need a place to stay and may be interested in some unexplainable events, you need to visit the Germanys at Sasquatch RV Park.

Carroll added, “DoorDash does make food deliveries for guests, and Tahlequah is 10 mins from the park, we are out of town where you can get the rural peace and quite and still get some luxuries of town.”

Carroll and his wife Patricia would love to have you visit their new RV Park at 13760 Highway 51 outside of Tahlequah. Prices and booking can be made online at www.sasquatchrvpark.net

LREC Veterans Honored

Veterans Day is this Month, and millions of Americans pay their respects yearly on this national holiday. LREC would like to thank those who served our country and now serve the co-op members. LREC employs several veterans, and LREC would like to honor them and show our appreciation. *Left to right:* Ben McCollum, Jon Enkey, Larry Setters, and Michael Snyman. (not pictured) Daniel Nichols and Jeff Randleman



The Lowdown on Electrified Lawn Equipment



Lawn mowers and leaf blowers are typically noisy and smelly. Without catalytic converters to reduce emissions and powered by lower-quality fuel.

An electric lawn mower with a power cord is a thing of the past, and battery-powered electric mowers are more powerful than ever. Electric mowers are light, quiet,

and, typically with a push-button design, easier to start than their ICE counterparts. And range anxiety is not a concern in the backyard.

The lawn and garden industry has gone electric faster than the car industry. In 2020, electric mowers, leaf blowers, and other electric equipment accounted for 17% of the market in the US, according to the market research group.

If you are interested in electrifying your yard equipment, watch Black Friday/end of year sales, and here are three models to compare.

EGO Power Plus offers a wide, 21-inch cutting platform and 56-volt battery that works with EGO's entire line of yard power tools.

Ryobi One Plus HP 18-volt Brushless is compact and weighs just 34.5 pounds. machine uses Ryobi's standard 18-volt rechargeable batteries too. They're the same lithium-ion power packs that the company uses in its popular line of home power tools.

Hart 40-Volt Cordless Brushless has a 20-inch cutting width and weighs 52-pound. It isn't self-propelled, so pushing the mower uphill needs to be taken into consideration alongside its low price. It has a pair of 40-volt batteries and charger are compatible with Hart's lineup of power tools.

Weatherstripping can help seal air leaks around doors and windows



Save up to \$85 per year heating cost.

Windows, doors and attic access points can be responsible for up to 25% of heat loss in winter. To reduce leakage and save energy on your electric bill, seal your windows and doors with weatherstripping, caulk, foam, or door sweeps.

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone

**800-364-LREC or
 918-772-2526**

Website:

www.lrecok.coop
www.lakeregionfiber.com

Locations

Hulbert, Wagoner &
 Tahlequah, OK.

Main Office Address

P.O. Box 127
 Hulbert, OK 74441

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The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.

