

# Why are rates rising?

Rates are rising because of four main factors: the need for new transmission lines, power plant updates, environmental upgrades, and new wind resources. These factors affect our wholesale power bill, which in turn, affect our members' bills.

- The increasing demand for energy and new wind energy generation has created the need for new electric transmission lines. These new lines cost about \$1 million per mile, but are vital to meeting our electricity needs.
- Minnkota Power Cooperative's (MPC) mine mouth power plants in western North Dakota came online in 1970 and 1977. MPC is refurbishing them to keep the plants running smoothly and efficiently.
- Due to emissions regulations and environmental stewardship, our wholesale power provider, MPC, is making investments in environmental controls at the power plants.
- MPC is a national leader in wind generation and sources the equivalent of 33% of member energy needs from wind. Wind energy requires fossil fuel generation to back it up when the wind isn't blowing. Wind energy costs more per kWh than existing coal generation, but is less costly than building new coal facilities.

Cass County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) will continue to keep members updated as more information is available. Rate increases are expected over the next few years.

## What can you do?

Being energy efficient and being conservative when using energy are the best ways to combat rising energy costs. For energy saving ideas, visit [www.kwh.com](http://www.kwh.com), [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com) or call CCEC and speak to an energy expert at 701.356.4400.



[WWW.KWH.COM](http://WWW.KWH.COM)  
[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)