



# Rate Adjustments

Effective April Bills received around May 10



*Todd Grotts*  
General Manager  
WIEC

Hello. As we prepare the March Newsletter, it is a cold January day, minus 8 degrees outside, with frozen icy patches on the roads and parking lots. A few days ago, we had outages during the night when our crew were trying to restore power to our members with the wind chill around minus 35 degrees. Harsh weather like that is hard on everyone. I hope March weather is kinder to us than we've had in January.

In last month's WIEC News, members were informed that our wholesale power cost was projected to increase for 2019 about 4 percent. It became clear we would need to re-examine our rate structure to be fair to all member-owners while ensuring we make the revenues necessary to keep appropriate levels of margins our lenders require. The WIEC board and I thought hard about how to make this increase equitable to all WIEC member-owners while providing safe,

**...setting the FRP back to zero which would benefit all WIEC members.**

Rate Changes	Effective 4/1/19	Previous
Rate 1 - (General Purpose single phase)		
Facility Charge	No Change	\$38.00
Formulary Rate Adder	\$0	\$2.50
Cost of electricity		
First 2000 kWh	No Change	0.1275/kWh
Next 1000 kWh	No Change	0.1025/kWh
Over 3000 kWh	.09/kWh	.0775/kWh
Rate 3 - (General purpose 3-phase)		
Facility Charge	No Change	\$56.00
Formulary Rate Adder	\$0	\$9
Cost of electricity		
First 2000 kWh	No Change	0.1575/kWh
Next 1000 kWh	No Change	0.1025/kWh
Over 3000 kWh	.09/kWh	0.0775/kWh
Rate 4 - Large Power		
Facility Charge	No Change	\$105.00
Formulary Rate Adder	\$0	\$20
Cost of electricity	.09/kWh	.075/kWh
Rate 40/41 - (Electric Heat)		
Facility Charge	No Change	\$6.00
Cost of electricity	.0825/kWh	.0775/kWh
Rate 60/61 (Geothermal Rate)		
Facility Charge	No Change	\$6.00
Cost of electricity	.08/kWh	.075/kWh

affordable and reliable power at an at-cost basis. A rate adjustment is never easy, however, sometimes necessary.

After examining sales components by different rates and by different classes, it was shown that about 53 percent of kilowatts WIEC sells are being sold under the wholesale power cost. In past years, a Formulary Rate Plan Adder (FRP) was implemented to add necessary earnings to cover this revenue shortfall.

We calculated that if the rates were raised to a cost close to the wholesale power cost, it would only impact about 25 percent of WIEC members.

**(3914-29)** By doing this, we could set the FRP back to zero, which would benefit all WIEC members. For example, the average per-member, per-month sales for Rate 1 is around 1,100 kilowatt-hours, so this average member would see a decrease on their bill of \$2.50 by removing the FRP.

Remember, WIEC does not intend to make a profit. We are service-driven and do what is necessary to keep costs in line as we provide that service. Our focus is on keeping your cooperative financially strong so we can continue to give our member-owners the most reliable cost-effective service possible.



**Western Illinois  
ELECTRICAL COOP.**

A Taxpayers Energy Cooperative

524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321  
www.wiec.net | 800/576-3125

**OFFICE HOURS**

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

217-357-3125

**TO REPORT AN OUTAGE**

800-576-3125

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Kent Flesner** —  
President, West Point
- **Mark Burling** —  
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Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,  
Burnside
- **Rob Gronewold** —  
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- **Kim Gullberg** —  
Director, Stronghurst
- **Jay Morrison** —  
Director, Niota

**STAFF**

- **Todd Grotts** — General Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — Manager  
of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** — Finance/  
Accounting Manager

**MAP LOCATION CONTEST**

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING  
TIME**



**Don't  
forget  
to...  
spring  
ahead**

*Daylight  
Savings Time  
begins on  
March 10.*

**Energy Efficiency  
Tip of the Month**

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

*Source: energy.gov*



**Welcome New Members**

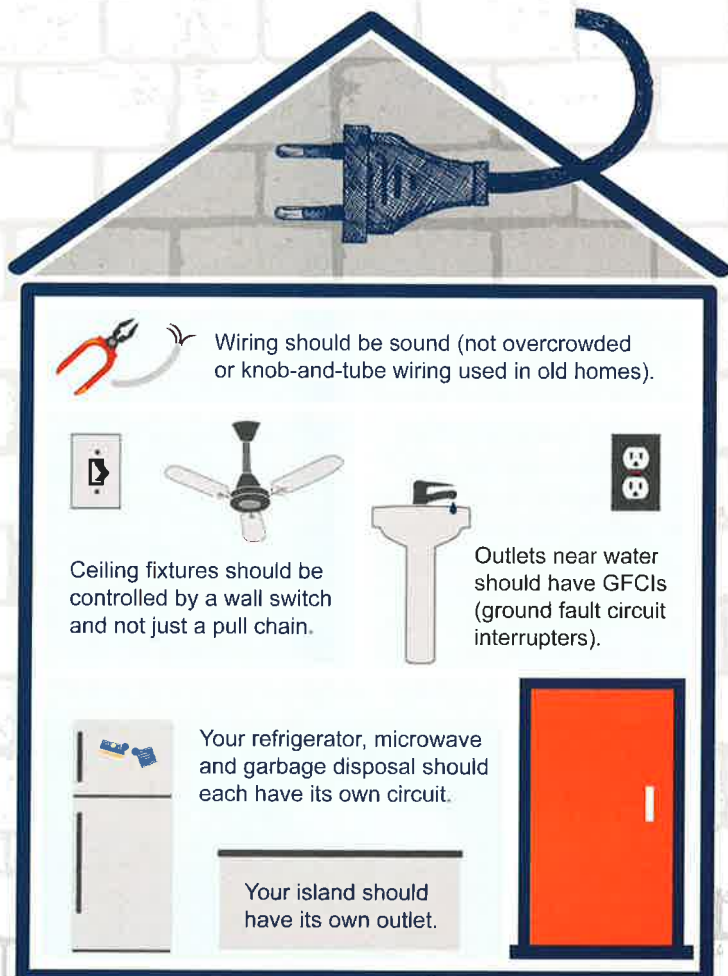
**DECEMBER 2018**

- Jarid Lee Baughman,  
Carman, IL
- Cole Cameron, Carthage
- Steven J. Curran, Hamilton
- Kevin Harrison, Hamilton
- Brad Ikerd, Warsaw
- Ryan Jordan, Carthage
- Nancy Pence, Dallas City
- Hannah Settles, Elvaston
- Michael Shields, Niota
- Sound In Spirit Broadcasting,  
Keokuk, IA

# Home Electrical Inspection:

## Pass or Fail?

Would your home pass an electrical inspection? Local electrical codes vary, so check with your qualified electrician, but here are **five things** your home should have:



Learn more at

**Safe Electricity.org**



## Ways to pay your WIEC bill

- Pay your bill online through our website [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net). Members can also view past bills and see historical usage from the website.
- Call our office and give your credit card number over the phone.
- Mail your bill. Bills will be considered “on time” if they arrive at our office on the due date.
- Have your bill paid automatically each month by using “Auto Pay.” This free service will automatically pay your bill from either your bank account or your favorite credit card on the due date each month.
- Use the drive-up box in the WIEC (3720-36) driveway.
- Or come into our office in Carthage and say hello.

## Electrical Fire Safety

About 28,600 home electrical fires occur during a typical year, leading to \$1.1 billion in property losses. Faulty electrical outlets and old wiring are the main causes of electrical fires, as are damaged cords, plugs, switches, and light fixtures.

The number one priority in a fire is to escape safely.



### Only use a fire extinguisher if:

- 1 The fire department has been called.
- 2 Everyone has exited the building.
- 3 The fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing.
- 4 The room is not filled with smoke.

Not all fire extinguishers are alike. Only a Class C extinguisher can be used on an electrical fire.

Remember the word **PASS**:

**P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.

**A**im low. Point the nozzle toward the base of the fire.

**S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.

**S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.

### Remember: Know when to go.

Make sure you have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration, National Fire Protection Association

## You have the power to lower your electric bill

No one likes to pay more for electricity, but sometimes rate adjustments are needed to offset the rising cost of power. As was mentioned earlier in the From the Manager letter to the members, WIEC will be implementing a rate adjustment beginning on the April bill (mailed around May 6, 2019). A few simple changes may help reduce your electrical usage and keep your bill as low as possible.

One of the easiest ways of tracking electricity use is simply reading your meter. Digital versions make tracking energy use a breeze: jot (10532-45-10) down the number you see and check it again in a month, week or day or whatever period you are tracking. The difference between the two represents the amount of electricity that has been used for that time period. The bottom line is your electric bill is based on your usage. The more kWh you use, the higher your bill. By being aware of how much electricity you use may help you become aware of wasteful habits and, in the long run, reduce your bill.

There are many little ways to reduce your energy usage. Lower your thermostat just one degree can save you 3 percent on your heating costs. Sealing leaky ducts, caulking around windows, replacing a furnace filter or putting an insulating blanket around your water heater are easy ways to lower your usage.

There are many ways to reduce your energy usage. Many are just common

sense. Below are the top ten energy savers from touchstoneenergy.com:

### Top ten tips **TOP 10**

- 1 Plug electronic devices such as cable boxes, printers and TVs into 'power strips to turn off during vacations or long periods without use.
- 2 Replace any light bulb, especially ones that burn more than one hour per day, with a light-emitting diode (LED) bulb.
- 3 Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat out in summer.
- 4 Outside your home, caulk around all penetrations including telephone, electrical, cable, gas, water spigots, dryer vents, etc.
- 5 Set water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees F.
- 6 Use the air-dry cycle instead of the heat-dry cycle to dry dishes.
- 7 Keep your garage door down. A warmer garage in the winter and cooler garage in the summer will save (3531-1) energy.
- 8 Change HVAC filters monthly.
- 9 Make sure the dryer vent hose is not kinked or clogged.
- 10 Ensure gaskets around doors seal tightly.

## COMMUNITY-FOCUSED

Electric cooperatives are different than other types of energy providers.

- We are led by consumer-members just like you.
- We were built by the community we serve.
- We still belong to the community.

That's the cooperative difference!

