

Electric Bills: Why Do They Rise?

For updates on Eversource Energy's rate case, refer to Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) Docket 20-01-01 at <https://portal.ct.gov/pura>



What is the Process to Increase Utility Rates in Connecticut?

Electricity distribution companies file specific data about their costs and operations with state regulators. They apply to increase different rates, working with regulators to determine how to pass their costs on to you. PURA regulators approve increases that go into effect every six months, on January 1 and July 1. Rates that are temporarily reduced or halted are not eliminated; they will simply be paid in the future.



What Drove My Bill Higher Recently?

Consumers' electricity bills rose in July 2020 due to a combination of increased usage and higher charges. Though Eversource's standard service rate went down July 1, 2020, four specific delivery charges went up. Those are largely calculated by price times kWh (kilowatt-hour); so when both factors rise, so does the bill.

PURA approved increases for four charges effective July 1, 2020.

- *Revenue Decoupling Mechanism (RDM)*, compensating for unexpectedly low energy use in 2019
- *Transmission Adjustment Clause (TAC)*, what Eversource pays for energy
- Non-Bypassable Federally Mandated Congestion Charge (NBFMCC), included in "General Service Charge" on your bill
- Electric System Improvements Tracker (ESI), dedicated to grid upgrades and investments



In response to ratepayer outcry, PURA ordered Eversource to reinstate the July 30, 2020 rates no later than August 7. Note that a customer's billing cycle ends the day Eversource personnel reads the consumer's electricity meter. Check your energy use – cutting back will lower your next bill.



What Can I Do to Lower My Bill and Get Help Paying It Down?

Eversource bills have two sections – *usage* (electricity you use in your home; AC, TV, lights, stove, etc.); and *delivery* (how much it costs them to bring electricity to you). Some delivery charges are determined by use.

Ratepayers who need immediate relief should call Eversource and tell them you're having trouble with your bill. Ask to be coded "hardship," and ask for a reasonable payment plan.

Call 211 to apply for assistance through a Community Action Agency. You can also apply for grants from Operation Fuel online at operationfuel.org/gethelp

Want to share your story with regulators? Contact pura.info@ct.gov