

# Energy Partners



New-Mac Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Co-op to raise rates in 2024

New-Mac to raise rates for the first time in eight years.



For the first time in eight years, New-Mac Electric will see a rate increase in 2024. This is a result of rising cost across the nation including materials, wholesale power and policy changes around fossil fuels and grid operations.

In January 2023, we finished our budgeting process and concluded that New-Mac Electric Cooperative would not raise rates in 2023. Keeping our rates stable for 2023 turned out to be a very formidable challenge. We knew we would see increases in our fuel costs, property taxes, and construction material costs. We also absorbed increases in our wholesale power costs. We knew we would have to really watch our expenses and pray that we would not have any extreme weather events. Well, we fulfilled our commitment and made it through 2023 without a general rate increase.

Now, it's February 2024 and quite a few new developments are in play. We are into the throws of winter, and just like everyone else, we are paying more for just about everything. On top of that, the price that New-Mac Electric pays for wholesale power is increasing again in 2024.

This does not come as a surprise to us in light of current policies governing generation from fossil fuels and transmission grid operation. It is also worth noting that emerging consumer trends such as an increasing market for electric vehicles, battery-powered machines, and electronic devices has households and businesses using more energy than ever. Generation and transmission companies are investing billions

of dollars in order to comply with government regulations and to meet increases in electricity use across the nation.

What does all of this mean for the membership of New-Mac Electric? The funding for investments in the energy grid can only come from one source, the rate payers at the end of the line.

We have

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Energy Partners is a monthly publication of New-Mac Electric for the purpose of informing members of the programs, services and happenings of and related to the cooperative.



# New-Mac continues rebate program

## Bill-credit rebates for qualified appliances offered

New-Mac Electric is pleased to continue its energy-efficiency rebate program in 2024.

Your co-op still has rebates available for electric tank water heaters (40 gallons minimum); ENERGY STAR rated window air-conditioning units; and air, mini-split and ground-source heat pumps. In order to be eligible for a New-Mac Electric rebate, air-source and mini-split (ductless) heat pumps must have a SEER of at least 17. Ground source heat pumps must have a 19.1 EER.

Co-op members may also receive half the cost of an ENERGY STAR rated smart thermostat (up to \$50) or half the cost of a heat pump water heater (up to \$500).

The co-op hopes members will use these rebates as incentives to make energy-efficient purchases, which will bring additional savings through energy conservation. For a complete list of rebate requirements, see the chart shown at right.

In order to qualify for a rebate, New-Mac must receive a completed rebate form and copy of the purchase receipt within 90 days of the date of purchase. Rebate forms are available online at [newmac.com](http://newmac.com) and at both the Neosho and Anderson offices. Members can now apply online as well.

Rebates will be applied to a future New-Mac bill in the form of an energy credit.

If you have questions about any of our rebates or their qualifications, call Zane in our Member Services Department at 451-1515.

### **New-Mac Electric 2024 Rebates**

#### **WINDOW AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS – \$50**

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- not to exceed 50 percent of total cost
- must be ENERGY STAR rated
- limit one per address
- service where installed must use 6,000 kWh per year
- for residential customers only

#### **WATER HEATERS – \$50**

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must have an energy rating of .9 or better
- limit two per address
- must be a 40-gallon tank or larger
- tankless (on-demand) water heaters are not eligible
- service where installed must use 6,000 kWh per year
- for residential customers only

#### **HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS – UP TO \$500**

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- not to exceed 50 percent of total cost
- must be ENERGY STAR rated
- for new construction or replacement of unit below .9 efficiency
- must be a 40-gallon tank or larger
- limit two per address

#### **SMART THERMOSTAT – UP TO \$50**

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- not to exceed 50 percent of total cost
- must be ENERGY STAR rated
- for new construction or replacement of a non-ENERGY STAR unit
- limit two per address

#### **AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS – \$150 PER TON**

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be at least 17 SEER
- supplemental heat must be controlled by an automatic thermostat
- for residential or commercial customers

#### **MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMPS – \$150 PER TON**

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be at least 17 SEER
- must not have electric resistant heat as a backup
- for residential or commercial customers

#### **GROUND-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS – \$300 PER TON**

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- must be at least 19.1 EER
- must provide documentation of Manual J load calculation
- \$150 per ton is available if only the indoor unit needs replaced
- 10 tons or more must be pre-approved
- minimum insulation requirements (R-38 for ceiling, R-13 for walls)
- for residential or commercial customers

#### **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS – \$250**

- must be submitted within 90 days of purchase
- limit of two (2) rebates per member location
- the charging station must be new and UL listed
- the cooperative residence must be a permanent structure with a foundation on land owned by the member and electric supplied by the cooperative
- must be a Level 2 charging station

# Energy Partners

## ○ RATES

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been able to absorb rising costs and have not raised rates since 2016. And, we are proud that we have kept your rates as low as we could for as long as we could. However, inflation pressures and increases in wholesale power costs leave us no choice. We need to raise rates. Beginning April 1, 2024, the rate you pay for electricity will increase. Depending upon your house-

hold usage, most will see an increase ranging from \$15 to \$30 per month.

I know this announcement is not news that anyone wants to hear. What I can say is that we appreciate you as a member-owner of this cooperative. We strive to do all that we can to provide a valued service of safe and reliable electricity to you. Thank you for your loyalty and continued support.



**DO YOU HAVE RATE QUESTIONS?**

SCAN TO TELL US YOUR QUESTION. WE WILL ANSWER AS MANY AS POSSIBLE IN THE NEXT ENERGY PARTNERS.

## Co-op receiving scholarship applications until April 12

New-Mac Electric Cooperative is now receiving applications for our 2024 College Scholarship Program.

This marks the ninth consecutive year in which New-Mac will be awarding one scholarship to a high school senior in each of the 10 area school districts.

In order to be eligible to receive one of the scholarships, a student must be a senior at one of the following high schools: Carthage, Diamond, East Newton, Joplin, McDonald County, Neosho, Pierce City, Sarcoux, Seneca or Wheaton. The applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) must be member(s) of New-Mac Electric Cooperative, and the applicant must have a cumulative minimum 3.0 GPA. Immediate family members of New-Mac employees/board members are ineligible.

A total of 10 scholarships will be awarded. Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$500 and will be non-renewable. One scholarship will be awarded to a qualifying student in each of the 10 schools listed above. The scholarship must be used at an accredited



college or university, and the winner must become a full-time college student, beginning in the fall of 2024.

For complete guidelines and the application, visit [newmac.com](http://newmac.com), see your school guidance counselor or call Zane in our Member Services department at 417-451-1515. **The application deadline is Friday, April 12, 2024.**





## Safety guidelines for generators

Learn how to choose the right generator for your needs, steps to properly install it and how to use it safely.

If you are concerned about ice, snow or wind causing occasional power outages this winter, you may be considering the purchase of a generator. New-Mac Electric wants you to understand the benefits, limitations and safety considerations of generators before you commit to the purchase. While generators are a valuable resource during outages, it's essential to use them responsibly to protect both yourself and our dedicated lineworkers.

### Choosing the right location

You need to know where you will put your generator. Never use a generator in your home or garage as they give off deadly carbon monoxide. You should only operate your generator outdoors on a dry, level surface. Your generator should also be under a canopy or similar covering because water and generators are a dangerous combination. Where you put your generator may be determined in part on what type and size you choose. A portable generator, as its name suggests, can be moved around to different locations. However, if you need a larger, permanent generator you'll need to set up a permanent location.

### Choosing the right type and size

Generators are classified by how much power or watts they can produce. That wattage measurement is important because it determines how many devices you can power. According to Consumer Reports (CR), the typical home requires 5,000 watts to cover the basics.

When considering which generator to buy, decide what is essential when the power is out. Then add up the wattages to get an idea of how much power you will need. For example, a refrigerator typically takes 600 watts to run; a sump pump

requires 750 to 1,500 watts; a portable heater can take 1,500 watts; and lights can require from 60 to 600 watts (depending on how many you power and the size of your home).

Your generator should have more output than the wattage of your required appliances and electronics. This way, the generator will be able to create the extra electricity it takes to start up some appliances. In addition, overloading a generator can lead to malfunctions and potential hazards. Keep a careful eye on the wattage of the appliances you connect to avoid overloading your generator. Let's look at the most common types of generators:

### 1. Portable Generator

These generators typically run on gasoline so are extremely dangerous, since they can produce carbon monoxide (CO). Considering this, never run these indoors or in an enclosed space and always keep them at least 20 feet from your home when operating them. Additionally, do not use them in damp or wet conditions. Some newer models feature a built-in CO sensor that triggers an automatic shut-off feature if it detects CO buildup. Other advanced models are designed to emit less poisonous fumes; both of these safety features help to save lives. Prices range from \$400 to \$1,000.

### 2. Inverter Generator

This type of generator has a more complex engine than its portable cousin. Because of that, inverter generators usually cost more than portable versions. They are much quieter than portable generators since they throttle up and down to match demand (instead of running at constant full power). They also boast more advanced exhaust systems, which also helps with noise levels. Inverter generators typically cost \$500 to \$4,000. If you pick this kind of generator, you should follow the same safety precautions you would with a portable version.

### 3. Standby Generator

This is the most expensive type of generator. Models range from 5,000 to 20,000 watts. Standby generators are also the most convenient since they are permanently mounted and are set up to power on automatically when the power goes out. They run on propane or natural gas and cost \$3,000 to \$6,000, not including installation. Installing this type of generator should not be done yourself. They should be installed

by an experienced electrician who understands all the safety precautions needed and proper installation required to keep your family and your local lineworkers safe.

### 4. Portable Power Stations

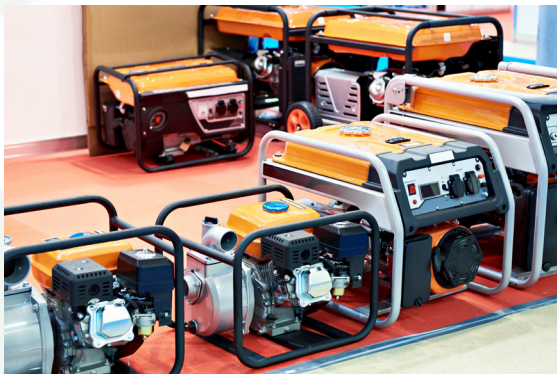
These stations don't use gasoline or propane. Instead, they are powered by a battery that can be charged by electricity or by a solar panel. They cost more than traditional portable generators at \$750 to \$3,000. They are extremely quiet, and they don't produce fuel emissions so you can use them indoors. The downside is they don't power as many appliances as portable generators, and they don't run for an extended period of time. Once you have chosen and purchased the best generator for your needs, it is time to make sure it is installed properly.

### Generator Installation:

Proper Ventilation is Non-Negotiable: Gas generators emit carbon monoxide, a silent danger. Always operate your generator outdoors in a well-ventilated area, and never, under any circumstances, use it indoors or in enclosed spaces. Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home and be sure it always has back up batteries. If you already have a carbon monoxide detector in your home, check the date on the back of it to ensure that it hasn't expired. These important devices do expire and don't work properly when they do. Installation Matters: When setting up your generator, ensure it is correctly installed. This includes the installation of a transfer switch. These switches not only protect your home's wiring but are crucial for the safety of our lineworkers during restoration efforts. Properly installed generators with transfer switches prevent back-feed into the main power grid. This is crucial for the safety of our lineworkers who tirelessly work to restore power. Make their job safer by ensuring your generator is set up correctly.

Once you have your generator installed properly, you can just sit back and relax, right? Not quite. Make sure you pay attention to your generator with regular maintenance, which is your generator's best friend. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for upkeep to ensure it performs when you need it most.

Remember, safety isn't just about you—it's about creating a secure environment for everyone, including our lineworkers. By following these guidelines, you contribute to a safer community during power outages.



### Management Team:

CEO/General Manager - Stan Irsik

System Engineer - Jeff Crites

Executive Assistant - Linda Crosby

Manager of Billing Services - Josh King

Manager of Marketing - Mark K. Rakes

Operations Manager - Jeremiah Taylor

Controller - Marti Wiley

### Main Office:

P.O. Box 310 — 12105 East  
Highway 86  
Neosho, Missouri 64850

### District Office:

9 Mustang Lane  
Anderson, Missouri 64831

Phone: 417/451-1515

800/322-3849

Fax: 417/451-9042

Pay-by-Phone: 855/874-5348

### Office Hours:

Neosho — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Anderson — 8 to 11:30 a.m.,

12:30 to 5 p.m.

### Board of Directors:

District 1 - Bruce Youngblood

District 2 - Tim Short

District 3 - Richard Leavens

District 4 - Beryl Kennedy

District 5 - Billy P. White

District 6 - Paul Sprenkle

District 7 - Maurice Mailles

District 8 - Jason Ruddick

District 9 - Jamey Cope