



# AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY POWERS QUALITY OF LIFE

Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager



Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances, and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater, and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not necessarily true

with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Index over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%, medical care increased 2.8%, and education

increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value. Clark Electric Cooperative has not experienced a price adjustment to base rates since March 2017.

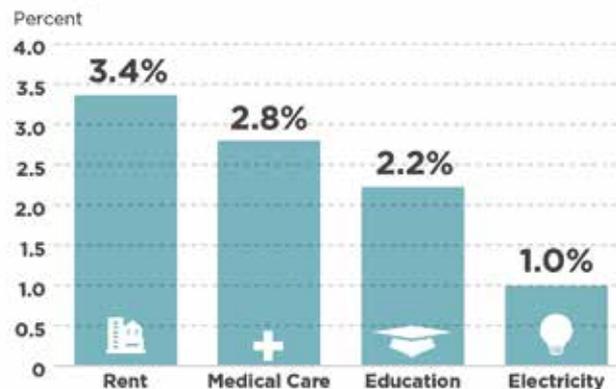
So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series, or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Clark Electric Cooperative will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index

### DID YOU KNOW?

16% of the world's population—approximately 1.3 billion people—live without electricity?

## REMINDER...

Join us for the Annual Meeting on August 5 at the Clark Electric Cooperative Headquarters.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting starting at 9:30 a.m.

So plan to attend the annual meeting, enjoy a nice meal, register for door prizes, and help conduct the business of your electric utility.



MY CO-OP

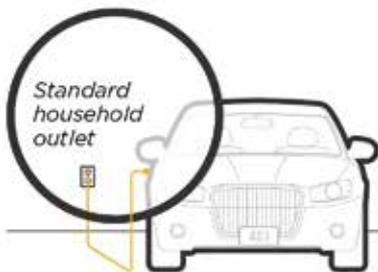


Electric vehicles (EVs) are becoming more popular every day. Car manufacturers are entering the EV marketplace by offering numerous new models every year. One of the most common questions we get here at Clark Electric Cooperative centers around charging the EVs. Below is a chart that illustrates the different types of chargers and how fast and how far a typical charge can go.

For more information go to EPRI's consumer guide to electric vehicles: [Consumer Guide to Electric Vehicles \(epri.com\)](http://epri.com)

# Electric Vehicle Charging Levels

## AC Level One



**VOLTAGE:**  
120V 1-Phase AC

**AMPS:**  
12-16 Amps

**CHARGING LOADS:**  
1.4 to 1.9 kW

**VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:**  
3-5 Miles per Hour

## AC Level Two



**VOLTAGE:**  
208V or 240V 1-Phase AC

**AMPS:**  
12-80 Amps (typ. 32 Amps)

**CHARGING LOADS:**  
2.5 to 19.2 kW (typ. 6.6kW)

**VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:**  
10-20 Miles per Hour  
*20+ for some EV models*

## DC Fast Charge



**VOLTAGE:**  
208V or 480V 3-Phase AC

**AMPS:**  
<100 Amps

**CHARGING LOADS:**  
50-350 kW

**VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:**  
60-80 Miles in 20 Minutes

Sources: Advanced Energy and EPA

# PROVIDING RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

## Beyond the flip of a switch

Clark Electric Cooperative has numerous maintenance programs that help provide safe, reliable electricity. One of the most important programs the cooperative performs is our vegetation management program. This program is twofold. First, trees are cut and trimmed from within the right-of-way. Once the trimming and clearing process has been completed, a herbicide application is applied to help reduce regrowth within the right-of-way.

In today's high-tech electronic world that we live in, it's more important than ever to provide safe, reliable electricity to our members. Trees continue to be among the leading causes of blinking lights and power outages. The cooperative has an extensive tree-clearing program that is performed on a five-year rotation by professional tree-clearing contractors. The contractors are instructed to cut, clear, and mow the right-of-way to provide 15 feet of clearance to the primary power lines. Clearance of 3 to 6 feet is required on overhead secondary service wires, depending on the type of service you have.

The cooperative also has a herbicide program that is completed on a two-year

rotation. This program is also completed by professional contractors who are all state certified and licensed through the Department of Agriculture. The use of herbicides to control small trees and brush is far more economical compared to the use of heavy machinery such as bucket trucks, chippers, and mowers.

It's important to remember that a single tree can cause blinking lights and

power outages that can affect hundreds of customers for miles around. A tree-clearing program in combination with herbicide treatments is the most economical way to maintain a clear right-of-way corridor.

These very important maintenance programs are just two of many that are needed to help keep the lights on when you, the member, flips the switch.





## KEEP AWARE OF PEAK ALERTS!

There may be days when you hear of a PEAK ALERT on the radio or see it on Clark Electric Cooperative's website. When this happens, please shift your flexible electricity usage to after 6 p.m.

The Peak Alert will be issued due to high demand for electricity on the regional grid. Clark Electric, along with other local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, will be calling for extra electricity conservation efforts between 2 and 6 p.m. Elevated peak demand leads to higher power costs.

Here are a few things you can do: Use your grill to cook dinner outside and have a family picnic in the yard. Please avoid using multiple large appliances at the same time and wait until after 6 p.m. to run your dishwasher or washing machine.

As a cooperative member, you are part of something bigger. Every little effort you make benefits all the members of Clark Electric Electric Cooperative and helps to keep your electricity rates stable and affordable.

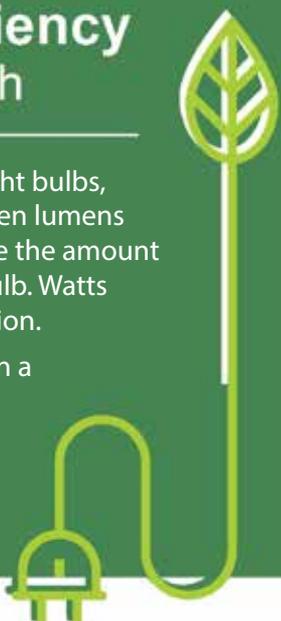
**When you hear PEAK ALERT please remember to shift flexible electricity use to 6 p.m. or later.**

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of color and brightness levels and last 15–25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



TODAY | 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## PEAK ALERT!

Due to high demand on the regional grid, please shift flexible electricity use until after 6 p.m.



### How can I conserve electricity?

- Sign up to have your central air controlled. Incentives follow!
- Leave home to run errands.
- Run the dishwasher after 6 p.m.; open the door to let dishes air dry.
- Do laundry before or after the Peak Alert and hang up clothes to air dry. Use cold water when you wash clothes.
- Avoid using multiple large appliances simultaneously.
- Use the microwave or grill instead of the oven to cook; go on a picnic for dinner.
- Find a new book or magazine to read instead of watching TV.

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