

Moderate winter temperature 45°
Temperature inside the home 70°
Temperature difference 25°



Changing outside temperatures cause your home's heating system to work harder to maintain a constant temperature indoors. ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF PIONEER UTILITY RESOURCES

Winter Weather Impacts Electric Bills


Increase winter efficiency with conservation

Winter temperatures can be expected to continue through January and February—often the coldest months of the year. Cold weather also drives increased seasonal energy use and higher bills. The larger the difference between the temperature of the air outside and inside your home, the more energy it takes to heat your home to your desired temperature. Even if you don't adjust the setting on your thermostat, changing outside temperatures mean your home's HVAC system must work harder to maintain a consistent temperature inside.

Energy use varies by month and is related to the outdoor temperature. Low and high temperatures drive up energy use and your bill. The fluctuation of energy use largely depends on your primary heating and cooling source.

Heat Loss Factor Increases as Temperatures Drop

When outdoor temperatures go from 40 degrees to 30 degrees, heat loss from a home might be 10%. When going 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 customers to combat high energy use by increasing conservation to reduce heat loss. For more information about conservation and winter preparedness, visit klickitatpud.com/conservation.aspx. Additionally, our energy service specialist has a  Mythbuster series that is being published on Facebook.

Heat Pump Efficiency Decreases With Low Temperatures

At around 35 degrees, many heat pumps reach their balance point. Near this temperature, the heat pump must run constantly to produce enough heat to maintain a consistent indoor temperature.

Auxiliary heat—or emergency heat—assists the heat pump with

Extreme winter temperature **25°**
 Temperature inside the home **70°**
 Temperature difference **45°**



heat production during extreme cold weather. Auxiliary heat refers to the supplemental heat supplied by the pump's internal heat strips that come on when the heat pump is in its defrost cycle. 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 require manual setting.

During very cold weather, it is normal for your auxiliary heat to kick on. If auxiliary heat is used after it warms up, you may need to contact an HVAC service provider to troubleshoot.

Meter Reads

The deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure meters will improve consistency between reading dates and the accuracy of reads. In the month of the AMI meter exchange, the number of days billed may be different from normal. The following month, the days per billing cycle will be consistent at or near 30 days. Meter reads are taken a couple of days before the customer bill is issued to ensure time for an internal billing review.

Rate changes go into effect January 1 and vary by rate class, with a revenue increase of 4.5%. Residential rate changes include a monthly basic fee increase of \$1.50 and \$0.0034 per kilowatt-hour. An average residential bill will increase \$5.58 per month, depending on energy use. ■



LOW-INCOME ELDERLY DISCOUNT

- Available for Seniors 62 & older
- Enrollment began in October 2023
- Expanded Income Guidelines based on Gross Income

Discounts run December through May and are subject to funding limitations.

	SINGLE PERSON HOUSEHOLD	2 PERSON HOUSEHOLD
DISCOUNT %	Yearly Income	Yearly Income
35%	\$14,580 or less	\$19,720 or less
25%	\$14,581 - \$19,391	\$19,721 - \$26,228
15%	\$19,392 - \$21,870	\$26,229 - \$29,580
5%	\$21,871 - \$29,160	\$29,581 - \$39,440

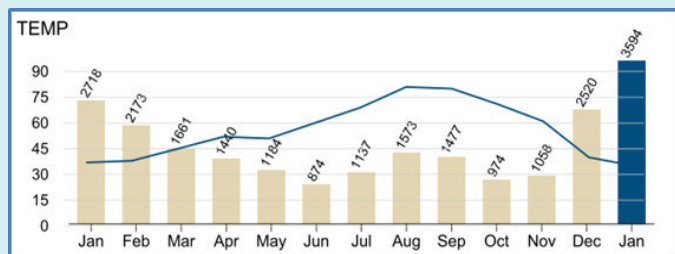
To apply contact:

Klickitat County Senior Services:
 (509) 773-3757
 Or
 (509) 493-3068



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- KPUD: Energy Efficiency Rebates**
(509) 773-7622
- WAGAP: Low-Income Home Energy Assistance**
(509) 493-2662
- Yakama Nation Energy Assistance:**
(509) 865-5121



Energy use throughout the year (the gold columns) often fluctuates based on the weather (the blue line). A graph specific to your usage is printed on your monthly bill.