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The SaveOnEnergy.com® Electricity Bill Report: Who paid the most, least?

March 2, 2021 By Arthur Murray



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Electricity bills are relentless – they come every month, and there’s little alternative except to pay them. But some months are more painful for residential electricity than others. Most state electricity comparisons are made on the basis of electricity rates, usually expressed in cents per kilowatt hours (kWh). It’s a number that doesn’t mean much to average users, who care more about that figure on the bottom line of their electricity bills.

That’s why we publish the SaveOnEnergy.com® Electricity Bill Report, a monthly look factoring the latest average state rates and average state

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usage to show what's happening with the monthly cost of electricity. The March 2021 Report, using the U.S. Energy Information Administration's data for December, shows that Utah residents have it best when it comes to electricity bills. On the other side, Hawaii residents pay among the highest electricity bills of any state.

How does your state stack up?

10 states with the lowest electricity bills

State	December 2020 rate (cents/kWh)	Avg. monthly usage (kWh)	Avg. bill
Utah	10.19	727	74.10
New Mexico	12.27	640	78.50
Colorado	12.14	682	82.83
Illinois	12.32	709	87.36
Wyoming	10.66	864	92.08
Maine	16.51	562	92.78
Idaho	9.92	949	94.12
Montana	11.02	857	94.46
Washington	9.77	973	95.09
Minnesota	12.87	759	97.72

Digging into those numbers provides some surprises. New Mexico residents pay 12.27 cents/kWh for electricity – the 20th-highest rate in the country. So how do they have low bills? Their monthly usage is among the nation's lowest.

Meanwhile, the state that usually records one of the lowest residential electricity rates for any month – Louisiana, which in December averaged 9.54 cents/kWh – is nowhere to be found among the 10 states with the lowest bills. That's because residents average the highest usage in the country – 1,232 kilowatt hours per month. (We'll show you how the math turns out later.)

Which states have the highest bills?

What about the other side of the equation? Tennessee's rates – 10.41 cents/kWh – are the nation's 10th-lowest, but high usage pushes residents' bills to the eighth-highest in the nation. Tennessee residents' average bills are over \$50 more than the average in Utah.

10 states with the highest electricity bills

State	December 2020 rate (cents/kWh)	Avg. monthly usage (kWh)	Avg. bill
Hawaii	29.14	525	152.88
Connecticut	20.39	689	140.50
Alabama	11.39	1,201	136.78
Mississippi	11.25	1,206	135.67
Texas	11.87	1,140	135.31
Florida	11.86	1,108	131.40
South Carolina	11.78	1,114	131.23
Tennessee	10.41	1,217	126.70
Rhode Island	22.59	560	126.41
Virginia	11.21	1,122	125.82

We've outlined the best and the worst bills. See how your state did in this chart (1 = lowest bills):

Average electricity bills in all 50 states

State	December 2020 rate (cents/kWh)	Avg. monthly usage (kWh)	Avg. bill	Cost ranking
Alabama	11.39	1,201	136.78	48

State	December 2020 rate (cents/kWh)	Avg. monthly usage (kWh)	Avg. bill	Cost ranking
Alaska	21.93	555	121.81	36
Arizona	12.18	1,014	123.51	37
Arkansas	9.87	1,118	110.30	27
California	20.45	532	108.82	24
Colorado	12.14	682	82.83	3
Connecticut	20.39	689	140.50	49
Delaware	12.51	950	118.79	32
Florida	11.86	1,108	131.40	45
Georgia	10.80	1,121	121.04	34
Hawaii	29.14	525	152.88	50
Idaho	9.92	949	94.12	7
Illinois	12.32	709	87.36	4
Indiana	12.69	960	121.79	35
Iowa	11.31	867	98.07	12
Kansas	12.22	891	108.87	25
Kentucky	10.53	1,112	117.11	30
Louisiana	9.54	1,232	117.56	31
Maine	16.51	562	92.78	6
Maryland	12.73	975	124.16	40
Massachusetts	21.54	574	123.73	39
Michigan	16.47	637	104.86	21
Minnesota	12.87	759	97.72	10
Mississippi	11.25	1,206	135.67	47
Missouri	9.30	1,058	98.37	13

State	December 2020 rate (cents/kWh)	Avg. monthly usage (kWh)	Avg. bill	Cost ranking
Montana	11.02	857	94.46	8
Nebraska	10.13	1,004	101.70	17
Nevada	11.20	890	99.67	16
New Hampshire	18.74	599	112.21	28
New Jersey	15.99	663	106.00	23
New Mexico	12.27	640	78.50	2
New York	18.23	577	105.28	22
North Carolina	10.60	1,079	114.42	29
North Dakota	9.39	1,109	104.16	19
Ohio	11.80	874	103.10	18
Oklahoma	8.88	1,116	99.13	14
Oregon	10.89	911	99.23	15
Pennsylvania	13.15	837	110.00	26
Rhode Island	22.59	560	126.41	42
South Carolina	11.78	1,114	131.23	44
South Dakota	11.39	1,044	118.89	33
Tennessee	10.41	1,217	126.70	43
Texas	11.87	1,140	135.31	46
Utah	10.19	727	74.10	1
Vermont	19.04	549	104.46	20
Virginia	11.21	1,122	125.82	41
Washington	9.77	973	95.09	9
West Virginia	11.41	1,084	123.65	38
Wisconsin	14.52	674	97.84	11

State	December 2020 rate (cents/kWh)	Avg. monthly usage (kWh)	Avg. bill	Cost ranking
Wyoming	10.66	864	92.08	5
United States	12.80	887	113.59	

How have electricity bills changed since last year?

Bills in Georgia increased by the greatest percentage from a year ago, going up 13.2 percent year over year – meaning residents paid a little over \$14 more for electricity in December 2020. Bills increased year-over-year in 29 states.

10 states with the largest increase in electricity bills

State	December 2020 avg. bill	December 19 avg. bill	% change
Georgia	121.04	106.92	13.2
West Virginia	123.65	114.33	8.2
Arkansas	110.30	102.81	7.3
California	108.82	101.90	6.8
Wisconsin	97.84	92.45	5.8
Colorado	82.83	78.60	5.4
New York	105.28	100.08	5.2
Minnesota	97.72	92.94	5.1
New Jersey	106.00	100.90	5.1
Michigan	104.86	99.89	5.0

10 states with the biggest decrease in electricity bills

State	December 2020 avg. bill	December 19 avg. bill	% change
South Carolina	131.23	154.85	-15.3
Maine	92.78	100.87	-8.0
Nevada	99.67	106.70	-6.6
Hawaii	152.88	162.59	-6.0
Pennsylvania	110.00	116.95	-5.9
Missouri	98.37	104.19	-5.6
New Hampshire	112.21	118.01	-4.9
Virginia	125.82	131.66	-4.4
Alaska	121.81	127.42	-4.4
Massachusetts	123.73	128.61	-3.8

What to do about high bills?

The first thing you can do is reduce the amount of energy you use. That doesn't mean freezing or roasting in the house and taking cold showers. Some [energy-saving tips](#) are easy and painless.

The other way to cut your energy bills is, if you live in a state with deregulation, is to find [lower electricity supply rates](#). Energy deregulation, put simply, means energy choice. States with energy choice allow residential and other customers to choose the company that provides their energy. Click on your state, enter your ZIP code and see whether you can lower your rate:

[California](#) [Connecticut](#) [Illinois](#)
[Maine](#) [Maryland](#) [Massachusetts](#)
[New Hampshire](#) [New Jersey](#) [New York](#)
[Ohio](#) [Pennsylvania](#) [Texas](#)

Remember, lower rates plus lower usage translate into lower bills.

SaveOnEnergy.com will continue to track monthly electricity bills.
Bookmark this page to see which state residents are getting the best
and worst deals on electricity.

(Last updated March 2, 2021)

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