

Why is the Cost of Electricity Rising?

Question:

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Answer:

Higher Fuel Costs – Fuel used to generate electricity (natural gas and coal) is getting more expensive. Unfair pricing practices by railroads can make the cost of shipping coal more expensive than the coal itself.

Rising Demand – Rapid system growth causes the necessity of our power supplier (Tri-State Generation & Transmission) to build new generating facilities. Until there are new baseload generating facilities Tri-State G & T will be forced to purchase expensive power on the open market to meet peak loads.

Higher Cost Of Doing Business – Clearly, one dollar today does not purchase the same amount of any commodity as it did just five years ago. A perfect example of this is the cost of 40 foot wooden poles which are routinely used by your cooperative in its daily operation. In 2002 this product cost us \$196.00 per pole. Today, the same product costs \$283.00, an increase of 44 %!

Regulations – Government regulations often require costly changes for compliance.

What are co-ops doing about it?

Your electric cooperative is working hard to make a difference.

Increasing Supply – Cooperatives are working together to increase electric supply by building modern, environmentally sound power plants.

Improving Efficiency – Cooperatives are investing in new technology to improve efficiency and reliability.

Using New Resources – Cooperatives are using alternative energy options whenever they are cost-effective.

What can consumers do about it?

You have the power to make a difference.



Change your light bulbs to make your home more energy-efficient. Compact fluorescents are 75 percent more energy-efficient than conventional bulbs.

Install a programmable thermostat to make your home more energy-efficient. About half of your electric bill is spent heating and cooling your home.

Turn your thermostat down at night and when you're away to make your home more energy-efficient.

windows and doors energy-efficient. A much as one-third



Caulk or weather strip to make your home more typical home can lose as of its heat through leaks.

Add more make your home home can lose as much as one-third of its energy through a poorly insulated roof or walls.

insulation to your attic to more energy-efficient. Your

Together We Have the Power to Make a Difference