

WHAT CAN I DO?

Unleash your power, slash your electric bill.

The first step toward lowering your electric bill is to know how much electricity you're using. In other words, Know Your Power!

Below are simple steps to help lower your electric bill and minimize the impact of a rate increase.

Start with SmartHub

If you haven't already, sign up for SmartHub. It is an excellent tool for managing energy usage to help you achieve both energy savings and cost savings! Access SmartHub through Consolidated's website at consolidated.coop or download the Android or iOS version through your app store.

Use less energy

Using less energy reduces your bill and your impact on the environment. Your co-op's energy advisor, Roger Keller, is available with appropriate solutions for your energy-related questions. Visit www.consolidated.coop, or call Roger at 419-949-2929.

Use your voice

Have a conversation with your legislators. Let your elected officials know how proposed legislation will impact you. Visit www.Action.coop, or join Consolidated's Member Advisory Committee (MAC). MAC helps to obtain a beneficial two-way communication exchange between the cooperative and you, our members.

Help us reduce costs

When you help Consolidated Cooperative reduce expenses, you help us minimize future increases. Sign up for eBill online billing or the budget payment plan. For more information, visit www.consolidated.coop.

Lower wholesale power costs

Take advantage of our current rebates, load-control programs, and other opportunities for you to make a difference by calling us at 800-421-5863.

THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

You are a member of your cooperative! Consolidated Cooperative serves the energy needs of over 17,000 homes and businesses in eight counties of north central Ohio. The co-op is committed to providing quality products and services to members and the community.

Consolidated offers not only electric, but also fiber internet, and natural and propane gas.

Our Mission

Consolidated Cooperative improves the quality of life of our members and communities by providing high-value energy and telecommunication services (utility services) in environmentally responsible ways.

We have two locations to serve you:

Consolidated Cooperative
5255 State Route 95
P.O. Box 111
Mt. Gilead, OH 43338

4993 SR 521
Delaware, OH 43015

800-421-5863
consolidated.coop



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

7-2020

UNDERSTANDING RATE INCREASES



Consolidated is raising its electric rates beginning September 1, 2020. Members will start to see the increase in their October bills.

The information in this brochure will help answer many of your questions. As always, you are welcome to contact us with your questions at 800-421-5863.

Consolidated Exists to Make Your Life Better, Not to Make a Profit

We regularly examine costs to determine if our current rates are likely to cover what we expect our upcoming expenses will be. After a careful review, Consolidated's management and board of trustees have determined that rates should increase just over 4%, on average.

When it comes to deciding on how much rates will rise, Consolidated uses financial tools and analyses common to electric cooperatives and other utilities to help us arrive at the best possible solutions for the co-op and its members. We will always keep our rates as reasonable as possible, without sacrificing safety, reliability, and service.

Remember: we have a long history of returning to you, our consumer-members, any revenue we collect that exceeds our actual costs. We call them "capital credits," and you may recall seeing a refund with that label on one of your bills each year.

Visit our rate increase portal
consolidated.coop/rate-increase

Contact information:
800-421-5863
service@consolidated.coop

The Main Reasons Your Electric Rates are Increasing

The main elements contributing to the high standard of services, products, and reliability that you've come to expect from Consolidated include:

1. Keeping your lights on (our track record is excellent). Over the last five years, you have experienced, on average, only three outages every two years, each lasting just over one hour. Those averages have been diminishing consistently for many, many years.
2. Keeping our electric grid secure. It takes a sizeable investment to maintain a network that is safe and reliable. The co-op maintains more than a thousand miles of power lines. If we don't stay out in front of vegetation management and other maintenance tasks, the grid becomes compromised, and costs can escalate quickly.
3. Keeping our commitment to you and your communities. A vibrant region where people want to live helps to keep electric rates low because more people share in the costs. Our plan to bring high-speed internet to every member contributes to your quality of life and opens rural areas to many exciting opportunities; however, we are working hard to make sure that those investments are paid back by those who use the services.

What is Consolidated Cooperative doing to help control costs?

- Your cooperative is diligent about containing costs to deliver electric service that is affordable, reliable, and safe. We work actively with the organization that generates our electricity, not only to keep our wholesale rates reasonable and reliability high, but also to accompany your voice in Columbus, Ohio, and Washington, DC, to make sure other interests do not unfairly burden your cost of power.
- Several years ago, we invested in a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. SCADA not only helps us avoid outages, restore power quickly and effectively when outages do happen, it also helps to control the cost of the power we purchase by managing our loads during high-demand periods.

- The fiber-optic network we began installing a decade ago not only provides a launching point for our fiber Internet services to our members, but it has been helping us all along manage our power lines and other systems to minimize the costs of delivering your power while keeping our service reliable.
- We're doing our part to be active in and to encourage vibrant communities. More people living and working in our area means more members sharing in the costs of bringing electric power to our communities.

How will this latest increase affect my bill?

An average residential member who uses 1,300 kWh per month will see an approximate increase of just over 4 % reflected in their electric bills beginning in October. If your usage is more or less than this average, that percentage will vary.

What are distribution services?

We buy our wholesale power generation from Buckeye Power, a cooperative of which Consolidated is one of many member-owners. Buckeye generates the power and arranges for it to be delivered to Consolidated's substations in and around our communities. Consolidated then "distributes" the power to you. Your monthly bill for these "distribution" services includes a flat-rate charge and a charge for each unit of energy (kWh) you use that month.

What does the monthly, flat-rate service charge include?

Consolidated Cooperative's monthly service charge covers your share of the cooperative's costs to own and maintain power lines, substations, and other systems. It doesn't matter how much or how little electricity you use; having as much power as you need at your fingertips at every moment has a cost. All members pay a monthly service charge for each electric account in their name.