

FERGUS

FEATURES

Member Newsletter ♦ Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lewistown, MT ♦ www.ferguselectric.coop

A SIDE-BY-SIDE LOOK OF BILLS

Rate structure comparisons

In last month's *Fergus Features* insert, I provided a detailed explanation of the upcoming structure change of the electric rates we offer our members. I also provided a side-by-side comparison of our existing rates vs. our new rates. This month I am providing cost comparisons of actual member bills in another side-by-side format.

On the following pages are two examples. Example 1 (page 6) is a typical bill for a residential house. At the top of page 6 is an actual bill example with our existing 2023 rate structure. Then just below that I have the same house and electric usage, but the billing calculation utilizes the rate structure for 2024. As you can see, there is minimal difference between the final bill amounts.

The 2024 rate structure has the same monthly base charge of \$32.50, a lower energy charge of \$0.100 / kWh, and a new Peak kW charge of \$2.50 / kW. For this example, the house had a peak kW of 8.729 kW, which occurred at 6:22 p.m., within our peak kW billing period (6–9 p.m.) for September, and our 0kW ≤ 30kW rate class. For additional information on rate classes or Peak kW billing times, please refer to your October *Rural Montana* magazine or the insert provided with your October billing statement.

Example 2 (page 7) is an irrigation bill for a member with a 50 HP pump. Under the existing rates, the irrigation member is charged a seasonal horsepower charge (1/6th per month for



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

NEW RATE SCHEDULE: GENERAL SERVICE

RATE PER MONTH - BASED ON MONTHLY PEAK DEMAND

0 kW ≤ 30 kW:

- Base Charge: \$32.50
- Energy Charge: \$0.10/kWh
- Peak Demand Charge: \$2.50/kW

> 30 kW ≤ 60 kW:

- Base Charge: \$45.50
- Energy Charge: \$0.0925/kWh
- Peak Demand Charge: \$6.50/kW

> 60 kW ≤ 90 kW:

- Base Charge: \$58.50
- Energy Charge: \$0.085/kWh
- Peak Demand Charge: \$10.50/kW


> 90 kW < 1,000 kW:

- Base Charge: \$71.50
- Energy Charge: \$0.0775/kWh
- Peak Demand Charge: \$14.50/kW

six months) and they are not assessed a monthly base charge. Utilizing the 2024 rate structure, all members are assessed a monthly base charge determined on monthly peak demand (kW). For this example, the irrigation pump had a peak demand of 41.5 kW, which falls within our > 30kW ≤ 60kW rate class. This rate class has a monthly

base charge of \$45.50, an energy charge of \$0.0925 / kWh, and a peak kW charge of \$6.50 / kW. For this example, the total bill difference between the 2023 rates and the 2024 rates is \$26.75.

The peak (kW) charge is only assessed during specific hours of the day (6–9 a.m.) and (6–9 p.m.) for October 1st – May 31st. For the summer period of June 1st – September 30th, we limit this to just three hours a day (6–9 p.m.). As shown in last month's article, the new rate structure includes four different rate classes, each defined by the monthly Peak kW. Of our 6,883 total meters, 97 percent of our members land within the 0kW ≤ 30kW rate class. The remaining 3 percent of our members fall into the other three rate categories. See rates to the left.

I would encourage you to review your existing electric bill, review the new rate structure and calculate for yourself how this upcoming change is going to impact your monthly expenses. On an annual basis, the new rate structure is revenue neutral to Fergus Electric Cooperative, however, some members will see their bill decrease, while others will notice a bill increase. We anticipate that 85 percent of our members' bills will see a change of 5 percent or less, with many of those members seeing a decrease in their monthly electric bill. To learn more about how the new rate structure affects your bill, please call our office to speak to one of our engineers. 

RESIDENTIAL COMPARISON

OLD RATE STRUCTURE - 2023

Service Description: HOUSE

Account: 388765

Meter #	Rate	Services		Days	Readings		Mult	kWh Usage	Peak kW
		From	To		Previous	Present			
290006064	SINGLE PHASE	09/01/23	10/01/23	30	18,148	19,076	1	928	8.729

My Energy Use Snapshot

13.4%

10.0%

19.9%

18.6%

22.0%

16.0%

New Day

Daybreak

Morning

Midday

Evening

Night

12am to 4am

4am to 8am

8am to 12pm

12pm to 4pm

4pm to 8pm

8pm to 12am

Previous Account Activity

Previous Balance

Payment Received 09/21/2023 - *Thank You*

Account Balance Before Current Charges

Current Activity

Base Charge

kWh Charge

0 - 1,000 kWh

1,001 - and above

Peak kW

Total Current Charges

Total Amount Due

\$177.45

-\$177.45

\$0.00

\$32.50

928 kWh @ \$0.1243

0 kWh @ \$0.1043

8.729 kW @ \$0.0000

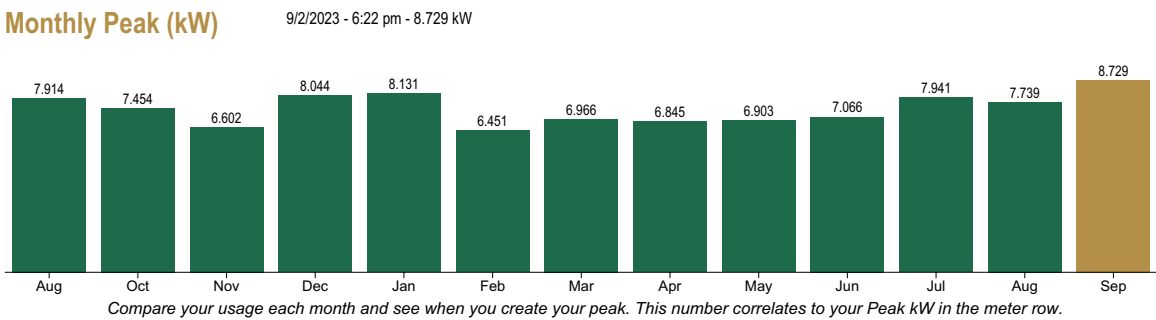
\$115.35

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$147.85

\$147.85



NEW RATE STRUCTURE - 2024

Service Description: HOUSE

Account: 388765

Meter #	Rate	Services		Days	Readings		Mult	kWh Usage	Peak kW
		From	To		Previous	Present			
290006064	GENERAL SERVICE	09/01/24	10/01/24	30	18,148	19,076	1	928	8.729

My Energy Use Snapshot

13.4%

10.0%

19.9%

18.6%

22.0%

16.0%

New Day

Daybreak

Morning

Midday

Evening

Night

12am to 4am

4am to 8am

8am to 12pm

12pm to 4pm

4pm to 8pm

8pm to 12am

Previous Account Activity

Previous Balance

Payment Received 09/21/2024 - *Thank You*

Account Balance Before Current Charges

Current Activity

Base Charge

kWh Charge

All kWh's

Peak kW

Total Current Charges

Total Amount Due

\$177.45

-\$177.45

\$0.00

\$32.50

928 kWh @ \$0.1000

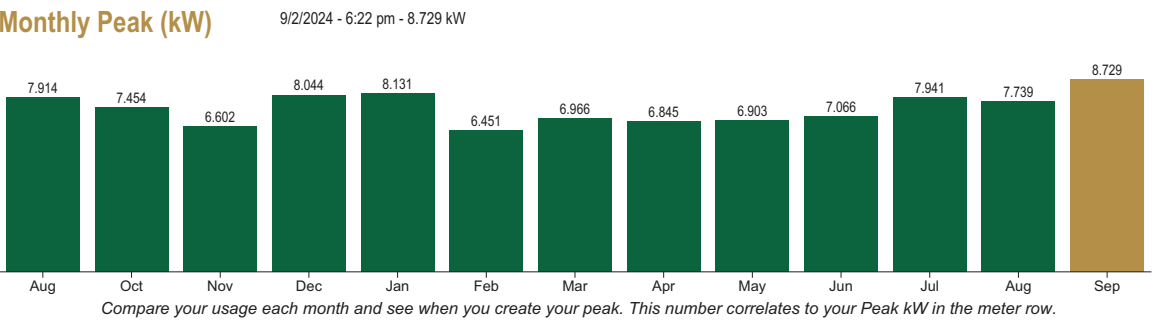
8.729 kW @ \$2.5000

\$92.80

\$21.82

\$147.12

\$147.12



IRRIGATION COMPARISON

November | 2023

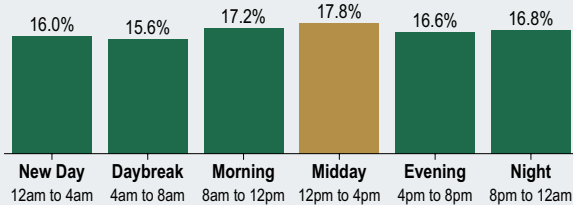
OLD RATE STRUCTURE - 2023

Service Description: 50HP IRRIGATION

Account: 318405

Meter #	Rate	Services From	To	Days	Readings Previous	Present	Mult	kWh Usage	Peak kW
360000040	IRRIGATION	07/01/23	08/01/23	31	718	910	100	19,200	41.500

My Energy Use Snapshot



Previous Account Activity

Previous Balance	\$202.25
Payment Received 07/17/2023 - *Thank You*	-\$202.25
Account Balance Before Current Charges	\$0.00

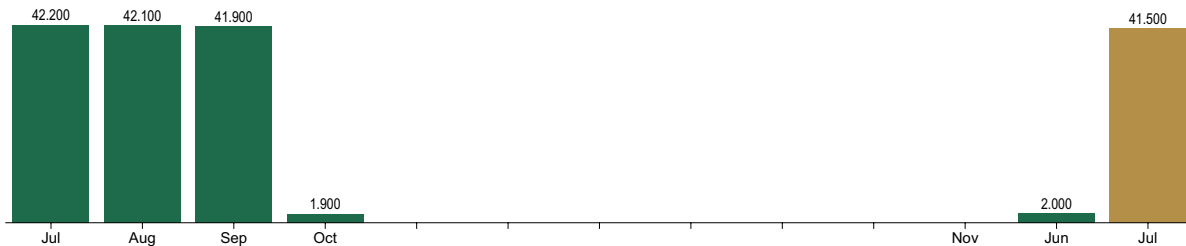
Current Activity

kWh Charge		
0 - and above	19,200 kWh @ \$0.0975	\$1,872.00
Peak kW	41.5 kW @ \$0.0000	\$0.00
Hp Charge	8.333 HP @ \$23.1000	\$192.50
Total Current Charges		\$2,064.50

Total Amount Due \$2,064.50

Monthly Peak (kW)

7/1/2023 - 6:23 pm - 41.5 kW



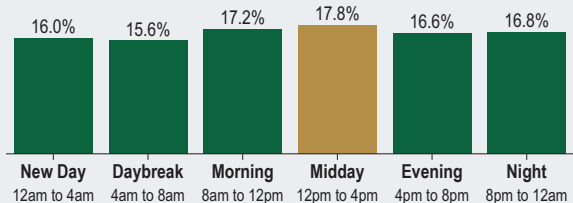
Compare your usage each month and see when you create your peak. This number correlates to your Peak kW in the meter row.

Service Description: 50HP IRRIGATION

Account: 318405

Meter #	Rate	Services From	To	Days	Readings Previous	Present	Mult	kWh Usage	Peak kW
360000040	GENERAL SERVICE	07/01/24	08/01/24	31	718	910	100	19,200	41.500

My Energy Use Snapshot



Previous Account Activity

Previous Balance	\$202.25
Payment Received 07/17/2024 - *Thank You*	-\$202.25
Account Balance Before Current Charges	\$0.00

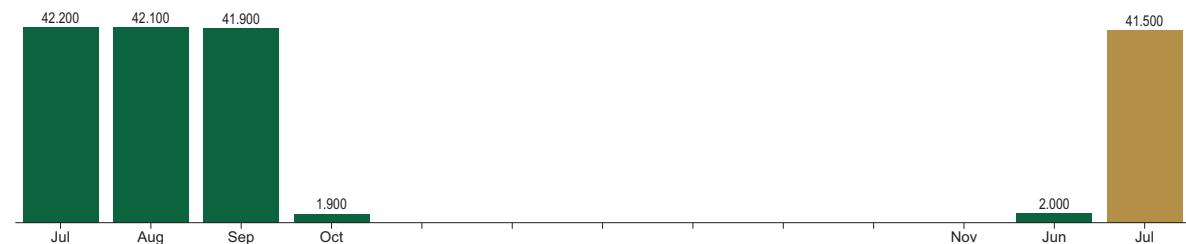
Current Activity

Base Charge		\$45.50
kWh Charge		
All kWh's	19,200 kWh @ \$0.0925	\$1,776.00
Peak kW	41.5 kW @ \$6.50	\$269.75
Total Current Charges		\$2,091.25

Total Amount Due \$2,091.25

Monthly Peak (kW)

7/1/2024 - 6:23 pm - 41.5 kW



Compare your usage each month and see when you create your peak. This number correlates to your Peak kW in the meter row.

NEW RATE STRUCTURE - 2024

SCHOLARSHIPS

GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN BY JANUARY 22

To qualified students whose parents are cooperative members: If you are a high school senior planning to attend college or are a student continuing an undergraduate education, you could win a \$1,000 scholarship from Fergus Electric Cooperative, and have a chance to win a \$500 scholarship from the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA).

Scholarship applicants must: 1) Be a member of Fergus Electric Cooperative, 2) Be a graduating high school senior with plans to attend a university or vocational/technical school, or be an undergraduate college student, 3) Submit a completed application to Fergus Electric that includes school transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, a personal statement and one letter of recommendation, and: 4) Submit entries to Fergus Electric no later than **January 22, 2024**, to MECA/Fergus Scholarship Committee, Fergus Electric Cooperative 84423

U.S. Highway 87, Lewistown, MT 59457.

Criteria for scholarship judging includes 20 percent academic strength (as demonstrated by coursework, GPA, and national testing scores); 20 percent activities in school and community, awards and honors; 20 percent employment, volunteerism and community service, and 40 percent personal statement.

Fergus Electric will select one application to be forwarded to MECA in Great Falls for further judging. A MECA committee will choose the scholarship recipients from the pool of finalists. Fergus Electric will also award one scholarship from the applications.

For an application, or for more information, contact Debby at 406-538-3465. In addition, the application and guidelines are posted on Fergus Electric's website www.ferguselectric.coop and on the MECA website at www.mtco-ops.com.

RM

IDENTIFY ACCOUNT NUMBER*

WIN A \$32.50 CREDIT

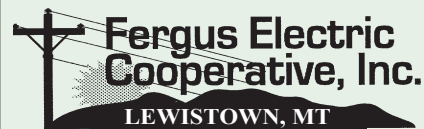
If one of the following account numbers is yours, call Fergus Electric (406-538-3465) and identify yourself and your account number and you will receive a \$32.50 credit on next month's statement.

**Account 396770, Account 396182
Account 241805, Account 205091
Account 396951, Account 344650**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Gerald Long of Lewistown, **Arleene Weppeler** or **Rapelje**, **Earl M. Shammel, Jr.** of Lewistown, **Cheyenne Norling** of Lewistown, and **Walt Regli** of Moore were last month's winners!

*NUMBERS ARE DRAWN MONTHLY



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

FOR OUTAGES

First: Check the fuses or breakers in the building in which the electricity is off.

Second: Check the breaker below the meter.

Third: If electricity is still out, call a neighbor to see if they have electricity.

Fourth: Call 406-538-3465 day or night or:

Dale Rikala	406-366-3374
Bret Ophus	406-366-7523
Bret Nellermeoe (Roundup).....	406-939-0636
Carson Sweeney	406-366-0971
Melanie Foran.....	406-462-5650
Scott Olson.....	406-366-5822
Dan Balster.....	406-366-0975

FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

84423 US Hwy. 87, Lewistown, MT
59457-2058

Tel: 406-538-3465

Office Hours: 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. M-Th.

Website: www.ferguselectric.coop

E-mail: ferguselectric@ferguselectric.coop

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ferguselectric

Carson Sweeney.....General Manager
Dale Rikala.....Line Superintendent
Sally HoracekOffice Manager
Janine Rife Didier.....Editor
Fergus Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1:	Paul Descheemaeker, President, Lewistown, 428-2417
District 2:	Brett Maxwell, Lewistown, 538-9002
District 3:	Brad Arntzen, Hilger, 462-5555
District 4:	Cathy Kombol, Roundup, 428-2202
District 5:	Terry Frost, Vice President, Roundup, 323-3415
District 6:	Jason Swanz, Sec./Treas., Judith Gap, 473-2462
District 7:	Bob Evans, Jr., Geyser, 735-4476

Fergus Features is an award-winning newsletter.



CLOSURE

Fergus Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24.



Fergus Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, Nov. 9, in observance of Veterans Day.