



# THE COST BEHIND THE POWER:

## Why Your Electric Bill May Be Higher than You Thought

At Southeastern Indiana REMC, we understand that a higher-than-expected bill raises questions. As we look back on 2025 and move forward into 2026, here are common reasons for higher bills — and what you can do.

### 1. Increased Energy Use

More kilowatt-hours used = higher bill. This often happens when households run more devices, add new loads, or face extra occupancy.

### 2. Weather & Seasonal Extremes

Cold snaps or heat waves make heating and cooling systems work harder — and longer — raising usage.

### 3. External Cost Drivers

Even if your usage remains the same, fuels, wholesale power, and system infrastructure costs may increase — and those are reflected in your bill.

### 4. Equipment & Lifestyle Changes

Older appliances, standby loads, or renovations can push usage up. Also, new additions or changes in usage patterns matter.

### What You Can Do

- Compare your usage this month with the same month last year.
- Check for changes: more time at home? New device? Different weather?
- Lower thermostat a few degrees in winter / raise a few degrees in summer.
- Unplug unused devices, keep filters clean, maintain HVAC equipment.
- Reach out if you notice a sudden spike — we're here to help.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

We remain committed to keeping you informed, maintaining system efficiency and reliability, and helping you stay aware of how usage and cost drivers affect your bill. Thank you for being part of our cooperative and for staying engaged in managing your energy use.