



Monthly Newsletter of Emerald People's Utility District

June 2009

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## Rate Increase

After review of many proposals by our Citizens Advisory Committee on Rates, staff, and the public, the EPUD Board adopted an average 6.4% rate increase effective with bills issued on and after June 8, 2009. The increase is split between a 5% Energy Charge increase and a flat \$2.50/month Customer Charge increase. The new rates will cost the average residential Customer-Owner an additional \$7 per month.

### Why are rates increasing?

Multiple factors are behind the rate increase but the bottom line is that as the regional demand for power rises, the COST of power rises. Here are a few of the factors at play:

- As the population of our region grows, so does the cost of providing power. New generating facilities, needed to produce additional power, cost 130% more to build today than they did in 2000.
- The regional demand for electricity will continue to increase as much as 30% by 2030, with a higher percentage forecasted for Lane County.
- Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is forecasting a 9-20% rate increase in 2009, to cover some of these new costs, along with the cost of fish restoration.
- Buying power from BPA is approximately 40% of EPUD's total annual cost. When BPA raises rates, EPUD must also raise rates.
- The cost of maintaining our District's distribution facilities is greatly increasing due to increased costs for everything from labor to building materials to postage. EPUD's industrial load has also declined sharply due to the economic downturn. We are forecasting a \$600,000 budget shortfall.



## Additional Resources

Need more information on the rate increase? Visit our rate update site at [www.epud.org/RateUpdate.aspx](http://www.epud.org/RateUpdate.aspx) or call 746-1583.



Interested in ways to reduce your electricity bill? Visit our high bill resolution center at [www.epud.org/highbillres.aspx](http://www.epud.org/highbillres.aspx), or call 746-1583.



### The bottom line...

EPUD must raise rates to cope with these issues and remain a solvent company. We take this rate increase very seriously, and understand the potential impact it may have on our Customer-Owners. We reviewed several possible proposals that would allow the utility to keep pace with rising costs, and in the end believe we chose the best option for our District. As a nonprofit public power entity, EPUD provides power to our Customer-Owners at cost. We raise rates only when necessary to cover the cost of providing power.

## Rate Adjustment Numbers Before and After June 2009

### Typical Residential Electric Service

**BEFORE** June 8, 2009:

Customer Charge ..... \$7.50  
 Energy Charge ..... 3.26¢/kWh  
 Distribution Charge ..... 3.56¢/kWh  
 Total kWh Charge ..... 6.82¢/kWh

**AFTER** June 8, 2009:

Customer Charge ..... \$10.00  
 \*kWh Usage Charge ..... 7.16¢/kWh  
 Total kWh Charge ..... 7.16¢/ kWh

\*Effective with this rate change, the Energy and Distribution charges have been combined into a kWh Usage Charge

**Note:** Equal Payment amounts will be adjusted accordingly.  
**Note:** For ways to reduce your bill, visit [www.epud.org](http://www.epud.org).



**Numbers for Commercial/Industrial Services, see back**

# Definitions

**Customer Charge:** A fixed charge that covers a portion of EPUD costs occurring regardless of energy use. These costs are shared by all customers and include a portion of the cost of providing power (from the substation to the meter), meter reading, billing, repayment of long-term debt, communications, and general administration.

**kWh Usage Charge** (previously split into two charges, Distribution and Energy): Now combined to make the bill easier to understand, this is EPUD's actual cost to buy power from BPA as well as the actual cost of delivering power to your home. This includes the cost of maintenance on lines and substations, tree trimming, and other expenses.

# Board of Directors

- Penny Jordan, President**  
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- Katherine Schacht**  
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- Bill Tanner**  
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Board meetings are 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays at noon, and are open to the public. Join us!

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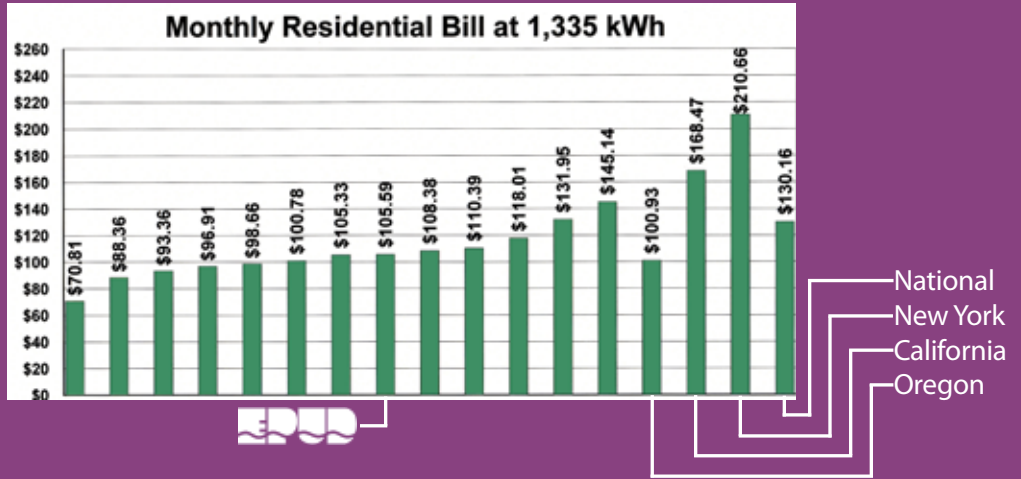
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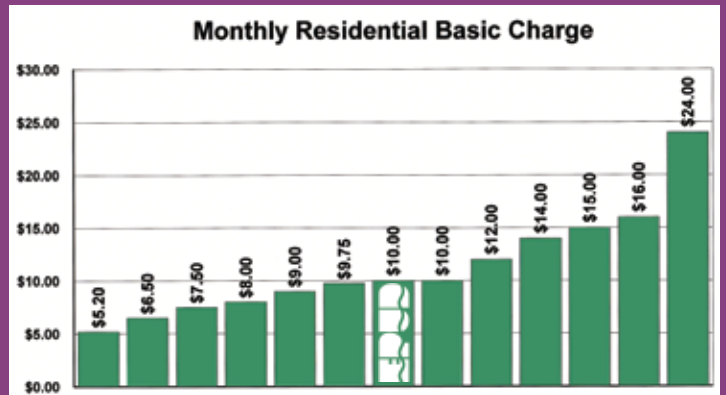
# How We Compare

Ever wonder how EPUD's electric rates compare to others near and far?

EPUD rates in comparison to other local utilities, and averages of other states and the nation:



EPUD's Customer Charge in comparison to other local utilities:



# Protect Yourself from "Phishing"

On April 30, a phishing email was sent to some EPUD.net customers, instructing them to reply back with their email address and password or risk having their account deleted from our database. This email is NOT valid and should NOT be responded to in any way. EPUD never asks for any personal information or account passwords through email. If you ever receive an email from EPUD asking for personal information, do not respond. If you are ever in doubt regarding the validity of a message you receive, call us at 746-1583. Phishing is the term coined for Internet scammers who imitate legitimate companies in emails to entice people to share user names, passwords, account information or credit card numbers. Never give out your personal information via email. For routine payments, EPUD provides various secure and convenient payment options. For more information, call 746-1583.



# Rate Adjustment Numbers (Continued)

## Typical Under-50 kWh Electric Service BEFORE June 8, 2009:

Customer Charge .....	\$7.50
Energy Charge .....	3.26¢/kWh
Distribution Charge .....	4.13¢/kWh
Total kWh Charge .....	7.39¢/kWh

## AFTER June 8, 2009:

Customer Charge .....	\$10.00
*kWh usage Charge .....	7.7¢/kWh
Total kWh Charge .....	7.7¢/kWh

## Typical Over-50 kWh Electric Service BEFORE June 8, 2009:

Customer Charge .....	\$28.00
Demand Charge .....	3.39¢/kWh
Energy Charge .....	2.27¢/kWh
Distribution Charge .....	3.63¢/kWh
Total kWh Charge .....	5.9¢/kWh

## AFTER June 8, 2009:

Customer Charge .....	\$30.50
Demand Charge .....	3.72¢/kWh
*kWh usage Charge .....	6.14¢/kWh
Total kWh Charge .....	6.14¢/kWh



\*Effective with this rate change, the Energy and Distribution charges have been combined into a kWh usage charge