

January/February 2025

LIGHT Reading

NEW RATES IMPLEMENTED FOR 2025

As of January 1, 2025, Seattle City Light has implemented new rates as adopted by the Seattle City Council in fall 2024. These updates were expected and detailed in our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan. Most customers will see an increase of about 5% on their electric bills.

What to expect:

- Residential customers — Most will see an increase of about \$4 per month.
- Utility Discount Program customers — The increase will be around \$2 per month.
- Business customers — Based on your use, expect a bill rise between 4% to 7%.

Visit powerlines.seattle.gov/2024/10/15/how-the-2025-2026-rate-increases-will-affect-you for more information.

While we continue to offer some of the lowest electricity rates in the country, we also understand that rate increases are challenging for everyone. We're committed to giving you the resources and financial support you need to save energy and money. If you or someone you know is having trouble paying their bill, we have bill assistance programs.

HOW TO GET HELP WITH YOUR BILL

We offer bill assistance to income-qualified residential customers, so all customers can access affordable electricity. This includes emergency bill help and the

Utility Discount Program. Call (206) 684-3000, Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. to talk about your options.

If you qualify, join the Utility Discount Program! You can get a 60% discount on your Seattle City Light bill. You'll also get a 50% discount on water, sewer, and garbage bills from Seattle Public Utilities, even if your landlord pays for them. Want to know if you qualify? Go to seattle.gov/UDP.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMMERS

Scammers often target people during the holidays, winter weather, and the start of a new year. City Light will never ask for immediate payment. That's not how we do business. If you suspect a scam, call (206) 684-3000 to check your account status. Do you know someone who might be vulnerable to a scam? You can help them stay protected. Here are some tips:

- Be proactive.
- Check their bill regularly.
- Update passwords.

For more tips on avoiding scams, visit seattle.gov/city-light/scams.



Seattle City Light

seattle.gov/city-light



LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD & REDUCE YOUR BILL

We know rate increases can be tough, but we have tips to help you save on your bills. With the average rate increase, a typical residential customer will pay about \$8 more on a bimonthly bill. Here are several low- or no-cost ways to save that much or more:

- Decrease your shower time by a few minutes to conserve your hot water.
- Run your dishwasher, washing machine, and dryer only when they're full.
- Seal air leaks to prevent drafts and lower heating and cooling costs.
- Turn down your thermostat a few degrees in winter to save energy and reduce heating costs.
- Turn off lights and replace incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs.
- Unplug energy vampires – TVs, computers, gaming consoles, and other electronics – when not in use.
- Use a microwave, slow cooker, or toaster instead of a larger oven.
- Use a space heater only when necessary – it can cost you \$1 every 3 hours, which adds up!
- Wash your laundry in cold water to save energy and keep your clothes looking better longer. Air dry them for even more savings!



Learn more ways to lighten your load and save money at seattle.gov/city-light/energy-tips.

TREE TIP: CHECK YOUR TREES AFTER STORMS

Winter storms can cause tree branches to fall. It's important to check the trees in your yard for damage. Look for broken branches in the canopy or stubs where limbs snapped off. Pruning these while the tree is dormant will help it focus on healthy growth in the spring. Before you prune, make sure branches aren't near power lines or transformers. If you're unsure, contact City Light's Power Line Clearance team: email SCL_Vegetation@seattle.gov or call (206) 386-1733.



AT WORK
in your neighborhood

Seattle City Light crews are in these neighborhoods, working to provide reliable service. The following projects continue across our service area:

- Updating electrical infrastructure for streetlights.
- Installing public Level 2 electric vehicle chargers at curbside locations.
- Replacing aging utility poles to enhance safety and reliability.
- Installing line sensors to support faster identification and resolution of unplanned outages.

Learn more about projects in your area by visiting seattle.gov/city-light/current-projects.

SAFETY TIP FROM THE FIELD

Generators can be effective during a power outage, but they need to be used with care. Always use portable generators outside in well-ventilated areas and away from your home.

