

Watt's New

February 2023



Vernon Electric Cooperative

"Information for our member-owners."

Monthly Co-op



January Trivia:

How many members does Vernon Electric Cooperative serve?

Answer: 9,897 members

February Trivia:

How many meters does Vernon Electric Cooperative provide power to?

Hint: Since one member may have multiple meters, we provide power to a greater number of meters than members.

(See next month's newsletter for answer.)

Inflation Affecting Members' Electric Rates

In today's modern, connected world, having a source of safe, reliable and affordable electricity is crucial. That's what Vernon Electric Cooperative strives to deliver to you all day, every day. We're proud of our efforts to serve your needs with reliable and competitively priced electricity, responsive member service, and proactive and necessary investments in electric distribution facilities, all while maintaining the financial ability to retire member capital credits (give money back to co-op members) on a regular basis.

The staff and board have been successful in keeping your electricity rates flat for the past four years. Unfortunately, as the cost for line equipment continues to skyrocket and wholesale power costs rise, we were forced to make a **rate change as of January 1, 2023**. To maintain sound financial metrics and meet the requirements of our lenders, we will need to increase revenue by 3.7% in 2023.

Due to the significant cost of materials, raising the base Facility Charge for each rate class was the fairest way to meet the needs of the budget. The monthly

Facility Charge covers your share of expenses to purchase, build and maintain power lines, substations and equipment to ensure the availability of power on your property. All members pay this basic electric charge for each electric account each month, regardless of energy used, therefore sharing the cost of the electric system.

The single-phase residential rate class will see an increase of \$6.00 per month beginning with the bill received in February. For a residential consumer using an average of 1,000 kWh of energy, the average annual increase is 3.94% which is well below this past years' inflation of over 8%.

Since you are a consumer-member of this cooperative, your concerns always are our main focus. We certainly appreciate your business and strive to be responsive to your need for safe, reliable and affordable electric service. As energy prices rise, it's increasingly important to be as energy efficient as possible. Visit our website for ideas on how to save, and be sure to take advantage of energy efficiency rebates.

New Year Brings New Pricing for Evergreen



The pricing for our Evergreen program was updated on January 1, 2023. Members can now purchase each 100 kilowatt-hour (kWh) block for \$0.65. The previous price was \$1.00 per block.

Since 1998, Evergreen has been a voluntary green power program that supports more renewable energy resources within Dairyland Power Cooperative's generation portfolio. Dairyland Power is the wholesale power provider for 24 electric cooperatives – including Vernon Electric – in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

We know many of our members want to support more renewable energy. However, to own their own system, such as solar or small wind, may not be feasible either due to cost, maintenance, property restrictions or another reason. Evergreen is an easy and budget-friendly way for any cooperative member to "be green".

Learn more about our Evergreen program and sign up at www.vernonelectric.org/evergreen.

Farmland For Lease

Vernon Electric Cooperative is accepting bids to lease farmland located at the Vernon Electric headquarters facility in Westby. Approximately 20 acres of tillable farmland is available for a three-year lease. Those interested may submit sealed bids to Vernon Electric no later than 10 a.m. February 14, 2023. All bids will be opened at noon that same day. For complete details and to obtain the required forms, visit www.vernonelectric.org/forms or contact our office.

New Rate Schedule

Effective January 1, 2023

Residential and Small Commercial - Single-Phase Service

Facility Charge	\$43.50/month
Additional Facility Charge over 25 kVA transformer	50 cents/kVA
Summer (June, July, August)	
First 1,500 kWh	12.6 cents/kWh
Excess	12.1 cents/kWh
Winter	
First 1,500 kWh	11.1 cents/kWh
Excess	10.6 cents/kWh

Readstown & Four-Plex Units

Facility Charge	\$35.75/month
Additional Facility Charge over 25 kVA transformer	50 cents/kVA
Summer (June, July, August)	
First 1,500 kWh	12.6 cents/kWh
Excess	12.1 cents/kWh
Winter	
First 1,500 kWh	11.1 cents/kWh
Excess	10.6 cents/kWh

Three-Phase Rate

Facility Charge	\$77.50/month
Transformer Charge over 35 kVA capacity	50 cents/kVA
Energy Charge	
Summer (June, July, August)	
First 5,000 kWh	11.5 cents/kWh
Excess	11.0 cents/kWh
Winter	
First 5,000 kWh	10.0 cents/kWh
Excess	9.5 cents/kWh

Peak Alert Rate - Over 50 kW Demand

Facility Charge Three-Phase	\$115.00/month
Facility Charge Primary Metered	\$115.00/month
Facility Charge Single-Phase	\$85.00/month
Transformer Charge over 50 kVA capacity	50 cents/kVA
Seasonal Peak Period Demand Charge	
Summer	\$63.80 per kW/yr
Winter	\$29.00 per kW/yr

Maximum Demand Charge	\$9.50 per kW/mo
Reactive Demand Charge	25¢/kVAR/mo
Energy Charge	
First 25,000 kWh	5.8 cents/kWh
Excess	5.5 cents/kWh

Uncontrolled Electric Heat

Facility Charge	\$5.00/month
Energy Charge	
Summer (June, July, August)	12.1 cents/kWh
Winter	10.6 cents/kWh

Dual Fuel Heating

Facility Charge	\$5.00/month
Energy Charge	
October-May (Automatic backup)	6.7 cents/kWh
October-May (Manual backup) (CLOSED)	7.9 cents/kWh
June-September	10.4 cents/kWh

Storage Heating

The Storage Heat Rate is controlled for a total of 14 hours per day 365 days per year (except weekends & holidays).

Facility Charge	\$5.00/month
Energy Charge	
October-May	5.7 cents/kWh
June-September	10.4 cents/kWh

Natural Air Grain Drying - Interruptible

Facility Charge Single-Phase	\$43.50/month
Facility Charge Three-Phase	\$77.50/month
Sub-metered	\$9.00/month
Meter Loop only (no new transformer)	\$12.00/month
Transformer Charge over 35 kVA	50 cents/kVA
Energy Charge	9.5 cents/kWh

Idle Service

Facility Charge	\$32.63/month
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Yard Light

100 Watt HPS (unmetered)	\$9.25/month
100 Watt HPS (metered)	\$6.50/month

Area Food Pantries Benefit From \$9,000 Donation

Vernon Electric donated a total of \$9,000 to nine local food pantries in December. Each of the food pantries received a \$1,000 donation to be used to serve people in need.

The donations are from Vernon Electric's Federated Youth Foundation Fund. This Foundation has been set up to accumulate funds forfeited by members of the Co-op who could not be found to disperse their Capital Credits. These unclaimed funds can only be used for charitable and education purposes. Our Board of Directors selected these nine area food pantries to benefit from the Fund:

- Bethel Butikk Food Pantry in Westby
 - Cashton Cupboard & Closet
 - Good Samaritan Food Pantry in Hillsboro
 - La Farge Free Methodist Church Food Pantry
 - Living Faith Food Pantry in Viroqua
- New Hope Food Pantry in De Soto
 - Stoddard Community Food Pantry
 - Trinity United Church of Christ Food Pantry in La Crosse
 - Viola Food Pantry



Vernon Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors and CEO/General Manager present donations to nine local food pantries. Represented in the photo are Cashton Cupboard & Closet, La Farge Free Methodist Church Food Pantry, Living Faith Food Pantry, Trinity United Church of Christ Food Pantry and Viola Food Pantry.



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The information in this newsletter has been prepared for you by Courtney Moser, communications specialist. Comments or questions regarding information contained here should be directed to:
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