

## Changeover Billing Update

Some members may have noticed some increased consumption and/or date change with their last bill, resulting from the following influences.

With the changeover, the regular billing cycle (which is 30 days) was modified. The first bill issued after Battle River Power Coop became our Distribution System Operator reflected 8-10 days more than a normal period. Therefore the consumption on the last bill was greater than a normal 30-day period and your electricity and transmission charges incorporated the consumption during those additional days. This was a one-time expanded billing cycle; the next invoice will fall back into the regular billing schedule/cycle.

Another consideration for this time of year is that with shorter days, inevitably people have their lights on longer and the holiday season, with both indoor and outdoor lighting, annually translates into an increase in usage.



Studies also show that heating a Canadian home accounts for over 50% of average electricity use and inevitably you use more electricity in the winter months. Additionally, Alberta has experienced record breaking cold at the end of the year and into January translating to greater consumption. In fact, on December 27 while Yakutsk, Russia was the coldest place on earth, second, third, fourth and fifth place were locations in Alberta.

The cost of electricity has been steadily increasing; in fact, since June of 2021, the default RRO rate (that fluctuates monthly) has increased in excess of 50% (\$0.07665 in June to \$0.12500 in December).

## Meter Installation Update

As of this newsletter, the majority of West Wetaskiwin REA members will have received the new ITRON meters allowing for regularly scheduled meter reading by air. Members with micro-generation and on three-phase will be receiving their new meters very soon. Battle River Power Coop has been working diligently to install all meters as quickly as possible.

## New Retailers Signed to Serve West Wetaskiwin REA

The number of electricity retailers with signed agreements to provide service to West Wetaskiwin REA has increased. Please visit the website for details: [www.westwetaskiwinrea.com](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com).

**NOTE:** West Wetaskiwin REA members are NOT eligible for the Battle River Power Coop Electricity Contract. Battle River Power Coop provides our RRO but cannot provide retail electricity contracts to our members.

### For Power Troubles:

Battle River Power Coop (our distribution system operator)  
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972

### For RRO Billing and Account Inquiries:

Battle River Power Coop | Box 1420 Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3  
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972  
E-mail: [brpc@brpower.coop](mailto:brpc@brpower.coop) | Website: [www.brpower.coop](http://www.brpower.coop)

### For REA Inquiries, New Service and Service Change Requests:

Contact West Wetaskiwin REA, RR #1  
Station Main, Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8  
Tel: 780-335-9378 (WEST)  
E-mail: [westwet@telus.net](mailto:westwet@telus.net) | Website: [www.westwetaskiwinrea.com](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com)

For service requests: go to [www.westwetaskiwinrea.com/new-or-changes-to-services.html](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com/new-or-changes-to-services.html)

# Some Tips to Lower Your Energy Bill and Keep Your Home Toasty Warm this Winter

You might be surprised to know that various studies confirm that more than half the energy used in a Canadian home goes to heating. Following are some quick and toasty tips to keep the heat where it belongs—in your home!

## Make your curtains work for you.

In winter, open curtains and blinds in the morning to let in natural heat and sunlight. Be sure to close them in the evening to keep that heat in.

## Change (or clean) your furnace filter.

A clean filter improves air flow and ensures warm air can actually make it out of the vents and into your home.

## Relocate your furniture.

If you have a couch, chair, or table blocking a baseboard heater or an area rug covering, or partially covering, a heat register – then you should consider moving these items so heat sources have space around them to let air flow freely.

## Use your ceiling fan effectively.

Ensure in winter that your ceiling fans spin clockwise. This will produce an updraft and move the warm air that collects near your ceiling down into the room.

## After using the oven, leave the door ajar.

If you are using your oven to cook a meal, there is no sense leaving that heat go to waste. After food is removed, leave the door cracked open and allow that extra heat to escape and warm the kitchen.

## Reset your water heater temperature.

Water heaters are a significant source of energy use in a home and most people have the thermostat set too

high. Just reducing the temperature a few degrees can save you money and you probably won't notice the difference.

## Exterior water and heat sources.

The same advice applies to exterior water troughs – keep the temperature just high enough to prevent water from freezing. Additionally for heated structures, monitor and set temperatures for the minimal heat requirements.

## Lower the temperature in your home.

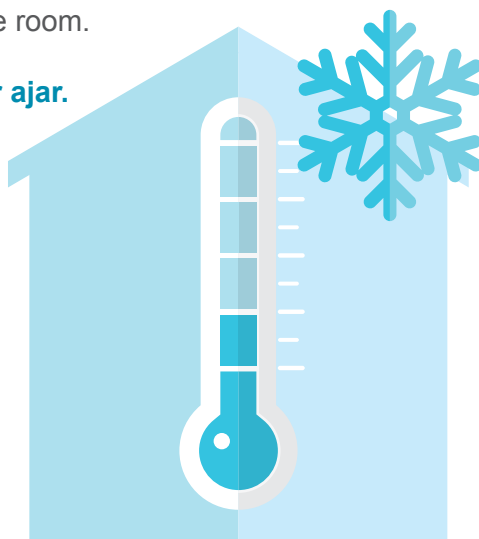
Experiment with setting your temperature to the lowest setting that you feel comfortable with – this simple tip will result in long-term savings. Be sure to reduce temperatures when you are not at home and consider a programmable thermostat so you can “set it and leave it.”

## Turn the thermostat down when you go to sleep.

Reducing home heating for 8 hours per day will translate to savings, both short-term and over the longer term. Once again, consider a programmable thermostat to do that automatically for you.

## Eliminate drafts and plug holes.

Check for spaces around your windows and doors that could be letting in cold air. If you place your hand a few centimeters away from edges and feel a draft, consider filling the cracks with weather stripping or sealant.



### 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 January 2022, the RRO is priced at \$0.16280 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For February 2022, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate is \$0.14594.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit [ucahelps.alberta.ca](http://ucahelps.alberta.ca) or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

Information on West Wetaskiwin REA's Code of Conduct Regulation Compliance Plan can be found on our website: [www.westwetaskiwinrea.com](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com)