


Alberta Carbon Levy and Rebate Update

Effective, January 1, 2018 the carbon levy will rise from \$20/tonne to \$30/tonne. The carbon levy is applied to diesel, gasoline, natural gas and propane at the gas station and on heating bills; however it does not apply to the actual cost of electricity. The levy rate is based on the amount of carbon pollution that is released by the fuel, not the mass of fuel itself. (Reference the table below for current and increased tax levels.)

To mitigate some of the financial repercussions, many Albertans and their families are eligible for rebates. Eligible Albertans do not have to apply to receive the rebate, but they must file their 2016 and subsequent income tax returns to be eligible.

| Type of Fuel | Current Rate (\$20/tonne) | Rate Jan. 1, 2018 (\$30/tonne) |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Marked farm fuels | Exempt | Exempt |
| Diesel | 5.35¢/L | +2.68¢/L |
| Gasoline | 4.49¢/L | +2.24¢/L |
| Natural Gas | 1.011\$/GJ | +0.506\$/GJ |
| Propane | 3.08¢/L | +1.54¢/L |



If you would like to find out the estimated cost of the carbon levy for your household and the rebate you will receive, visit the government website: <https://www.alberta.ca/calculate-carbon-levy-rebate-and-costs.aspx>

Alberta Government Announces Results of Alberta Renewables Auction

On December 13th, the Alberta government announced that three companies have been chosen in the opening round of the Renewable Electricity Program and reports this first round attracted investment from both international and Alberta-based companies expecting to create approximately 740 jobs.

The successful bidders will add approximately 600 megawatts of renewable power, or enough to power up to 255,000 homes, through wind projects throughout the province. This amount represents 200 megawatts more than what was originally planned.

The following companies were successful bidders in round one:

- **Capital Power**, which will build the 201-megawatt Whitla Wind project 60 kilometers southwest of Medicine Hat.
- **EDP Renewables Canada Ltd.**, which will build a 248-megawatt wind farm at their Sharp Hills project east of Hanna, roughly 50 kilometers north of Oyen.
- **Enel Green Power North America, Inc.**, which will build two projects – the 115-megawatt Riverview Wind Farm and the 31-megawatt Phase 2 of Castle Rock Ridge Wind Power Plant just outside of Pincher Creek.



For power troubles or service requests, contact: FortisAlberta (the distribution system operator for West Wetaskiwin REA): Toll-free: 1-855-333-9473 or 780-310-9473

For REA inquiries contact:
West Wetaskiwin REA
R.R. #1 Station Main,
Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8
Phone: 780-335-9378 (WEST)
E-mail: westwet@telus.net
www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

For billing or account inquiries contact:
Battle River Power Coop
Box 1420
Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972
E-mail: brpc@brpower.coop
www.brpower.coop

The West Wetaskiwin REA Board of Directors at Work



The West Wetaskiwin REA Board of Directors (left to right): Bill Moure, Ron Holmlund, Ken Adair, Mike Wollin, Dean Knull, Ron Midtdal, Ron Stevens

One of the advantages of being a member of the West Wetaskiwin Rural Electrification Association (WW REA) is your right and privilege to elect a Board of Directors who, like you, are members of the REA and live and work in your community. Directors are elected by the membership and tasked to govern in the best interests of your REA.

The Rural Utilities Act, governing Rural Electrification Associations, outlines the role of Directors, stating Directors are empowered “for the general direction and supervision of the affairs and business of the association”, and have the responsibility of appointing and engaging managers or other entities they consider necessary for the conduct of the affairs and business of the association.

Your Directors come from diverse backgrounds and bring their business experience, community participation and rural living understanding to the table to govern your REA. The Directors meet regularly, in addition to attending external meetings and forums that pertain to the electrical industry. Participation in these activities is important to ensure the positioning of West Wetaskiwin REA to both government and industry stakeholders. At regular board meetings, the agenda might include, but is not limited to, review of financials, review of contractor operations (distribution system maintenance, new construction, vegetation management) and other issues and opportunities affecting the REA.

One key and imminent issue your Board of Directors is particularly concerned about is the ‘rural/urban annexation’ of REA members initiated by FortisAlberta in early 2017 and their application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). As municipalities manage their respective framework for growth, expansion beyond municipal boundaries, identified as rural/urban annexation, is one option. In response to this growth, FortisAlberta (the electrical provider for these municipalities) made an application to the AUC which, if approved, will oblige many REA members (including WWREA members) to leave their REAs to receive service from FortisAlberta. For WW REA, we would lose assets in addition to members. FortisAlberta is citing rural/urban annexation as the rationale for their application even though historically, as annexation has occurred, all REA members had the right to continue to receive services from their respective REA until assets were salvaged or upgraded to serve the annexed provisions. The AUC Proceeding 22164 hearing is scheduled in Edmonton for January 25th and 26th, 2018 and WW REA along with other REAs and the Alberta Federation of REAs are working jointly to present a case in opposition to this application.

Regulated Rate Option



The Regulated Rate Option (RRO) may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a ‘regulated’ rate, rather is a default rate. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the RRO. For December, 2017 RRO is priced at \$0.03715 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For January, 2018 the RRO is priced at \$0.04763 per kWh.

It is very important to note that your electrical distribution system provider will always be the West Wetaskiwin REA, regardless of who supplies your electricity. Members will not be disadvantaged in any way based on their retailer choice.

For a list of energy retailers, contact the Utilities Consumer Advocate: 310-4-UCA (310-4822) or www.ucahelps.alberta.ca. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the default Regulated Rate Option (RRO). The RRO rate is listed on www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

Information on West Wetaskiwin’s Code of Conduct Regulation Compliance Plan can be found on our website: www.westwetaskiwinrea.com