



Line Items

The Official
Newsletter
Of Excelsior EMC

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HIGH FUEL COSTS BRING HIGHER ELECTRIC BILLS

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Excelsior EMC members receive power for what it costs us to deliver it to them. We strive to deliver low-cost energy to our members by keeping overheads low and working to purchase wholesale energy at the lowest price. When our wholesale energy price increases, the cost of power for our members increases as well.

As you know from filling your gas tank at the pump, the cost of fuel has increased significantly over the past few months. The unprecedented increase in the cost of natural gas (it has nearly tripled over the past year) has significantly driven up power generation costs. As reported in the news, several factors are contributing to the increased natural gas prices: inflation, supply chain issues, workforce shortages, and the war in Ukraine.

Due to these high fuel costs to generate power, Excelsior EMC members will see increased energy charges in their electric bills. The cost increase will be reflected in the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) on our members' power bills. The WPCA is the cost per kWh to purchase power that Excelsior EMC needs to meet the electricity demands of all our members. The additional amount each member pays each month will vary based on how much electricity is used.

We understand that higher energy charges are never welcomed news. We sincerely hope that the fuel costs will return to normal soon and that we can lower our energy charges to what our members are accustomed to seeing. As always, we will strive to do our very best at providing you with reliable and affordable electricity.

CHANGE IN NATURAL GAS PRICES



source: tradingeconomics.com

(MMBtu is the unit of measure for natural gas - MMBtu = 1,000,000 British Thermal Units)

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BRONSON BRAGDON
Editor

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When Your Power is Off – Call (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123

When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

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Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
President/CEO

Increased Power Cost and What to Do

Nationwide and globally, wholesale power costs have risen sharply. In great part it is because of the significant rise in natural gas prices for fuel that generates a substantial portion of the nation's electricity.

Unfortunately, The Energy Information Administration predicts that high prices will likely remain prevalent this year and next.

This is not good news for anyone. It is no surprise that we are all seeing higher prices for everything from gas to eggs. In addition to elevated power costs, Excelsior EMC is also paying more for transformers, poles, wire, meters, and everything else that it takes to serve our members. But, despite it all, we are working hard to control costs where we can.

What can you do? Every kWh you purchase adds to your bill. The simplest way to reduce the impact of the rising costs is to **use less**. In this case, conservation is king. There are many ways to do this without reducing comfort. Consider timers for water heaters and electronic thermostats to control your HVAC. You can also cut power to electronics when they are not in use by installing smart power strips. Check out the energy saver guide (<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver-guide-tips-saving-money-and-energy-home>) for tips on reducing energy and cost. Each family is different, but a few habit changes can truly make a difference.

Another way to avoid spiking bills is to adopt our **levelized billing** option. Your bill will be based on the average amount of your previous twelve-month history. Payments can be made automatically from your bank account, and they will be close to the same amount each month, so it's easier to budget. Contact our office to enroll.

Don't forget to take advantage of the **notifications** that are available through our website or app. These notifications can alert you if your energy use exceeds your limit. These reminders help you to make changes before you get your bill. They can also remind you when your payment is due.

We are driven to provide the most affordable and reliable electricity that we can. It is our mission every day, and it will remain in the forefront as we strive to serve you.



Every Member Counts

METER SOCKET TRANSFER SWITCHES

June 1st marked the start of the Atlantic hurricane season. While Excelsior EMC would prefer not to experience any more hurricanes, sadly we can only make preparations to lessen the effects if another one is steered our way. You can make preparations also. Meter socket transfer switches are an approved method of installing back-up generation at our members' homes. This type of transfer switch will prevent back feeding onto Excelsior EMC power lines when a generator is in use. These switches also allow the homeowner to use anything in their electrical panel up to the capacity of their generator, thus eliminating the need to run multiple extension cords.

Here is some more information about these devices:

- Meter socket transfer switches are available from online retailers and at electrical supply stores, Excelsior EMC does not sell these devices.
- Currently, GenerLink is the only brand of this type of device which is allowed on Excelsior EMC's system.
- These devices are limited to use with a generator of 10 kW or less and can only be used on a 200-amp meter base.
- The GenerLink devices range in price from approximately \$700 to \$1200, depending on the model.
- Once purchased, our members should contact Excelsior EMC to schedule a day and time to have it installed.
- After installation, a \$90 Trip Fee will be added to your account and will show up on your next month's bill.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LEVELIZED BILLING



For the family that likes to live on a budget, Excelsior EMC offers the Levelized Billing Program. This billing option guards against large fluctuations in monthly electric bills that can occur during the summer and winter months. It does so by using a rolling average. Therefore, your monthly bill will change only slightly from month to month. This takes away the shock of receiving an abnormally high electric bill. Give us a call at 912-685-2115 or 912-764-2123 to enroll today!

HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity

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