

## WHY IS MY BILL SO HIGH?



Here are five common reasons for high bills and some easy changes you can make to control your electricity use and save money.

**1. Weather:** Half your home's energy costs come from heating and cooling. You can't control the weather, but you can control your thermostat. Expect a 3-5% increase in energy use for every degree you set the thermostat lower in the summer and higher in the winter.

**PRO TIP:** Install a programmable thermostat to control your home's temperature and lower your bill. We offer rebates of up to \$75 per device to help.

**2. Longer Billing Cycle:** Your bill might be higher if there were more days than average in the billing cycle. **PRO TIP:** Refer to the "Service Period" on your bill for the length of your billing cycle. If it is more than 30 days, it will be higher than average.

**3. New Electric Loads:** The most common types of electric loads that cause bill increases are as follows:

- Heat tape
- Holiday lights - indoor and outdoor
- Heated gutters
- Heated floors and walkways
- Space heaters
- Oxygen condensers and air purifiers
- Recirculating instant hot water pump
- Sump pumps
- Air exchanger fans
- RV/camper hookup
- Grow lights and greenhouses
- Hot tubs

**PRO TIP:** Be aware of the cost of these extra loads and put them on programmable timers to turn them on and off automatically as needed. We offer rebates of \$25 per device to help!

**4. A Full House:** During times of higher occupancy and activity, such as holidays and school vacations, your energy use can be higher than normal. **PRO TIP:** Review your use patterns by logging in to your SmartHub account, clicking My Usage, and then Usage Explorer.



## TRY LED LIGHTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

LEDs are ideal for tree and holiday lighting since they are brighter, last 10x longer, use 80% less energy, and reduce the risk of fires.

**5. Peak Time Energy Use:** LPEA charges a Peak Power Charge for the one hour per month when you use the most electricity from 4 - 9 p.m. Reduce energy use during these hours, like starting your dishwasher and clothes dryer after 9 p.m. **PRO TIP:** Most of LPEA's residential members would save by switching to LPEA's Time-of-Use Rate. Call us to get a free rate comparison at (970) 247-5786.

**6. Audit:** If you really want to get to the bottom of your energy use and take steps to improve your energy efficiency, the best thing to do is schedule a professional energy audit. **PRO TIP:** Contact 4CORE to schedule an audit at (970) 259-1916 and check out LPEA's energy audit rebates.

Learn about our rebates at [lpea.coop/rebates](https://lpea.coop/rebates) and get more saving tips at [lpea.coop/high-bills](https://lpea.coop/high-bills)

## POWER IT FORWARD WITH LPEA'S GIVING TREE

Donate and help your neighbors keep the lights on this holiday season.

1. Venmo us @GivingTree\_LPEA or scan the QR code here -->
2. Call us at (970) 247-5786
3. Drop off your donation at our office in Durango or Pagosa Springs.

Donations will be accepted through January 31st, 2023.



## UPDATE: LPEA'S FUTURE POWER SUPPLY

You may be wondering what happened with LPEA's bid to secure more flexibility in our power supply moving forward. In short, there has been some recent progress in proceedings but we are still waiting on a final ruling.

On April 28, 2022, LPEA and our power provider Tri-State, together with two other electric cooperatives, filed a settlement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which would allow LPEA to secure 50% of our power from Tri-State and 50% from other sources. This agreement represents an innovative adjustment to an outdated power-supply model. All parties to the settlement agreement

are in lockstep, and we hope that FERC will recognize this landmark collaboration by approving it. While the case is progressing, we are still awaiting a final decision, and the process has taken much longer than anticipated.

We remain hopeful that the settlement will be approved within 2022, and that we can move forward with new power supply contracts to power our communities with reliable, affordable, and carbon-free electricity. We will keep you posted with any further updates on this matter.

**For more visit [lpea.coop/powersupply](https://lpea.coop/powersupply)**

## LPEA STATEMENT: HESPERUS SOLAR PROJECT

You may have heard about the large solar project being proposed south of Hesperus. The proposed project is roughly 1,900 acres and would generate enough energy to power 56,000 homes annually. This project is being spearheaded by Primergy, a private solar developer based out of Oakland, California.

While this project is within LPEA's service territory, we want to stress that LPEA is not involved in the development of this project. Primergy is an independent power producer without affiliation to LPEA. LPEA is not bound by any expectations to

purchase the power from this project, or even transmit it over LPEA lines. If the project proceeds and results in the generation of cost-competitive power, LPEA may be able to purchase power from the development in the future, but it is too early to judge the feasibility of that option.

For more information about the Hesperus Solar Project, visit [primergysolar.com/our-projects/Hesperus](https://primergysolar.com/our-projects/Hesperus).

**If you have any further questions or concerns, contact Primergy directly at [hesperus@primergysolar.com](mailto:hesperus@primergysolar.com).**

The latest news, services, programs, and resources from LPEA. Have a question or comment? Email us at [comments@lpea.coop](mailto:comments@lpea.coop).



### BOARD MEETINGS

Dec. 14 (virtual) & Jan. 18 (virtual)  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.\*

The agenda, access, and location details will be posted online in advance. Public comments are heard at the beginning of the meeting shortly after 9 a.m.

More at: [lpea.coop/lpea-board-directors-resources](https://lpea.coop/lpea-board-directors-resources)



### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LPEA committee meetings change regularly to accommodate board member schedules.

For upcoming meeting dates and times visit:

[lpea.coop/board-committees](https://lpea.coop/board-committees)

*\*All meetings are open to the public. Meetings may be held in person, virtually, or both. Visit [lpea.coop](https://lpea.coop) for the most up-to-date details.*



### LPEA CLOSURES

Mon., Dec. 26 & Mon., Jan. 2



### LPEA GRANTS

The Round Up Foundation Board of Directors approved five grants totaling \$14,500 in October. Approved Round Up Grants were for Boys to Men for \$3,500, iAM Music for \$3,000, and Silver Spruce Academy for \$3,000. Approved Educational Grants were for Animas High School for \$2,500 and San Juan Mountain SOLES for \$2,500.



## 'Tis the Season for Holiday SCAMMERS!

We see an increase in scam activity during the holidays. As a reminder, LPEA will NEVER call or come to your home in person demanding payment or confidential information and threatening to shut off your power. We will always direct you to our secure pay-by-phone system. **Don't fall for it!**

**When in doubt, call us at 970-247-5786.  
More at [lpea.coop/scams](https://lpea.coop/scams).**