



## What Is Demand? And How Does It Affect My Electric Bill?

Demand, measured in kilowatts (kW), refers to the total amount of electricity needed at any given time to power all connected devices and systems. Your electric bill includes your demand which is directly influenced by your energy usage patterns.

NorVal Electric collects your energy demand each day and the highest demand recorded during the billing period is reflected on your monthly bill. This means your demand can vary depending on your daily activities.

For example, if you have a 1,000-watt (1 kW) appliance running constantly, it demands 1 kW of power. Running multiple appliances at once increases your demand. For instance, a dishwasher uses approximately 1,800 watts. If you run the dishwasher while also using a 1,000-watt appliance, the total demand would be 2,800 watts or 2.8 kW. But, if you run them at separate times, your maximum demand would only be 1,800 watts (1.8 kW). Another example is if you are doing laundry, running the dishwasher, using the oven and vacuuming all at the same time, your energy demand would spike compared to a day when you are just watching TV or using a computer.

### Factors Affecting Energy Demand:

**Time of Day:** Demand is typically higher in the mornings before work or evenings.

**Season:** Demand can vary with temperature (higher in winter for heating, higher in summer for cooling).

**Type of Activity:** Different activities (cooking, running appliances, etc.) have different energy demands.

**Location:** Demand can vary based on climate, building types and population density.

### Why Does My Co-op Charge Demand?

Cooperatives incur costs to build and maintain the infrastructure (lines, transformers, etc.) needed to deliver electricity. Demand charges help cover these costs, especially those associated with peak periods when electricity usage is highest. The demand charge your co-op pays to its wholesale power supplier is also calculated on the basis of the highest demand during the month. Demand charges are designed to ensure that members who use a lot of electricity at peak times contribute more to the costs of providing that service.

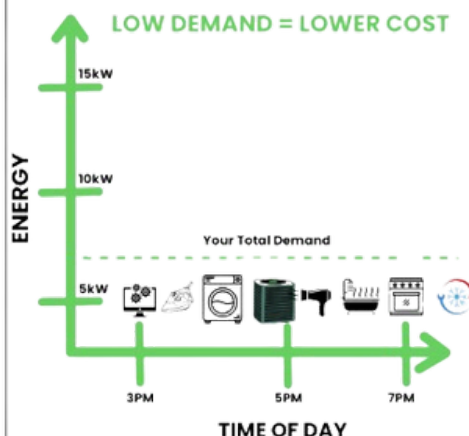
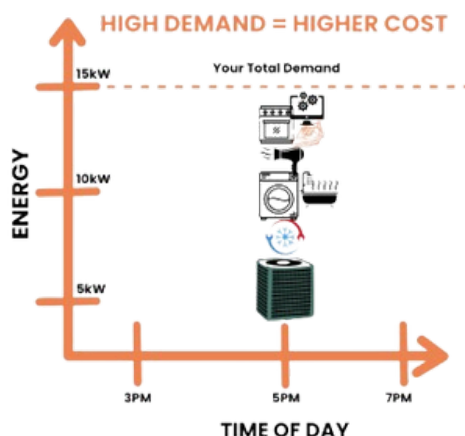
### How Can I Lower my Bill?

To manage demand charges, try spreading out energy-intensive tasks over several days or throughout the day. Run large appliances such as washing machines, dryers, ovens and dishwashers at different times instead of all at once.

- Consider setting timers to run your dishwasher, dryer and other appliances at different times.
- Use the microwave or convection oven instead of the full-sized oven when possible.
- Turn off lights that aren't being used.
- Set your water heater to a lower temperature, around 120°F.
- Switch to LED light bulbs - they use 75% less electricity and last 25 - 50 times longer.
- Purchase a programmable thermostat to reduce heating and air conditioning usage.
- Use ceiling fans to circulate air. In the summer, the blades should rotate to push cool air down; in winter, they should push warm air up.
- If you replace your refrigerator with an energy-efficient model, properly dispose of the old one. If you continue using it, avoid placing it in hot areas such as garages, where it must work harder to stay cool.
- Close your blinds or curtains when it gets dark to retain heat.
- Add insulation to your walls and attic to keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
- Change your HVAC filter every three months to improve airflow.

By understanding and managing your individual demand, you can help reduce overall peak demand, which in turn helps keep energy costs down for everyone.

*Credit: Lincoln Electric Co-op & Sun River Electric Co-op*



Using multiple appliances at the same time will increase the Demand Charge on your monthly bill

Spreading out your use of energy will reduce your Demand Charge and lower your bill.

## Rate Increase Effective May 1, 2025

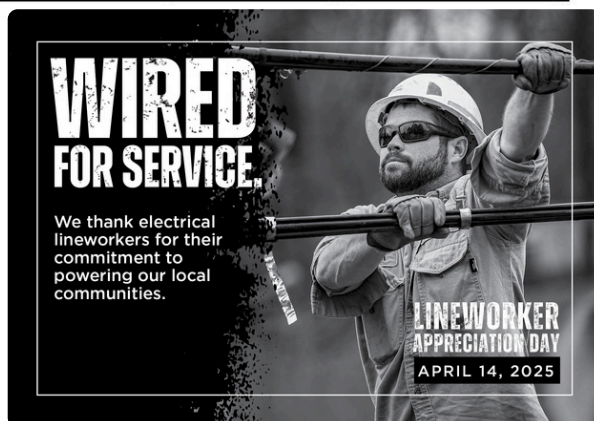
### Letter from the General Manager: Gretchen Boardman



Effective May 1, 2025, NorVal Electric will be increasing the Base Rate to our membership. The Base Rate has not been adjusted or increased since 2012. For a residential household, the rate increase will be \$6.00, as you can see in the chart below (also see other rate class increases). The Energy (kWh) and Demand (kW) charges will not be increasing at this time.

Despite an economic environment of rising costs, NorVal Electric is making every effort to keep rates affordable for our members. Just like any business, we must account for increases in power supply, materials, taxes and many other expenses to ensure continued service. Increasing rates are never taken lightly, and our priority remains with providing you with safe, reliable and affordable power.

Rate Class	Current Rates			New Base Rates as of 05/01/2025
	Energy (cents/kWh)	Demand Charge (kW)	Base	
Residential (All)	9.5¢	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$36.00
Single Phase Non-Residential (All)	10.5¢	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$36.00
Wells	10.5¢	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$36.00
Schools	11¢	\$9.75	\$33.00	\$39.00
3 Phase Oil Service	12.5¢	\$11.00	\$41.00	\$49.00
Three Phase General (All)	11¢	\$9.75	\$33.00	\$39.00
General Service Large Power 1000 kVA & Above	11.5¢	\$9.75	\$56.00	\$67.00
Williston Basin	8.5¢	\$9.75	\$56.00	\$67.00
Irrigation	11.7¢		\$46.00	\$55.00
Security Lights			\$9.00	\$11.00
Residential Space Heating	7.5¢			



### CONNECT WITH YOUR CO-OP

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**NorVal Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

#### Office Hours

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