

High Electric Bill Concerns

Every year, PMLD receives calls from our customers with concerns about their bills and/or meters. We get most of these calls during the winter months, and they come from folks who feel their electric bills are incorrect because they are higher than usual.

Often, we need to remind customers, that their usage will be higher in the winter. During the winter, we all spend more time indoors. A change in the number of people living in the home will also affect electric and water usage. Ex. Guests staying over during the holidays, college students home on vacation, new baby. Holiday Lights can also increase electricity usage.

Please remember that some months are significantly colder than others, such as this past December.

Potential Causes for High Bills

- Space heaters – these are very high users of electricity
- Electric hot water heaters - poorly insulated pipes
- Heat - Hot Water has circulator pumps & forced hot air has blowers that require electricity
- Poor insulation - the heated or cooled air that your heating and cooling system is working so hard to produce, escapes through the walls and attic
- Refrigerator or freezer with a poor door seal
- Well pump that runs constantly
- Replacing appliances with a larger sized appliance (even if they are energy-star)
- Roof/Heat cables that might be accidentally on during the summer
- Air Conditioners
- Dehumidifiers
- Faulty wiring
- Dirty air filters

Possible Solutions

- Unplug items that are not in use – Coffee Grinder, laptops, printers, scanners, entertainment systems, phone chargers and anything in the guest room!
- Connect devices to power strips and turn off the power strips when you're not using them. Many electronic devices continue to draw power even when they're not in use.
- Consider double paned windows
- Consider getting a home energy audit (www.NextZero.org)
- Install more efficient lighting. Switch out fluorescent lighting to LED systems
- Reduce the number of lamps or fixtures

- Use your air conditioner sparingly.
- Turn down your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower.
- Check air filters. Dirty air filters increase your energy usage and be sure to use filters approved for your specific system.
- Close your fireplace damper when not in use, this prevents heated air from pouring out of the chimney.
- Seal air leaks – the materials required to seal most air leaks are inexpensive and available at your local hardware store.
- Schedule HVAC tune-ups, and ask what type of maintenance is required to keep your systems running optimally