

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR MPE BILL

BY MARK JOHNSTON GENERAL MANAGER



MARK JOHNSTON

“Why is electricity so expensive these days? Why does it cost so much for something I can make with a balloon and my hair?”  
— Dennis Miller

Do you ever feel like you don't understand your electric bill? I think the best way to explain it is simply to look at a typical residential Mountain Parks Electric bill — 700 kilowatt-hours, approximately \$105 a month. There are three, sometimes four, components that contribute to the cost:

- Service availability charge
- kWh charge
- Sales tax and franchise fee (in towns where applicable)

## THESE CHARGES PAY FOR:

### Service availability charge (\$29 monthly)

This charge helps MPE fund the construction and maintenance of its electric system — poles, wires, transformers, meters, substations, etc. — that provides service to your home. As you might expect, our grid, which covers about 4,000 square miles, is expensive to install and costly to maintain. Each component plays a critical role in providing you with 99.9% reliable service.

represents how much electricity you consume every month. The average residential account uses approximately 700 kWhs each month. MPE purchases almost all of the electricity it delivers to you from Tri-State Generation and Transmission (headquartered in Westminster, Colorado). An increasing percentage of our power supply is renewable — 50% by 2024 — and more than 3% of our power today comes from local renewables. The kWh charge covers the cost to purchase and transport power to local homes and businesses.

### Sales tax (county and town)

Counties and towns charge their applicable sales tax rate on the service availability and kWh charges. This charge is a pass-through: It is collected by MPE and paid directly to the county or town you live in.

### Franchise fee

MPE has agreements with several towns and pays them a franchise fee for the right to operate electric service in their jurisdictions. The franchise fee is also a pass-through. The following towns charge

a monthly fee of 2%: Granby, Grand Lake, Kremmling and Walden. Hot Sulphur Springs charges 3%.

Some consumer-members believe that our electric rates are high. Hopefully, this provides perspective into what determines the rate you pay. MPE works hard to identify ways to reduce costs and provide affordable electricity.

Case in point: Over the next 12 months, MPE will reduce annual operating costs more than \$300,000 due to changes in our employee medical benefit plan, increased efficiencies in GPS survey equipment and by coordinating generator use to help reduce peak demand charges. And this is just the start.

Phyllis Mielke, ACCT 500128002



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Granby CO 80446-0170

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321 West Agate Ave PO Box 170  
Granby, CO 80446  
Phone 970-887-3378  
Toll Free 877-887-3378

**Walden Office**  
600 3rd Street PO Box 95  
Walden, CO 80480  
Phone 970-723-4500

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Billing Date	12/20/2019
Account Number	1022596
Service Period	11/10/2019 - 12/10/2019
Payment Due	01/08/2020

**Messages**

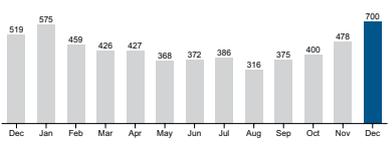
Download the SmartHub app. SmartHub allows you to manage your electric account, pay your bill and view your usage online.

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SERVICE ADDRESS: 123 Main St., Rocky Mountains RATE: Gen Srv Sm - Under 50 Kw - Res

METER #	USAGE TYPE	FROM	TO	PREVIOUS	PRESENT	MULT	USAGE	DAYS
5555555	KWH	11/10/19	12/10/19	17294	17994	1	700	30

kWh Usage History



PERIOD ENDING	12/2018	12/2019
Avg Daily kWh	17	23
Avg Daily Cost	\$3.08	\$3.48

Previous Balance	87.61
Payment 12/02/19 -- Thank You	-87.61
<b>Current Billing Detail</b>	
Service Availability Charge	29.00
kWh Charge	700 kWh @ 0.109000 76.30
Green Power	0.50
Sales Tax	5.07
Franchise Fee	1.88
<b>Total Current Charge</b>	<b>112.75</b>
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Amount - Paid by Auto Draft</b>	<b>112.75</b>

## BILLING NOTICE

Effective October 1, all large commercial accounts will be billed on the 20th of the month for usage from the previous month. All other accounts will be billed on the 10th of the month for usage from the previous month.

COLORADO COUNTRY LIFE  
SEPTEMBER 2020

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# The Future Has Arrived: Electric Vehicles Are Here to Stay

BY CHRIS MICHALOWSKI POWER USE ADVISOR

“Dad, can you do the speed mode again?” my 3-year-old daughter asks on the way home from day care.

“Hold on,” I say, my lips curling into a smile. I punch the accelerator. Our backs press into our seat cushions. We laugh. It’s our new routine.

Working as a power use advisor for MPE, I stay abreast of emerging technologies. So, about a year ago, when it came time to purchase a new car, I knew I wanted to go all electric. It felt like a little leap of faith, honestly, but the common sentiment among electric vehicle owners that I had spoken with is that once you go electric, there’s no way you would drive anything else. I now fully agree.

## Is an EV right for you?

If you take frequent, nonstop, cross-country road trips, an EV is probably not for you at the moment, but that’s quickly changing as batteries become bigger. Who wouldn’t like owning a vehicle that requires no oil changes, transmission, starter, alternator, spark plugs, timing belt, head gasket, muffler and other parts that require time and money to maintain? Besides windshield wiper blades and rotating the tires, my EV’s first scheduled maintenance isn’t until 150,000 miles. That’s because electric motors have hundreds of fewer parts compared to a gasoline engine.

## Saving time and money

Rather than waiting at a mechanic’s shop for repairs, I’m out climbing, fishing and exploring the awesome area we live in. And instead of fueling up at a gas station, I save even more time by plugging in and charging up in my garage overnight. My EV even texts me a reminder to plug in if I forget.

Regarding costs: After Colorado and federal tax credits, my off-the-lot cost was a little over \$26,000, hardly the luxury price tag that most people assume with an electric car. With MPE’s new residential time-of-use rate, I can drive 100 miles for \$1.96. That same distance would cost me \$10 if I had a gas car that got 25 miles per gallon and paid \$2.50 a gallon for gas. That’s real savings over the lifetime of owning a car, especially considering the historic price volatility at the pump.



Chris Michalowski and his daughter enjoy a ride in his EV.

## Fueling up away from home

I start each day with about 240 miles of range, enough to get me from Granby to Grand Junction. I don’t hesitate to drive to the Front Range and other places in the state, where I might need to charge before I return home. But the fact is, about 98% of my charging takes place in my garage because most of my driving is here in Grand County. For longer trips, I have an easy-to-use app on my smartphone that shows all of the available chargers along the way. Usually, I find charging stations at my destination like when I go to Denver International Airport or to watch a Rockies game at Coors Field (back when you could attend a game in person).

## How does it handle in the high country?

Here in the Rocky Mountains, it can snow any month of the year. This was my biggest concern when purchasing a two-wheel-drive EV (Note: There are EVs that offer all-wheel drive). My daughter attends day care at a local ranch. When snow drifts on the dirt roads, it can get dicey. So I bought studded snow tires and was so pleased with the added safety and performance that our EV quickly became our go-to vehicle to take to the local ski resorts.

The cold does affect my range, but not greatly. Worst case scenario — driving up a steep pass at high speeds at below zero temps with the heater on full blast — I can still drive 140 miles or so in my Bolt. I really like the fact that even when it’s 20 below, I simply push the start button and off I go. No need to wait for an engine to warm while breathing in harmful exhaust. How many times have you had to run a short errand only to have the car finally warm up by

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## WAYS TO \$AVE: LAUNDRY

BY LINDSAY MCCANN BILLING SUPERVISOR

- Wash clothes in cold water (90% of energy used by washing machines is for hot water)
- Wash only full loads so water is not wasted
- Clean the lint filter on your dryer (clogged filters drive up drying costs)



## Find Your Name Win \$5

If you find your name in this magazine, contact Mountain Parks Electric to receive a \$5 credit on your power bill. Winners must contact MPE within one month of the date of issue.

Karen Rugen, ACCT 552267102



**Chef Andrew Miller**

## Local Chef SPOTLIGHT

**RESTAURANT:**

**85 FIFTY FRASER CO.**

218 Eisenhower Drive, Fraser  
on the patio of the Fraser River Beer Co.  
970-531-9769 | 85fifty.com

**HOURS:**

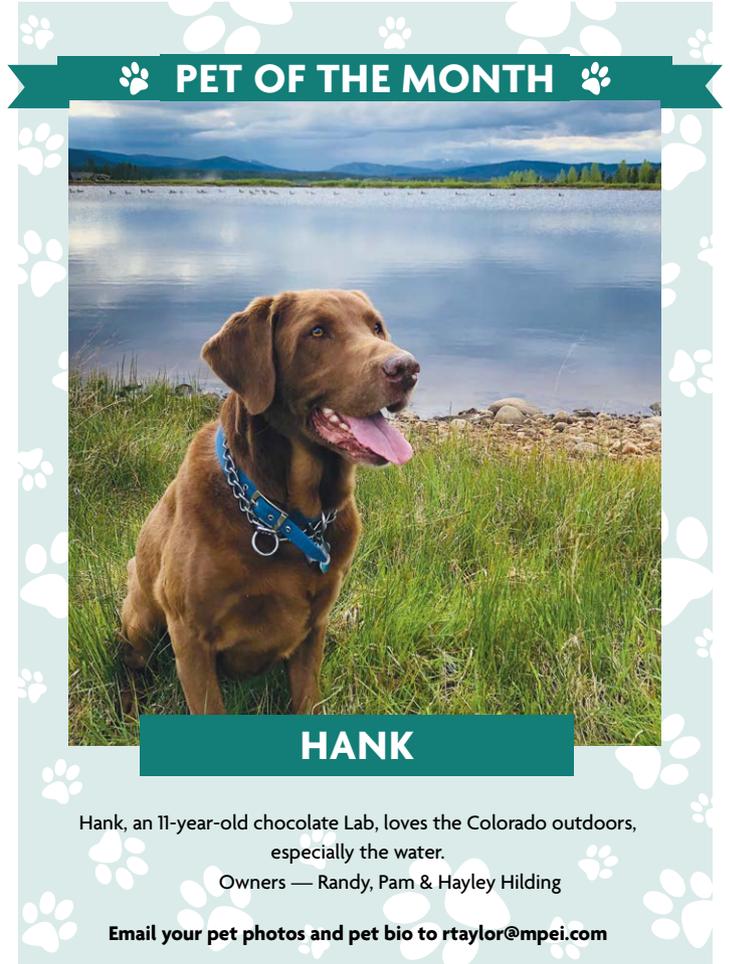
Sunday & Tuesday-Thursday: 12 – 8 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday: 12 – 9 p.m.  
Closed Mondays

**SPECIALTY:**

Korean beef

**COOKING TIP FOR MPE READERS**

For a juicy steak, let it rest for as long as you grill it. For example, if you grill a steak for 8 minutes, let it rest 8 minutes before cutting into it.



## PET OF THE MONTH

### HANK

Hank, an 11-year-old chocolate Lab, loves the Colorado outdoors, especially the water.

Owners — Randy, Pam & Hayley Hilding

Email your pet photos and pet bio to [rtaylor@mpei.com](mailto:rtaylor@mpei.com)

# IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER TO WIN THIS E-BIKE

Where would you ride this bike if you won it?

Register now on MPE's Facebook page!

**Drawing to be held on September 14.**

Gayle Ellis, ACCT 200264500



## EVs Are Here to Stay

*[continued from page 8]*

the time you got home? That's not the case with EVs and their electric heating systems that provide warm air almost immediately.

### Additional perks

I would be remiss not to mention reducing CO2 emissions and how that was an important factor for our family. MPE's grid is 33% renewable and by 2024 it will be 50% renewable. By having a vehicle that is capable of being powered by renewable energy, I'm able to leave this planet a little bit better for my kids.

MPE offers \$500 rebates for level 2 EV chargers and \$500 installation rebates. Terms and conditions apply. The Electrify Everything program also offers financing for qualifying businesses installing commercial or fleet EV chargers. And don't forget MPE's new residential time-of-use rate: It offers a discount that benefits EVs that charge overnight.

**For more information, call 970-887-7027 or email [cmichalowski@mpei.com](mailto:cmichalowski@mpei.com).**

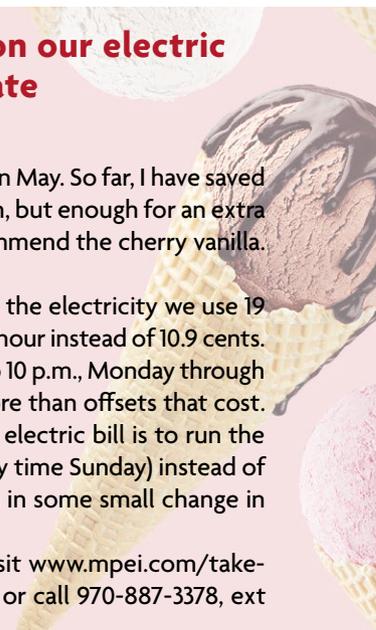
## Cha-Ching! We are saving money on our electric bill with MPE's new time-of-use rate

BY KIM SMITH BILLING SPECIALIST

I signed up for MPE's new, optional time-of-use rate in May. So far, I have saved \$5 per month. It's not enough to remodel my kitchen, but enough for an extra pint of Häagen-Dazs each month. Personally, I recommend the cherry vanilla. Delicious.

The TOU rate gives my family a 35% discount on the electricity we use 19 hours a day (and all day Sunday): 7 cents per kilowatt-hour instead of 10.9 cents. I pay more for electricity during peak hours from 5 to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday, but my savings outside of those hours more than offsets that cost. The only changes my family has made to lower our electric bill is to run the dishwasher and clothes dryer in the mornings (or any time Sunday) instead of in the evening. That's it. A small change that results in some small change in our pocket. Easy money.

For more information about MPE's TOU rate, visit [www.mpei.com/take-control-your-electric-costs-our-new-time-use-rate](http://www.mpei.com/take-control-your-electric-costs-our-new-time-use-rate) or call 970-887-3378, ext 3 to sign up.



## GET YOUR HOME INTO THE 21ST CENTURY WITH A NEW HEAT PUMP

Need to replace your heating system? Our new Electrify Everything program can help. Visit [mpei.com/electrify-everything-program](http://mpei.com/electrify-everything-program) or call (970) 887-3378.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HEAT PUMPS, COMMERCIAL EV CHARGERS, INSULATION AND SOLAR. 1-2% INTEREST OVER 10 YEARS.



FIND OUT MORE AT [WWW.MPEI.COM](http://WWW.MPEI.COM)

