



Pay in person:
2620 Fairfield St. (27th & Fairfield)
Lincoln, NE 68521
8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Friday*

*9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Every third Wednesday
Customer Service: 402.475.4211
Power Outage: 888.365.2412
Nebraska811 (Call before you dig): 811

OCTOBER 2024

LES proposes rate adjustment

As the utility industry continues to evolve, LES must continue to evolve with it.

During LES' September Administrative Board meeting, the Lincoln Electric System Administrative Board's Finance Committee proposed a budget that includes a 3.3% systemwide increase to retail electric rates in 2025.

"LES has a long-standing dedication to providing safe, reliable and sustainable electric service to our customers," said Emily Koenig, LES vice president of Financial Services & chief financial officer. "As our community's sole electric provider, we are committed to maintaining a resilient electric system while keeping our rates stable, affordable and equitable. The budgeted rate increase is needed to meet these values."

If the rate increase is adopted, an average LES residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month will see an increase of approximately \$3.50 on their monthly bill. Other rate classes

would see increases varying from 2.1% to 10.0% based on the cost to serve each customer class.

Cost reductions have been included in the proposed budget, including decreases in non-critical capital projects and operating expenses. However, the electric utility industry is continuously evolving, and LES must be able to continue evolving with it. Factors like supply chain and other cost increases, regulatory and policy requirements, and changing energy market dynamics are creating new challenges and opportunities for the industry. As such, the proposed rate increase is necessary to ensure the ongoing financial health of our customer-owned utility.

The proposed budget totals \$474.8 million, including the operating budget of \$291.1 million and the capital budget of \$183.7 million.


A public meeting on the proposed LES 2025 budget and rates was held Oct. 3. Customers can view the meeting's materials at [LES.com/Budget](https://www.les.com/Budget). LES staff will also meet with customers and customer groups throughout October to provide information and receive feedback on the proposed budget and rates.

The LES Administrative Board is planning to take action on the budget at its Oct. 18 meeting. If approved, the proposed budget and rates will be considered by the Lincoln City Council at a public hearing in November. If approved, rate changes will become effective Jan. 1, 2025.

Business and residential customers can use LES' online rate calculator to see an estimated bill with the proposed rate at [LES.com/BillCalculator](https://www.les.com/BillCalculator). Payment assistance options can be found at [LES.com/FinancialAssistance](https://www.les.com/FinancialAssistance) or by calling LES at **402.475.4211**.



Lincoln residents:
The City of Lincoln and LES are offering up to \$3,800 in incentives for purchasing an air source heat pump! Learn more at [LES.com/SEP](https://www.les.com/SEP).



New!
Your new LES online account experience is here! Visit [LES.com/Pay](https://www.les.com/Pay) to get started.

What's haunting your energy bill?

Does wasting \$100 sound scary to you? That's about what the average U.S. household spends each year on phantom load. Appliances and electronic devices still use energy while they are turned off or not in use. Big power suckers include TVs, cable boxes, video consoles and battery chargers.

Ways to slay the energy vampires:

- Unplug devices that are rarely used.
- Use a power strip with a switch to control groups of devices, such as computer clusters (computer, printer, speakers) and entertainment centers (TV, stereo, game console).
- Use advanced power strips for computers and other devices.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR® certified appliances and electronic devices

Visit [LES.com](https://www.les.com) for more ways to save energy and money all year long.

Public Power powers the Good Life

Nebraska is special. It's an all-public-power state – the only all-public-power state in the nation!

Why? Thank U.S. Senator George Norris. Norris advocated for every Nebraskan to have access to electricity, as many farmers and rural communities were still in the dark. In 1933, the Nebraska Legislature created the state statutes that govern public power districts, and between 1934 and 1946, investor-owned utilities were absorbed by public power districts.

Norris understood that local ownership led to more reliable and less expensive electricity than electricity produced and delivered by shareholder-owned utilities seeking to profit from the service. His wisdom and commitment to improving the lives of Nebraskans are evident today in every farm light, production line, home, business and traffic signal throughout the state.

Today, Nebraska's public power utilities monitor more than 27,000 miles of power lines – enough to span from New York to Los Angeles, 10 times. From small towns to big cities, and all the miles in between, public power powers the Good Life in Nebraska!

Each October, we celebrate the tradition of public power through Public Power Week. It commemorates the legacy born in the 1930s that has grown Lincoln – and the 2,000 other community-owned utilities across the country – through electric service powered by its very own people. Help us celebrate Public Power Week, Oct. 6-12, by following LES on Facebook, X and Instagram for updates.

Learn more about what it means to be public power at [LES.com/PublicPower](https://www.les.com/PublicPower) and [nepower.org](https://www.nepower.org).

PUBLIC POWER

POWERING OUR STATE
EMPOWERING YOUR LIFE

Learn more at [nepower.org](https://www.nepower.org)



Nebraska consistently ranks **among the nation's best for power grid reliability.**



Rates are set locally by elected or appointed boards. Board meetings and utility records are **open to the public.**



Annually, more than **\$85 million is given back to Nebraska communities** in lieu of taxes and other local transfers.

