

NEWSLINE



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE 2026 RATE ADJUSTMENT WHAT THE ADJUSTMENT MEANS FOR YOU

As your electric cooperative, we are committed to providing you safe, reliable and affordable electricity. While we have not had a blanket rate increase since 2018, we are finding it difficult to maintain the safe and reliable electricity you depend on without making changes. As such, we will be adjusting rates for all classes within our membership.

Why is this necessary?

This adjustment will help us continue to manage rising wholesale power costs, as well as the cost of resources and materials and to maintain our commitment to a resilient, sustainable energy system.

Approximately 66% of Itasca-Mantrap's annual expenses go toward purchasing power from our wholesale provider, Great River Energy. Their rates are increasing by 3% this year, continuing a trend we have absorbed since 2018. Residential members have been protected from these rising costs

for more than seven years, even as commercial and industrial accounts saw periodic adjustments.

At the same time, the costs of poles, transformers, trucks, safety gear and technology have all increased. Making an adjustment now helps us maintain reliable service, reinvest in our system and avoid large, unpredictable increases in the future. This step keeps your cooperative strong and ready for what comes next.

When will this increase go into effect?

This rate adjustment will be effective April 1, 2026. However, you won't see the updated rates on your bill until May.

Our commitment to our membership

We know that any rate increase affects you and your family, and we are taking steps to help lessen the impact, such as:

Continued on page 3



CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON,
PRESIDENT & CEO

A New Year of Opportunity for Our Cooperative Community

As we welcome a new year, I find myself reflecting on what truly sets our electric cooperative apart. Being a member of a cooperative means you are part of an organization that exists solely to serve our members and our communities. Every decision we make is grounded in the shared values of safety, reliability, affordability and long-term stewardship. Your membership isn't just an account — it's a voice, and it's an investment in a system we all own.

Looking ahead, 2026 will bring meaningful opportunities for our membership. We are launching new load management programs designed to help members take advantage of lower-cost energy during off-peak hours. Working together, these efforts can help reduce power supply expenses and support a healthier, more resilient system.

We are also pursuing new rate design strategies that provide members with more transparency and more control over costs through participation in various programs. You will be able to better manage your energy and demand use, which can help lower your costs as well as reduce the overall costs and strain on our system's grid. These changes are about empowering you with the tools to make decisions that best support your home, farm or business.

Beyond our local initiatives, we also have an important

opportunity in the year ahead to advocate for cooperative interests at the federal level. Our cooperative will be engaged with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) as they work with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on revisions planned for 2026. These changes will shape how cooperatives access disaster relief funding, how we rebuild after major storms, and how federal programs support rural infrastructure. By being involved early and actively, we can help ensure that the unique needs of rural electric cooperatives—and the members we serve—are properly represented.

Innovation doesn't stop there. We will continue exploring technologies and programs that support member-owned generation, energy efficiency, electrification, and provide better insight into how and when energy is used. These efforts reflect what makes the cooperative model so effective: we evolve together, guided by the needs and priorities of the members we serve.

As your CEO, I am excited about the year ahead. The opportunities before us will help strengthen our cooperative for decades to come. Thank you for your trust, your engagement, and your partnership in this mission.

I look forward to working with you throughout this new year as we continue building a reliable, affordable, and member-focused energy cooperative.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on at Thursday, October 30, 2025, 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- September financials, subject to audit
- Dates for 2026 Board meetings
- Board budget for 2026
- Revisions to Board Policy 3.35 – Parental, Family & Medical Leave
- Attendees for upcoming director meetings/conferences

Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- CEO
- RESAP Observation
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Operations Fleet Report
- CFC Key Ration Trend Analysis
- Summaries of meetings attended

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Board Expenses to Budget YTD
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for September 2025
- WAPA Fixed Electric Service contract update
- Operational Plan Update – Q3
- Operation Round Up – Fall 2025 Disbursements
- Scrap Disposition Sales & Certificates
- 2024 Form 990 Tax Report
- Class Cost of Service summary

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

- Budget billing options:** Levelized billing and flexible payment arrangements can help smooth out seasonal changes and unexpected expenses.
- Load management and energy efficiency:** Members can reduce monthly bills by participating in load management programs such as water heater and air conditioning control or by using available energy efficiency rebates and tools.
- Energy assistance programs:** We partner with state and local agencies to connect qualifying households with financial support, weatherization benefits and other community resources.

Looking ahead

Rate adjustments are never easy, and we understand the concern they can create. Our commitment is to stay transparent, address

challenges early and communicate clearly as we move forward. Please continue monitoring our newsletter and social channels for future updates regarding rates. These changes reflect careful analysis and ensure each rate class pays only its fair share for the cost of providing electric service. Nothing more and nothing less.

We remain focused on keeping costs as low as possible, investing in a reliable and modern electric system and supporting the communities we serve. Thank you for your understanding, your support and your membership. Together, we will continue to power our communities forward.

Please find your rate in the following charts to see the changes that will take effect April 2026.

Residential			
Class	Type	Current Rate	New Rate
General Service R100 R101 R170	Basic Charge	\$38.00	\$42.00
	kWh All Other	\$0.10	\$0.11
	kWh June-Aug	\$0.12	\$0.13
A typical residential member using 900 kWh will see a \$9 increase for energy usage and a \$4 basic charge increase, totaling \$13 per month.			
Off Peak R103	Basic Charge	\$3.00	\$4.00
	kWh	\$0.053	\$0.058
Dual Fuel/ASHP R102 R106	Basic Charge	\$3.00	\$4.00
	kWh	\$0.068	\$0.073
Freedom Heat/Ground Coupled Heat Pump* R107 R105	Basic Charge	\$3.00	\$4.00
	kWh	\$0.082	\$0.082
Dual Fuel & Off Peak* R104	Basic Charge	\$3.00	\$4.00
	kWh	\$0.059	\$0.064
EV Whole House R117	Basic Charge	\$38.00	\$42.00
	On Peak kWh	\$0.204	\$0.214
	Off Peak kWh	\$0.08	\$0.11
Total Heat Pump* R108	Basic Charge	\$38.00	\$42.00
	kWh	\$0.088	\$0.098
Street Lights*			
Class	Type	Current Rate	New Rate
Street Lights*	Monthly Charge	\$10.25	\$11.25

*Program closed to new participants

Irrigation

Class	Type	Current Rate	New Rate
Irrigation- Controlled I320	Basic Charge	\$51.00	\$60.00
	kWh	\$0.06	\$0.06
	kW	\$7.75	\$7.75
Irrigation- Uncontrolled I300	Basic Charge	\$51.00	\$60.00
	kWh	\$0.060	\$0.060
	kW All Other	\$11.500	\$13.000
	kW June-Aug.	\$17.88	\$18.48

Large Commercial

Class	Type	Current Rate	New Rate
Large Comm. LC420 LC421	Basic Charge	\$51.00	\$56.00
	kWh	\$0.055	\$0.0575
	kW All Other	\$12.750	\$13.750
	kW June-Aug.	\$19.25	\$20.25
Off Peak LC423	Basic Charge	\$4.00	\$4.00
	kWh	\$0.053	\$0.058
Dual Fuel LC422	Basic Charge	\$4.00	\$4.00
	kWh	\$0.068	\$0.082

Small Commercial

Class	Type	Current Rate	New Rate
General Service SC200, SC201, SC270	Basic Charge	\$50.00	\$55.00
	kWh All other	\$0.105	\$0.115
	kWh June-Aug	\$0.125	\$0.135
Off Peak SC203	Basic Charge	\$4.00	\$4.00
	kWh	\$0.053	\$0.058
Dual Fuel/ ASHP SC202 SC206	Basic Charge	\$4.00	\$4.00
	kWh	\$0.068	\$0.073
Freedom Heat* SC207	Basic Charge	\$4.00	\$4.00
	kWh	\$0.068	\$0.082

Large Power

Class	Type	Current Rate	New Rate
Large Power L500 L501	Basic Charge	\$58.00	\$63.00
	kWh	\$0.0525	\$0.055
	kW All Other	\$17.00	\$17.00
	kW June-Aug.	\$22.25	\$22.75
Large Power ASHP L502	Basic Charge	\$58.00	\$63.00
	kWh	\$0.0525	\$0.0550
	kW All Other	\$15.50	\$17.00
	kW June-Aug.	\$22.25	\$22.75



**This could
be you!**

Youth Tour 2025!

Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative is seeking a high school sophomore or junior to serve as its 2026 Youth Tour delegate, joining students from across the country for a week of leadership development in Washington, D.C.

Each year, rural electric cooperatives send roughly 2,000 students from 44 states to the nation's capital as part of the Rural Electric Youth Tour. The program is designed to show young people how government works, highlight the cooperative business model and inspire future advocates for rural communities. Participants return with a deeper understanding of public policy, energy issues and the role cooperatives play in shaping them.

The 2026 tour will include visits to national memorials, Smithsonian museums, and key federal institutions. Delegates will also meet with Minnesota's congressional staff and connect with peers who share an interest in leadership and civic engagement.

Eligible students must be sophomores or juniors who live in Itasca-Mantrap's service territory.



Important Trip Details:

Dates: June 15-20, 2026

Application Deadline: February 20, 2026

Hear from our latest Youth Tour Delegate, Grace Officer

"I am genuinely so grateful for the opportunity to represent Itasca-Mantrap at the Youth Tour. I have learned so much about Cooperatives and I had the opportunity to grow as an individual by stepping out of my comfort zone. All while making amazing memories and making friends for life. I strongly recommend this experience to any student looking to take part in an amazing opportunity."



Ready to apply?

Applications are available at itasca-mantrap.com/youth-tour and through local school counseling offices. Completed applications are due February 20, 2026. Students with a passion for leadership, government or rural issues are encouraged to apply and help carry forward the cooperative spirit.



ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

16930 County 6, PO Box 192
Park Rapids, MN 56470

(218) 732-3377 | (888) 713-3377
itasca@itasca-mantrap.com
www.itasca-mantrap.com



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

(800) 252-1166

www.gopherstateonecall.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1

Brian Behrens, Chair

DISTRICT 2

Patricia Roehl, Treasurer

DISTRICT 3

Terrence Cook, Vice Chair

DISTRICT 4

Al Czeczok, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

DISTRICT 5

Nancy M. Utke, Director*

DISTRICT 6

Tim Kivi, Secretary

DISTRICT 7

Dan Breitbach, Director

PRESIDENT & CEO

Steve Johnson

*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. That's real value.



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

Itasca-Mantrap Electricity Bill Payment Options

Pay through
the SmartHub
app



Setup
autopay



Pay online
at our
website



Mail in
your
payment



Pay in
office



Put your
payment in
the drive-up
drop box

