

# COLUMBUS<sup>®</sup> CURRENTS

## Tri-State seeks FERC Approval For Rate Increase

Columbus Electric Cooperative's (CEC's) wholesale electricity provider, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association Inc., announced on June 16, 2023, that it had submitted a new formula rate filing to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The new rate, if approved by FERC, would increase the rates for CEC by 7.2%.

Tri-State must obtain rate approvals from FERC rather than through its local Board of Directors. If approved by FERC, the new rates will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Following a seven-year period with stable and then lower wholesale rates for its members, the board of directors of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association has approved the power supply cooperative's 2024 operating budget with a 6.36% increase in the average Class A wholesale rate intended to go into effect January 1, 2024.

Tri-State has not increased its wholesale rate for its members in seven years, with the wholesale rate flat from 2017 into 2021, and then reduced a total of 4% in March of 2021 and 2022, remaining lower in 2023.

The new rate reflects a net increase of 1.4% from the actual average Class A wholesale rate paid by members in 2017 to the 2024 budgeted average Class A wholesale rate, which is approximately 0.2% annualized. The wholesale rate increase is significantly below the rate of inflation over the seven-year period.

"Tri-State has bucked electric utility industry trends for large rate increases for seven years, while actually lowering our members' wholesale rates," said Duane Highley, Tri-State CEO. "Through record inflation, higher fuel and energy prices, and supply chain pressures, we've maintained increasingly competitive wholesale rates and kept our first rate increase since 2017 well below the rate of inflation."

Tri-State's board also approved a new wholesale rate design for filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. As a cooperative, Tri-State's members design their own wholesale rates, which are approved by the board of directors, including a representative from each utility member. Wholesale rates are set as low as is possible, with excess revenues allocated and eventually returned to members.

Tri-State is expecting to receive a response from FERC within 60 days on whether the proposed rate increase is accepted. Once FERC accepts the rate, Tri-State will raise its rates to its members.

CEC will continue to closely monitor the decision from FERC and the impact this rate increase from Tri-State will have on our members," said Chris Martinez, CEC Executive Vice President & General Manager.

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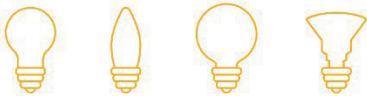
A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative 

# Lighting Labels and Lingo

These days, consumers have endless options when it comes to purchasing light bulbs, but the labels can be confusing! Use the information below as a helpful guide for browsing bulbs.

Lighting Facts	
Per Bulb	
<b>Brightness</b>	655 lumens
<b>Estimated Yearly Energy Cost</b>	\$1.08
Based on 3 hrs/day 11c/kWh Cost depends on rates and use	
<b>Life</b>	22.8 years
Based on 3 hrs/day	
<b>Light Appearance</b>	
<b>Energy Used</b>	9 watts

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



## Read the Label

Under the Energy Labeling Rule, all light bulb manufacturers are required to give consumers key, easy-to-understand information on bulb efficiency. Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which gives you the information you need to buy the most energy-efficient bulb to meet your lighting needs. The label includes information on the bulb's **brightness, energy cost, life, light appearance** and **energy used** (wattage).

## Save Energy

Bulbs are available in **many shapes and sizes** to fit your home's needs. Choosing more efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and save you money!

- LEDs use 25%-30% of the energy and last eight to 25 times longer than halogen incandescent bulbs.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR-rated bulbs to maximize energy efficiency.

## Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

**Tip:** To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.

Incandescent 100 watt 1,600 lumens	LED 14 - 20 watt 1,600 lumens



## Board Highlights

The CEC Board of Trustees met on June 27<sup>th</sup>. They reviewed and approved the monthly operations and financial reports for the month of May. They heard reports from representatives that sit on the NMRECA and Tri-State Board.

To better serve our members we've launched our new redesigned website!

Visit us at [columbusco-op.org](http://columbusco-op.org) to see our new look



## enchantment

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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy



Emergency Response Number  
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