

January/February 2024

LIGHT Reading



NEW RATES AND SURCHARGES IMPLEMENTED FOR 2024

As of Jan. 1, 2024, Seattle City Light has implemented the new rates adopted by the Seattle City Council in fall 2022. In addition to this base rate increase of 4.5%, we have also applied two automatic surcharges: a 1% increase for higher costs from the Bonneville Power Administration and a temporary 4% increase to refill the Rate Stabilization Account (RSA), which was depleted due to high power market prices in 2023. Combined, most customers will see an increase of 10% on their electrical bills—which is about \$4 per month for a Utility Discount Program customer and \$9 per month for a typical residential customer.

Visit powerlines.seattle.gov/2023/10/12/2024-rate-surcharges for more information.

While we continue to offer some of the lowest electricity rates in the country, we also understand that rate increases are challenging for everyone. We are seeking ways to replenish the RSA to its required \$100 million threshold and remove the surcharge as soon as possible while continuing to deliver safe, reliable, and environmentally responsible power.



HOW TO GET HELP WITH YOUR BILL

We have flexible payment plans available and remain committed to ensuring all customers have access to clean, affordable electricity no matter their financial circumstances. For income-eligible residential customers, we have bill assistance programs available, including emergency bill assistance and the Utility Discount Program. Call (206) 684-3000, Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. to discuss your options.

We also encourage all income-eligible customers to enroll in the Utility Discount Program to receive an ongoing 60% discount on City Light electricity bills, plus a 50% bill discount for customers who receive their water, sewer, and solid waste services from Seattle Public Utilities, even if your landlord pays the bill. To find out if you are an income-eligible residential customer, visit seattle.gov/UDP.



Seattle City Light

seattle.gov/city-light



WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR BILL

While we understand that rate increases are never welcome, we do want to share some advice on how you can avoid wasting electricity and save money on your bills. The average rate increase means that a typical residential customer will see about \$18 more on a bimonthly bill. Here are several low- or no-cost ways to save that much or more:

- Avoid using a space heater, if possible — it can cost you \$1 every 3 hours, which adds up!
- Decrease your shower time by just a few minutes to conserve your hot water.
- Program your thermostat or set it to a lower temperature when you're away or asleep.
- Run your dishwasher, washing machine, and dryer only when they're full.
- Turn off lights and replace incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs.
- Unplug your DVR, stereo, coffee maker, and other electronics when not in use.
- Use a microwave, slow cooker, or toaster instead of a larger oven.



STAY SCAM SMART

Scammers prey on folks during the holidays, winter weather, and at the start of a new year. Remember, City Light does not demand immediate payment. This is not how we do business. If you think someone has tried to scam you, call (206) 684-3000 to verify your account status. Do you worry that someone you know might be vulnerable to a scam? Help them know the best way to stay protected: Be proactive. Have they checked their bill recently? Updated their passwords? Learn more about how to be scam smart at seattle.gov/city-light/start-or-stop-service/scams.

TREE TIP: STORM DAMAGE

Winter storms can send tree branches to the ground. So take stock of the trees in your yard — look up and see what damage was done. Are there broken branches in the canopy or long stubs where limbs were snapped off? Cleaning up those breaks while the tree is still dormant will ensure it won't waste energy on dead/dying limbs when it "wakes up" in the spring. Just be sure branches aren't too close to power lines or transformers before pruning. If you are unsure, email Seattle City Light's arboriculturists' office at SCL_Vegetation@seattle.gov or call (206) 386-1733.



Seattle City Light crews are in these neighborhoods, working to provide reliable service. The following projects continue across our service area:

- Updating electrical infrastructure for streetlights.
- Installing public Level 2 electric vehicle chargers at curbside locations.
- Replacing aging utility poles to enhance safety and reliability.
- Installing line sensors to support faster identification and resolution of unplanned outages.

Learn more about projects in your area by visiting seattle.gov/city-light/current-projects.

SAFETY TIP FROM THE FIELD

Generators can be effective during a power outage, but they need to be used with care. Always use portable generators outside in well-ventilated areas and away from your home.



Storm season is here. **Are you prepared?**



Build or update your outage kit.

Keep your electronic devices charged.



Never use grills or BBQs indoors.

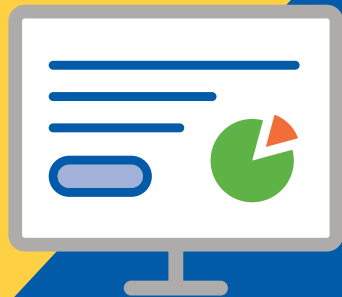
Keep your family safe this storm season. For more tips, visit seattle.gov/city-light/outages.



Seattle City Light

Did you know you can do more than pay your City Light bill online?

With our newest feature, you can securely access and view your energy usage in 15-minute increments, letting you monitor how much energy you use like never before. You can even download and export your data, allowing you or others to conduct an in-depth analysis to make better decisions about how you use electricity.



Log in or set up
your profile today at
myutilities.seattle.gov



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