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August 2026

STAY CURRENT



Rate Changes Took Effect Aug. 1

New England's coldest winter in 20 years and higher regional and global volatile energy prices are the drivers behind the Aug. 1 rate increase, approved by the Board of Directors. The increase will raise the average residential member bill by about 9.8%.

This means the average Co-op member who uses 573 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month will see their bill increase by \$15.25 (9.8%). These changes apply to members supplied by Co-op Power. Members enrolled in a community power program or using a competitive supplier may see different impacts.

"We know many of our members are already managing higher household costs, and we worked hard to limit this increase," said Michael Jennings,

Co-op President & CEO. "Our focus remains on providing reliable power at the lowest reasonable cost."

Beginning Aug. 1, the Co-op Power Charge, which represents the actual purchase cost of electricity, will increase from 11.1 cents per kWh to 13.9 cents. A reduction in the Regional Access Charge from 4.3 cents per kWh to 4.0 cents will slightly offset the increase. The access charge reflects the Co-op's cost to access the regional transmission grid.

"We know any increase has a real impact on our members," said Alana Albee, Chair of the Co-op Board of Directors. "The board worked closely with management to understand the drivers behind these higher

costs and ensure the changes were necessary and as limited as possible."

For those finding it difficult to pay their electric bill, the Co-op provides assistance to members who qualify through Project Care. To apply for assistance, visit nhec.com/project-care/ or call a Member Solutions representative at (800) 698-2007.



For more details, including the current schedule of rates, visit nhec.com/schedule-of-fees-rates or scan the QR code.

A Message From the Chair



Alana Albee
Board Chair

It is an honor to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative. I appreciate the trust you have placed in our board and the opportunity to help guide an organization that exists for one purpose: serving its member-owners.

Our Co-op is built on a simple and powerful idea — that good and effective governance is essential and that you, our member-owners, have a voice in how your utility is run. Our core mission

is to provide you with safe and reliable service at the best rates we can procure. We take that responsibility seriously.

As we navigate the evolving energy landscape — advances in technology, your expectations, increasing demands on the grid and regulatory and economic conditions — we must meet the challenges and opportunities with thoughtful planning, sound financial stewardship and a commitment to making decisions that serve both today's members and future generations.

Good governance begins with listening. We value your perspectives, your questions and your ideas.

Whether your priorities are reliability, affordability, renewable energy, broadband partnerships or preparing for the future, your input helps shape the Co-op's direction.

I want to thank my fellow directors, our CEO and the dedicated employees who work every day — and often through the most difficult weather conditions — to provide safe, reliable electric service to our communities.

Together, we will continue building on the Co-op's strong foundation. Thank you for your continued trust and support. I look forward to serving you. ⚡

Let's Stay Connected

Keeping your contact information up to date helps ensure you receive important account updates and communications.

If you've recently moved, please update your mailing address in SmartHub or by calling Member Solutions at 800.698.2007. While you're at it, please verify that we have the best phone number to reach you if needed. ⚡

The REA Celebrates 90 Years

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Act, which led to the creation of the Co-op. If you, your family or friends have any stories about turning the power on in rural New Hampshire and its impact in your life or community, please let us know.

You can reach us at comms@nhec.com. ⚡

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40 Years In: A Story of Dedication



Theron and his brother, Aaron, a System Electrician I at the Co-op.

Committed. Naturally clever. A no-nonsense guy. And he has a wicked sense of humor.

Ask anyone in the Plymouth District – or throughout the Co-op service territories – and that’s what comes from people who know Theron Comeau and have worked alongside this 40-year veteran of linework.

“I’ve never seen a more dedicated person,” said Hans Ingemundsen who has worked with Theron for 23 years. “He was never too good to do any job whether it was the easiest or the hardest.”

As a supervisor, Hans said, Theron checks in with his crews, showing up with coffee and ready to jump in if they need a hand. “He does anything he can to make it easier for the guys.”

Lonnie Wujcik, who has worked with Theron since 2013, said it was a treat working with Theron on storm or on a build because he has learned a lot from him.

“Theron is the type of guy who could do anything and do it well,” Lonnie said. “He’s the guy who gets calls from other districts with questions.

“We’re lucky to have him,” Hans said.

Yes, we certainly are. ⚡



Operations Supervisor Theron Comeau (second from left) and his family who joined in celebrating his 40th anniversary at the Co-op.



Theron's family was happy to celebrate.



Theron and his parents.

From Internship to Lineworker School

Collin Lane isn't just climbing the ladder of success; he's scaling the pole.

This year's Plymouth Regional High School grad also completed his six-month internship in the Co-op's Plymouth District, shadowing crews and seeing firsthand the mix of projects the crews handle and the responsibilities linework involves.

The experience confirmed what he had thought: Linework is for him.

On Aug. 3, Collin started Northwest Lineman College in Idaho and along with his suitcase, he packed the \$2,500 check he received as the recipient of the Lineworker Scholarship, begun in 2020 by the Co-op.

Lineworker trade schools began emerging in the 1990s and the Co-op Board of Trustees wanted to support the effort of local members who wanted to join the profession. The scholarship can assist with paying for school or buying tools, for example.

Collin's interest in linework grew out of a career day at Plymouth Regional a few years ago and talking with lineworker Austin Tallman, the first scholarship recipient in 2020.

After talking with his dad, who works in the electrical industry, and some leg work, Collin worked out an internship at the Co-op, earning credits toward his high school degree through an extended learning program that took him outside the classroom.

Like previous recipients, once graduated from line school and working at a utility, Collin will go on to an apprenticeship, which involves several years of classroom and practical field work, as well as exams along the way. To date, there is no national guideline for training programs.

The Co-op currently runs a four-year apprentice program. In the past, if someone were interested in this career, they learned exclusively through working the line at utility companies and mentoring from experienced lineworkers.



Chief Operating Officer Josh Mazzei, Collin Lane and Theron Comeau, Operations Supervisor

Any member interested in exploring line work or the Lineworker Scholarship please go to nhec.com/lineworker-scholarship or email careers@nhec.com. ⚡

Service to the Co-op is Service to the Community



NAME: **Harry Viens**
YEARS ON BOARD: **17**

Serving on the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative Board of Directors isn't easy. It demands your most valuable asset: your time. And a lot of it.

Harry Viens recently ended 17 years of service on the Co-op board. For him, serving on the board was time well-spent because he saw it as a way to strengthen community.

“What I like about the co-op model is it’s a community of people coming together to address their own needs and solve their own problems. It is a binding force in terms of keeping that community together,” he said.

He hopes others will feel a similar call, become involved and consider running for the 11-member board.

Harry's first exposure to the cooperative model was in college when he and several self-described long hair hippies started a food co-op, trying to affordably feed themselves.

“It was small and very effective and a really great experience,” he said.

When his family started coming to New Hampshire in 1982, they would pass the Co-op's Meredith District, and he thought the idea of an electric utility being a cooperative was “cool.”

“I looked at serving on the board as a way to engage with the community at large,” Harry said.

Looking back, the biggest accomplishment Harry points to is working to give voice to the members by creating channels that established more ways of having a dialogue with the Co-op on all levels, so their needs, concerns and wants were heard.

“It creates a community between the staff and the members,” he said. ⚡