



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

LIVE LINES

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative
March 2026

Rate Change May 1, 2026

To maintain the reliability and quality of the electric service Woodbury County REC provides, on May 1, 2026, the price of electricity will increase approximately 4.42% to generate \$514,000 of additional revenue to cover the cost of purchasing and delivering electricity to the membership. The last electric price increase for Woodbury County REC member-consumers went into effect May 1, 2025.

As a not-for-profit electric Cooperative, the price of electricity is based on the cost of operating the cooperative and delivering reliable, affordable and safe electricity in an environmentally responsible manner to all the co-op's member-consumers. We pride ourselves on being responsible stewards of your resources, and we do everything within our power to control costs. However, there are several factors in which we have limited to no control, that contributed to this price increase. Wholesale power costs is the largest increase of our operations and the main driver of this rate change.

In August of 2025, we informed you that our wholesale power provider would be experiencing a substantial rate increase from its power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Western Area Power Administration. We recently informed you that the rate increase resulted in an approximately 10% increase to our wholesale cost of power. Woodbury REC has absorbed the rate increase starting on January 1, 2026 to May 1, 2026.

A professional third-party utility consulting firm has been conducting an in-depth cost of service study for several months now. A cost of service study is used in conjunction with budgets and forecasts to guide the financial decisions of the cooperative. The study is used to analyze expenses and assigns them to appropriate cost components and electrical service classes. A cost of service study is an important and necessary piece in setting rates to ensure rates are set equitably and fairly to all members.

The consultants presented its analysis to Woodbury REC's Board of Directors at the January board meeting. A recommendation on rate modifications were presented in February. Following the presentation and discussion, the Woodbury REC Board took action to implement the recommended rate change as of May 1, 2026.

Notice of Rate Change

May 1, 2026

Dear Members:

On February 23, 2026, Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved an increase in rates and charges affecting prices for electric service that you receive.

This increase will apply to your usage beginning on May 1, 2026.

The increase in annual revenues will be approximately \$514,000 or 4.42%.

Although the effect of the increase on your bill will vary depending upon the type and extent of usage, the average monthly increase per customer for the primary customer classes will be as follows:

Customer Class	Current Monthly Rate	+	Monthly Increase	=	New Rate	Percentage Increase
Single Phase	\$220.78		\$10.07		\$230.84	4.56%
Multi Phase	\$804.61		\$40.62		\$845.23	5.05%
Large Power	\$9,084.02		\$296.10		\$9,380.12	3.26%
Irrigation Controlled	\$185.37		\$8.49		\$193.86	4.58%
Irrigation Uncontrolled	\$151.18		\$60.55		\$211.72	40.05%
Street Lighting	\$7.92		\$1.60		\$9.51	20.17%

A written explanation of current rate schedules and charges is available without charge from our local business office. If you have any questions, please contact our business office at (712)873-3125 or (800)469-3125.

Sincerely,
Ronald Steinhoff
Board President



The Recipe Corner

Potato Sausage Casserole

1 lb. ground pork sausage
 1 or 2 tsp. ground sage
 1 can cream of mushroom soup
 ¾ C. milk
 ½ lb. cheese (grated)
 ¼ tsp. pepper
 ½ C. chopped onion
 3 C. pre-cooked hashbrowns or raw, sliced potatoes.

Brown sausage and sage. Mix soup, milk, onion and pepper. In 2-quart casserole, layer potatoes, soup mixture, sausage and some cheese. Repeat layers again ending with sausage. If using raw potatoes, bake, covered at 350 degrees for 1 ¼ to 1 ½ hours. Sprinkle with grated cheese and melt in oven. If using pre-cooked hash browns, bake, uncovered at 425 degrees until bubbly, then top with cheese and bake until cheese melts.

Before Your Water Heater Fails Do Research

Most people don't think much about water heaters. It's easy to take hot showers, clean dishes and freshly laundered linens for granted. The lonely water heater tucked away in the basement, or a utility closet is out of sight and out of mind. But it's equally important to be confident that your water heater will keep the water hot until you need it.

The life expectancy of an average water heater is 10-15 years for electric and 8-12 years for gas. Prepare now so you know your options. The coop sells 50, 85 and 105 gallon electric Marathon water heaters.



Whether you need a water heater for a new construction or to replace an electric or gas model, call Woodbury County REC for details on the coops water heaters and Switch Makes Cents program (712-873-3125).

Ready to Hit the Road, Energy Trail Tours 2026

Flip a switch, and the lights come on. Behind this simple action lies a complex network of people, power plants, and transmission lines working around the clock. Their mission is to ensure safe, affordable, and reliable electricity flows to more than 140 member cooperatives in nine states.

This summer, Woodbury REC members will join members from thirteen other Western and North Central Iowa electric cooperatives on a three-day excursion through the Dakotas to learn about where their electricity comes from and have some fun along the journey. The tours are part of Woodbury REC commitment to providing education for directors, employees, and members.

If you would like to be a part of this experience this year, please find more information to the right.



Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative and Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative invite you to join us for one of three Energy Trail Tours being offered this summer. This 3-day adventure will allow you to experience, first-hand, how your power providers convert energy from water, wind, and coal into electricity. View coal being mined and see how those mines are then returned to productive farm and native grass lands. Enjoy interactive walking tours through a hydroelectric and coal-fired energy generation facility and other stops along the way. Meet other cooperative member-owners while traveling together across the Dakotas on-board a motor-coach bound for the North Dakota's Energy Loop. \$100 per couple covers your lodging, meals and entry fees. The remainder of your tour costs are covered by Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative. Four lucky couples from Woodbury County REC will be selected at random from those who sign up.






☒ YES, please enter our names in the drawing for the trip. We understand that if our names are drawn, we will be billed \$100.

Our first and second choice of dates:

June 24-26	1st	2nd	3rd	(please circle)
July 8-10	1st	2nd	3rd	
July 15-17	1st	2nd	3rd	

I/we ☐ have ☐ have not participated in this tour in the past.

First Person _____

Second Person _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Clip this coupon and return to cooperative by April 24, 2026.

Reliability Requires Investment

As your local power provider, Woodbury County REC mission has always been simple: keep the lights on and support the communities we serve. But behind every switch, every warm home, and every business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care. Reliable electricity doesn't happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid through system repairs, maintenance, upgrades and the integration of new technologies that help us operate smarter and more efficiently.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, age alone means that components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and safety. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually equipment must be updated to meet modern standards. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions do occur, and create a stronger backbone for our growing community.



The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. Electric vehicles, advanced HVAC systems, smart appliances, and new commercial facilities add load to the local distribution system. As these technologies take hold, the grid must be able to support increased demand while maintaining the reliability our members expect. Strategic upgrades are essential to ensuring we can meet these needs both today and in the decades ahead.

At the same time, new technologies are reshaping how we operate. Tools such as electronic breakers, smart meters, and advanced monitoring systems allow us to detect problems faster and respond more effectively. These technologies can isolate problems, reroute power to minimize outages and provide real-time data that helps us plan and maintain equipment more efficiently.

Implementing innovative technologies into the grid is not just a convenience it is a necessity for ensuring reliability in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

While these improvements require thoughtful planning and financial investment, the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality, and enhances safety for our crews and community. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility to the people and communities we serve. Every upgrade, every repair, and every technology we deploy is an investment in your daily life from the comfort of your home to the success of local businesses and schools.

We know that powering our community means preparing for the future, not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we are building the foundation for a brighter, more resilient tomorrow.

“Operation Round-Up” A Community Helping Hand

As the economy continues to struggle, so do local charities and volunteer organizations. If you feel fortunate and would like to help your local community for no more than 99 cents per month, Woodbury County REC has a wonderful program available.

This program, called “Operation Roundup”, enables REC members to voluntarily have their monthly electric bill rounded-up to the next highest dollar. Those funds are available to help support local community organizations such as ambulance squads, fire departments, the county fair, food banks, etc. No funds are given to political campaigns or to “for profit” businesses.

Your small monthly contribution, no more than 99 cents or as little as one penny, could make a big difference in your local community. If you would want to participate in this very worthwhile voluntary program, you may sign up by going to our website <https://www.woodburyrec.com/operation-roundup> or give the Woodbury County REC office a call and we will help you sign up. Call (800)469-3125 or (712)873-3125.



Driving Behind Farm Equipment: Do your Part

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

Hundreds of farmers and agricultural workers die from work-related injuries each year. Transportation incidents, which include tractor overturns, are often the leading cause of death.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.



Equipment operators:

- Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
- Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
- Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
- Take care at railroad crossings.
- Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
- Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges and other hazards.
- Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
- Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
- Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

Auto drivers:

- Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.
- Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
- When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
- Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
- Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
- Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
- Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
- Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
- Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.