



A look at Mt. Susitna as snow lays on power lines and trees.

NOV / DEC 2020

Members Continue to see Overall Rate Decreases

MEA members will see a slight decrease in overall rates for fourth quarter due to a small change in MEA's cost of power adjustment (COPA) rate which went down .51%. MEA currently has the lowest energy charge (base rate) of electric utilities within the Railbelt. This is also the third overall quarterly rate decrease for MEA members in 2020.

For a typical member consuming about 641 kWh per month electricity will see their overall bill decrease by about \$0.24 or .17%. In the August Board meeting, MEA's Board of Directors voted to keep base rates for members the same during the 4th quarter of 2020. The base rate, effective October 1st, was approved by the RCA.

MEA may file limited increases or decreases in base rates on a quarterly basis, provided the adjustments stay within certain financial parameters established by the RCA. The base rate includes the costs of infrastructure and bringing power to our members' homes and businesses. The COPA rate fluctuates quarterly as fuel and purchased power costs change based on global and Alaska-specific factors.

Members Impacted by COVID-19 Receive Utility Relief

In November the Mat-Su Borough, and the cities of Wasilla and Palmer, partnered with Matanuska Electric Association to provide CARES funding for utility relief to residents who have been financially impacted by COVID-19. MEA residential members within the city limits of Wasilla and Palmer could apply for funding for their current or past due balance on their MEA account up to a certain amount. The Mat-Su Borough Assembly approved an ordinance at their November meeting to provide utility relief for members who had previously signed a COVID-19 Sworn Statement. Nearly \$240,000 was provided in electric relief grants to members by the Borough through CARES Act funding. MEA is in the process of working with the Municipality of Anchorage to see if any unspent CARES funds could be designated for utility relief for members in Eagle River, Chugiak and Eklutna who have been financially impacted by the pandemic. For more information on the utility relief programs, please visit: <https://www.mea.coop/caresfundingutilityrelief/>

2020 Annual Membership Presentation

MEA has put together an Annual Membership Meeting Presentation that provides members with information on their co-ops previous accomplishments, future priorities, and financial information. The presentation is typically provided at the annual membership meeting in April; however, the annual meeting was eventually canceled this year due to gathering limitations with COVID-19. Members can watch the video presentation by visiting our website at www.mea.coop or on our YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/5dBB0iCRXZY>

Call for Board Candidate Applications

MEA will open applications in mid-December for two Board of Director District seats that are up for election in April 2021. Due to a bylaw change in 2020 that staggered Board Seats, the Eagle River District seat will be for a one-year term this election. The Matanuska District Seat includes the areas of Palmer, Butte, Sutton, Chickaloon, and Glacier View. The Eagle River District Seat includes the areas of Eagle River, Chugiak, and Eklutna. Candidates must reside in the district seat boundary by January of 2021 in order to run for election. For more information and to download a candidate application visit: <https://www.mea.coop/2021elections/>

POWER

Join MEA's Board of Directors – and the legacy of illuminating our local communities for 80 years.

For more information visit:
[MEA.coop/2021elections](https://www.mea.coop/2021elections)





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Christmas Lights Contest for Members

Members who like to illuminate their homes and businesses with holiday cheer and lights can enter our annual Christmas lights contest. All you have to do is submit a photo of your home or business decorated with lights for a chance to win up to \$200 off your MEA electric bill. Once photos have been received, they are uploaded to our Facebook page into a "Residential" and "Business" photo album where members can like their favorites. The photo with the most likes will win in their category. Entrants must be an active MEA member in our service territory and must be from decorations in the current 2020 year. To enter, please message us your photo entry on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MatanuskaElectricAssociation), or email your photo entry to pr@mea.coop. All photo entries are due by Monday, December 14, 2020. The photo contest on our Facebook page will run from Dec. 16th – 28th.

Winter Storm Preparedness Tips

We've already seen January temperatures in November throughout our service territory with a mix of wind and snow storms. Unfortunately our winter weather can often cause a flurry of extended power outages. In the case of a winter outage, here are some important tips for being prepared:

- **Report your power outage** – never assume we know your power is out. Please report your power outage through your SmartHub account or by calling 907-746-POWR (7697) for Mat-Su members, and 907-696-POWR (7697) for Eagle River area members.
- **Have a preparedness kit** – some important items in your kit include flashlights, batteries, candles, lighters, drinking water, non-perishable food, first aid kit, blankets and an auxiliary cell phone battery.
- **Report any trees on the lines or hazards right away** – never approach a downed power line or come into contact with a tree on the line. Lines and/or trees may be energized. Please report any downed lines or tree(s) on the lines to our dispatch.
- **Patience** – outages take time to fix. There is no magic "reset" button when it comes to restoring power. It takes the skills and expertise of our line crews who must get on site, identify the issue and make the repair. Know that on average it takes around 4 hours for power to come back on but other factors such as the location can increase or decrease outage times.

How much? Learn to Calculate your Energy Costs

It's not an uncommon situation of having to tell our kids to turn the lights off in a room they are no longer using. Our parental energy plea is often fueled by opening our electric bills each month. But what do your house lights cost you on your bill? There is a way to calculate the cost and have a math exercise with your students at home. MEA's energy cost is roughly .19 per kWh so you will use this figure in the formula. Here is the formula we use to calculate the electric cost of an item.

$$\boxed{} \text{ hours} \times \boxed{} \text{ days} \times \boxed{} \text{ \$/kWh} \times \boxed{} \text{ Watts} \div 1000 = \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

A formula example is LED Holiday Lights on for a month at 12 hours a day.

$$\boxed{12} \text{ hours} \times \boxed{31} \text{ days} \times \boxed{.19} \text{ \$/kWh} \times \boxed{2.8} \text{ Watts} \div 1000 = \$ \underline{.20}$$

This is approximately 20 cents on your bill. To find the number of watts an item uses, check the item label or look for it on the item description online. You could have your students look for three electric objects they use the most at home and calculate how much they cost each month in electricity. Just don't forget to divide by 1,000 (to equal the kWh we charge in) at the end of the formula to get the final cost.

Member Services

Eagle River - Limited Lobby Hours
Mon-Fri 12pm - 5pm
11623 Aurora Street
Ph: 907-689-9300

Wasilla - Lobby Open
Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm
1401 S. Seward Meridian Pkwy.
Ph: 907-761-9500
*24/7 outdoor payment kiosk

Palmer - Lobby Closed
Payment Dropbox Available
163 E. Industrial Way
Ph: 907-761-9300

WEBSITE
www.mea.coop

OUTAGES - VALLEY
746-POWR (7697)

OUTAGES - EAGLE RIVER
696-POWR (7697)

EMAIL
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FACEBOOK
[@MatanuskaElectricAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/MatanuskaElectricAssociation)