



## Press Release

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### **DCPSC Alerts Consumers of June Price Changes for Electric Generation**

(Washington, D.C.) The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (Commission) is notifying residential and small commercial consumers receiving electricity through the [Pepco Standard Office Service \(SOS\)](#) that electric generation/supply prices will increase on June 1. This rate increase could cause District consumers to significantly increase their electricity costs, up to 14% for residential and small commercial.

“With summer quickly approaching, and residents inevitably using more electricity on long, hot days, consumers are strongly encouraged to budget for an increase in their utility costs and explore their retail choice options,” stated Emile Thompson, Chairman of the Commission. “Before June 1, District residents should carefully review their electricity bills to understand their past usage and explore ways to reduce their energy consumption.”

After the District of Columbia’s retail electric market was restructured in 1999 (i.e., distribution, generation, and transmission), the Commission retained regulation over Pepco’s electric delivery or distribution services. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission establishes transmission rates.

District electric customers have the option to choose a licensed supplier of electric generation/supply at competitive rates not regulated by the Commission. To ensure there was electricity for those customers who did not choose a supplier, the Commission selected Pepco to serve as the District’s SOS administrator to procure electric generation for SOS customers. The District’s SOS procurement process seeks to provide SOS customers with rates that are reflective of market conditions while at the same time providing protection against extreme volatility.

Electric generation/supply rates increase or decrease based on market prices obtained through a competitive bidding process overseen by the Commission. The electric rate can vary depending on factors such as the cost of fuel or generation, the cost of transmission, wholesale market changes, time of day, and customer usage patterns.

Beginning June 1, Pepco reports the following increase for residential and small commercial SOS customers:

- The monthly bill for a residential SOS customer who consumes, on average, 631 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month will increase by about \$12.18 or 14%.

- The monthly bill for a small commercial SOS customer that consumes, on average, 1591 kWh per month will increase by about \$30.36 or 13.2%.

The Residential SOS customer's generation rate during the summer will increase from 6.5 cents per kWh to 8.4 cents per kWh, while the winter generation rate will increase from 7.4 cents per kWh to 9.3 cents per kWh.

These increases do not include proposed changes in distribution rates if the Commission were to grant Pepco's request for authority to increase existing distribution rates.

There are several ways for District residents to lower their energy bills. Please see the tips below:

1. Use energy-efficient appliances. Choose appliances with the **ENERGYSTAR** label, which indicates that they are more energy-efficient than standard models.
2. Make it a habit to turn off lights, televisions, computers, and other electronics when you're not using them. Even on standby mode, electronics can still consume power.
3. Set your thermostat to an energy-efficient temperature, such as 78 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer and 68 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter.
4. Try to take advantage of natural light during the day by opening blinds and curtains.
5. Be sure to seal air leaks around doors and windows to prevent heat loss in the winter and cool air loss in the summer.
6. Install and utilize ceiling fans can help to circulate air and make a room feel cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
7. Switch to LED or CFL light bulbs, which are more energy-efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs.
8. **Monitor your energy usage:** Keep track of your energy usage by using a smart meter or monitoring system to identify where you can reduce your energy consumption.

By implementing some of these tips, you may be able to lower your electric bill and save money over time.

As an energy consumer in the District, the Commission also urges you to explore the following options to manage your electricity costs:

1. Visit [DC Power Connect](#) to compare your options for electricity.
2. Visit Pepco's [website](#) to get more information on energy efficiency and incentives and rebates.

Visit the Commission website at [www.dcpsc.org](http://www.dcpsc.org) or call the Office of Consumer Services at 202-626-5120.

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