

# HIGH WEST ENERGY



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Effective March 1, 2024, High West Energy will be implementing a rate increase for all members. This decision is a direct result of the 6% rate increase on wholesale power we are receiving from our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. Additionally, the heightened impact of inflation and industry expenses has contributed to this decision. Despite our diligent monitoring of the cooperative's spending, our meticulous distribution of funds, and the consistency in maintaining our rates since 2016, we find ourselves obligated to increase our rates with an overall system revenue increase of 4.4%. The complete tariffs and a summary of our new rates are available on our website at [www.highest.coop/rate-increase](http://www.highest.coop/rate-increase).

All rate classes will be impacted by the rate increase regarding the grid access charge and the energy or kWh charge.

“We are very proud of the things we have accomplished at High West Energy and the exceptional reliability of our system. We have a great team serving our members and we feel fortunate to be able to absorb a portion of the power cost increase and continue to provide affordable and reliable electricity,” said Jared Routh, CEO and General Manager of High West Energy.

We have done many things to lower our costs for the cooperative including acquiring less expensive fleet vehicles, transitioning to a paperless environment, utilizing one software package for operations, reducing unused equipment, minimizing new long-term debt, negotiating cost increases with suppliers and agencies, consolidating employees and workload, utilizing training grants, seeking multiple bids on products/materials, and limiting work plan projects that can primarily be funded or performed with current material inventory. In addition, we have increased savings by moving to an online annual meeting and designing our Sparks newsletter in-house rather than outsourcing this publication.

Our Board of Directors has approved the new rate design to protect your access to safe, affordable, and reliable power, and we hope you understand the necessity of this rate change for both members and the cooperative.

“After years of steady electric rates, Tri-State, High West Energy’s sole electricity provider, has announced a rate increase. High West Energy has been anticipating this increase and our rate design team has spent many hours developing a rate formula that will best serve our members and the cooperative model. We believe the newly designed rates will continue to ensure reliability while remaining affordable. It is the hope of the board that this adjustment will stabilize rates for the next several years,” said the High West Energy Board of Directors.

It's important to note that High West Energy offers resources, such as rebates, to support the acquisition of energy-efficient appliances and tools. Local organizations are also on hand to assist if required. We are fully committed to addressing any inquiries you might have regarding the rate increase. Feel free to contact our office at 307-245-3261 or visit us in person. We welcome the chance to meet in person, discuss any concerns, and ensure your questions are addressed.

“We appreciate the opportunity to work within our communities and we appreciate each of you. I want to reassure you that we make every effort to make sound business decisions knowing that maintaining costs is critical to our members while also maintaining reliability. We thank you for being a member of High West and we look forward to meeting with you if you have questions or concerns,” Routh concluded.