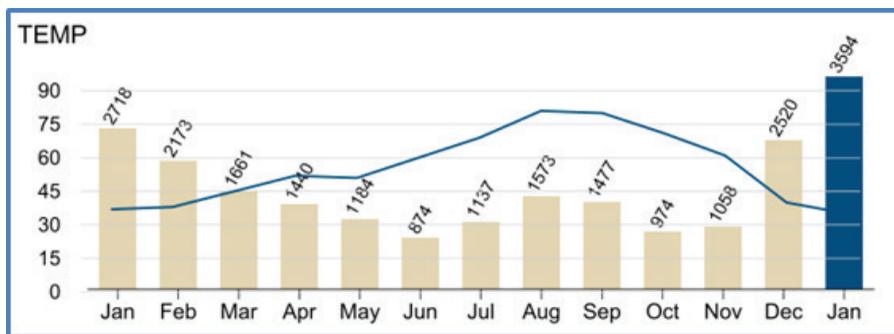


# Cold Weather Impacts Electric Bills

The cold spell in December coincided with Klickitat PUD's peak demand day for 2022, which was December 23. The average temperature for December was less than 34 degrees—the coldest month of 2022. Energy use is billed the month following use, which is why January's bills were higher than normal. However, winter temperatures can be expected to continue through January and February—often the coldest months of the year.

Rate changes went into effect January 1 but are not the driving force behind high residential bills. Residential rate changes include an increase in the basic fee by \$1.71 per month and \$0.0014 per kilowatt-hour. On average, this is a \$3.30 per month increase—depending on energy use. Below is an illustration of how external temperatures drive energy use- and your bill. Fluctuation largely depends on your primary heating and cooling source.



This is an example of a graph on your monthly bill that compares kWh use by month to the monthly average temperature.

## Heat Loss Factor Increases as Temperatures Drop

The colder the weather, the more heat you use—regardless of your thermostat setting. Even a few external degrees difference in sustained colder temperatures can boost electricity use as heating units work harder to keep spaces warm.

For example, when temperatures drop from 40 degrees to 30 degrees, heat loss

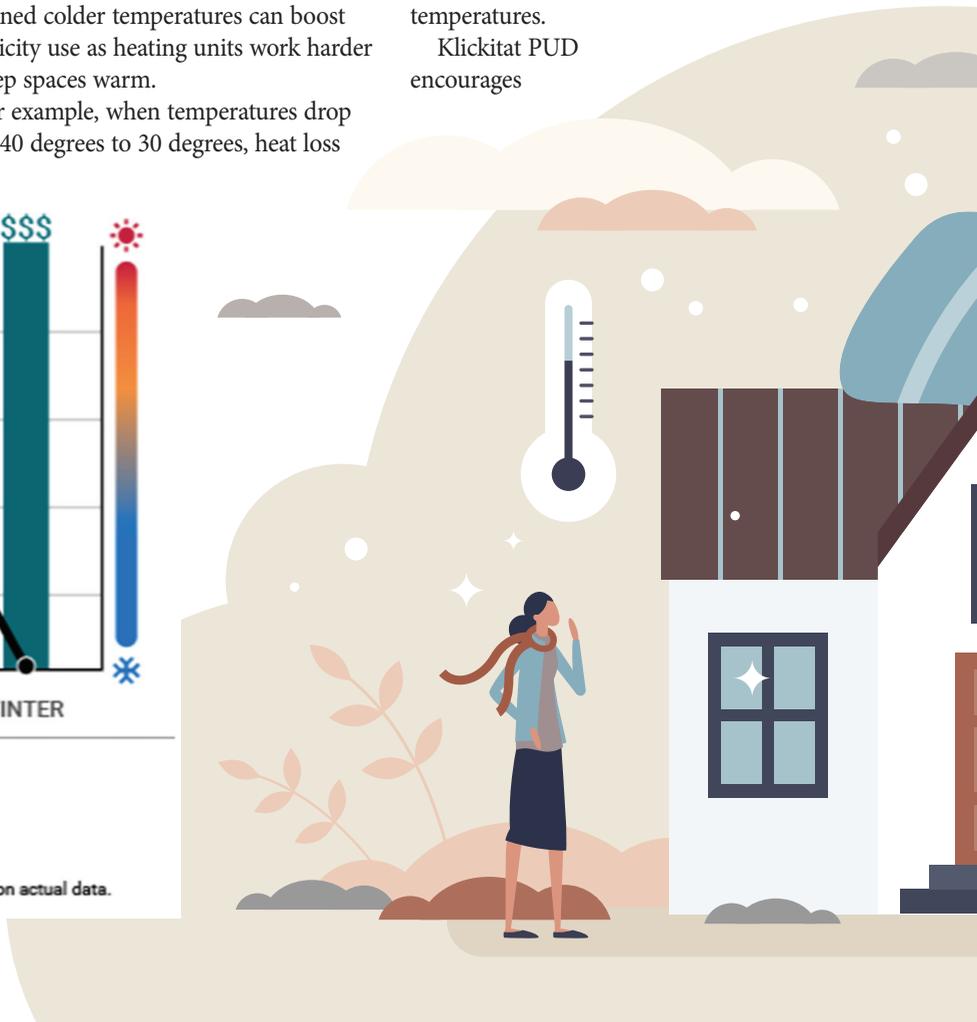
might be 10%. But when temperatures go even lower, from 30 degrees to 20 degrees, the heat loss might be 20%. This happens because heat loss through insulation, doors and windows increases faster at lower temperatures.

Klickitat PUD encourages



— Temperature outside  
 ■ Energy usage

Note: This graph is only an example and not based on actual data.



customers to combat high energy use by increasing conservation to reduce heat loss. The Goldendale and White Salmon offices have free weatherization kits available for customers. Stop by to pick one up and slow down heat loss.

**Heat Pump Efficiency Decreases With Low Temperatures**

At about 35 degrees, many heat pumps reach the balance point. At or near this temperature, the heat pump must run constantly to produce enough heat to maintain a comfortable, consistent indoor temperature.

Auxiliary or emergency heat refers to the supplemental heat supplied by the internal heat strips when the heat pump is in its defrost cycle. Auxiliary heat assists the heat pump with heat production during extremely cold weather. This decreases system efficiency and contributes to higher energy bills. Most heating systems are designed to initiate auxiliary heat when needed automatically and do not need to be set manually. ■

**Impacts of Consistent Meter Reads**

Klickitat PUD keeps the days between meter reads within one to two days to provide a consistent number of billing days, but with holidays and weekends it is not always perfect. Self-read customers are encouraged to provide reads consistently each month to avoid day's use fluctuations.

For customers with meters read by KPUD, it is important to make sure pathways to meters and the area around the meters are accessible.



**Rate Schedules**

*Effective on bills issued after January 1, 2023*

Residential and Farm Service

Basic Fee \$ 22.33 per month  
All Kilowatt hours @ \$ 0.0977

Small General Service

Basic Fee \$ 33.50 per month  
All Kilowatt hours @ \$ 0.1046

Medium General Service

Basic Fee \$ 54.81 per month  
First 7500 kWh per month @ \$ 0.0740  
All kWh in excess of 7500 @ \$ 0.0513  
First 25 kW of demand No charge  
All kW in excess of 25 @ \$ 9.23

Large General Service

Basic Fee \$ 55.84 per month  
Monthly Rate:  
Period 1 – Mar, Apr, May Jun \$ 0.0379 per kWh  
Period 2 – All Other \$ 0.0614 per kWh  
Monthly Demand Charges:  
Period 1 – Mar, Apr, May Jun \$ 6.36 per kW  
Period 2 – All Other \$ 8.71 per kW

Please visit [www.klickitatpud.com](http://www.klickitatpud.com) or contact KPUD for rate classes not identified above.

**Customer Service is happy to review your account to identify impacts and avoid surprises.**



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