

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

The season of giving

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity, and looking out for one another — and at Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our Concern for Community. It's not just a nice phrase; it's one of the core principles that make electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to make life better for the people we serve — our members, our neighbors, and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong, and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

Take our Operation Round-Up program, for example. Thanks to the generosity of members like you who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, we're able to provide real help to local families who are struggling to make ends meet and organizations that improve the quality of life in our community. Every little bit adds up — and it makes a big difference.

We're also proud to support local students through the Youth Tour program, which sends some of our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., to see

democracy in action and dream big about their futures. That's giving in the most meaningful way, by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools throughout the communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift too — and we love sharing it.

You'll also find our team out in the community beyond work: coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on nonprofit boards, and partnering with our chamber of commerce to keep our local economy strong. Because when you're a part of a co-op, giving back isn't a requirement. It's just what you do.

While the holiday season is a festive time, we understand these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options, or you simply have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help, not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

At Hancock-Wood, we believe Concern for Community is more than a value. It's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

From all of us at Hancock-Wood we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe, and bright holiday season.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO



Volunteer needed for Community Trust Fund Board

In December, members in districts 1, 4, and 7 are eligible to run for our Community Trust Fund Board. The CTF Board is a five-member board, separate from the Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative board, that reviews all the Operation Round Up grant applications quarterly and approves applications for assistance, based on demonstrated need and funds available.

Operation Round Up is a program that rounds up participating member's bills to the nearest dollar then combines these smaller contributions to fund grants to local organizations and individuals in need. The funds have helped support our local communities in the 10 counties served by Hancock-Wood Electric since 2008.

The board is responsible for reviewing applications prior to their quarterly meetings on the third Monday of February, May, August, and November and attend four board meeting per year. If you are interested in running for the CTF Board, please contact Leslie Guisinger at leslie@hwe.coop or 419-257-5015. Applications must be received by Dec. 15, 2025.

Prep now for winter savings

The following steps can be taken now to use less energy at home before the winter chill sets in. They also help lower strain on the electric grid during extreme winter weather, when energy use is at its peak in your community.

Air sealing and insulation protect your home from the elements while locking in the warm air to keep you cozy. The same applies to hot weather, making air sealing and insulation a year-round efficiency upgrade.

To offset the costs, federal tax credits for energy-efficiency upgrades are available through Dec. 31, 2025. Homeowners can claim a total of 30% of the cost of installation, up to \$3,200. Tax credits are available for insulation, heat pumps, air conditioning systems, and more. There's even a tax credit for electrical panel upgrades, which might be needed to accommodate new energy-efficient equipment. There's also a \$150 tax credit for an energy audit, which allows a professional to help determine what your home needs and how to prioritize potential projects. Visit energystar.gov for more information. Hancock-Wood members can also turn in a rebate for a maintenance check by a professional; check our website under rebates for more info.

Make sure sash locks and window cranks are in good working order and cleaned of any dirt and leaves. Debris can keep them from closing snugly. You may find the crevice tool attachment on your vacuum cleaner, combined with a small, dry scrub brush or an old toothbrush, works great. The locks should pull the top and bottom window sashes together tightly. For casement windows, the locks should pull the window tightly to the frame.

If you have a forced-air heating or air conditioning system, replace the filter. First, turn the system off to check it. If your filter is dirty, leave it in place until you have a replacement. Running your system without a filter can send any dust or dirt in the ductwork directly into the components and damage your equipment. Make a note of the filter's size on your shopping list or take a picture of the filter with your phone so you can reference it when running errands.

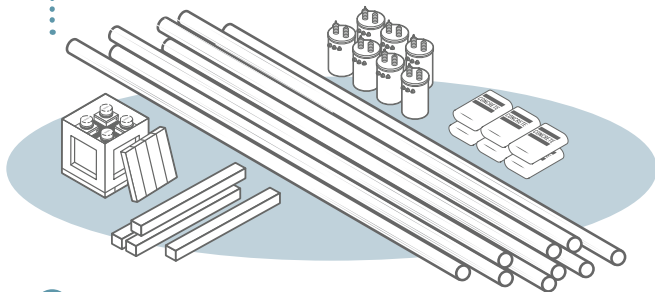


Infrastructure costs

The past five years have been a period of exploding costs for the electric utility industry and for broadband providers, pushed by soaring demand, supply chain challenges, raw materials shortages, increased labor costs, and tariffs. The impact has been rapid increases in the cost of producing power, longer and more unpredictable project timelines, and the need for more financing, all of which have driven electric rates up for residences, businesses, and other end-users. Here's a look at what's contributing to the trend. **Percent increase since 2020:**

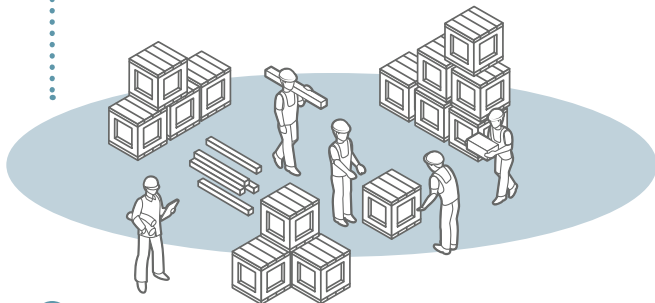
Infrastructure

Utility poles (wood, steel, composite)...	+25–40%
Crossarms & braces (steel/wood).....	+20–35%
Conductor wire (aluminum/copper)	+30–50%
Transformers	+70–100%
Grain-oriented electrical steel	+80–100%
Oil/dielectric fluids.....	+25–40%
Copper wiring	+50%
Concrete.....	+25–35%
Smart meters.....	+20–35%
Pad-mounted switchgear	+25–40%
Circuit breakers/reclosers.....	+20–35%



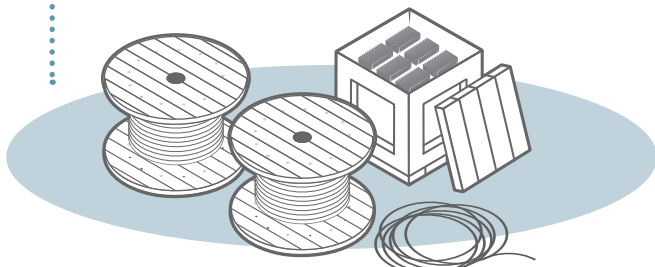
Build-outs

Utility construction labor.....	+20–40%
Freight/logistics	+30–60%



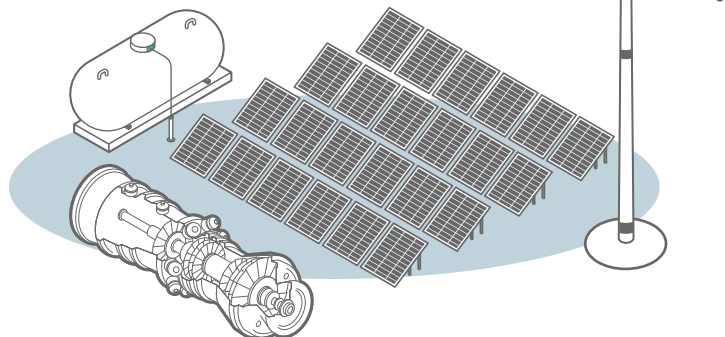
Broadband

Fiber-optic cable	+25–40%
Splicing & telecom gear	+20–30%



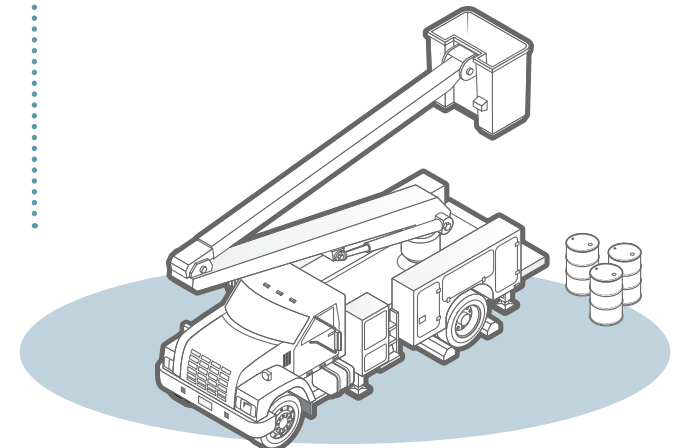
Generation

Diesel gensets.....	+20–40%
Gas turbines.....	+20–30%
Solar PV systems.....	+25–35%
Wind turbines.....	+25–35%
Hydropower components.....	+20–30%
Battery storage.....	+25–40%
SCADA/EMS systems.....	+20–30%
Inverters.....	+20–30%
Relays & switchgear.....	+25–40%
Natural Gas.....	+20–120%
Coal	+30–60%
Diesel/fuel oil	+40–70%



Fleets

Light trucks	+25–40%
Bucket trucks, digger derricks.....	+20–50%
Fuel costs (especially diesel)	+20–30%
Maintenance	+15–25%
Insurance premiums	+20%



Member Appreciation Week

Thank you to all the members who joined us during our Member Appreciation Week in August. We had a total of 1,331 memberships attend and saw more than 70 pets! Each member who attended received a \$15 bill credit, along with a few other giveaways.



HANCOCK-WOOD
WISHES OUR MEMBERS A
**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

We will be closed on Nov. 27 and 28.

Election Day
is Tuesday, Nov. 4

OHIO
CO-OPS  **VOTE**

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Tim Phillips

Max Rader

Jim Rose

Brian Terry

Bill Barnhart

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PAYMENT OPTIONS

online, dropbox, office, by phone, or
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HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop

Members First! 
**HANCOCK-WOOD
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 