



VOLUME 23 | SPRING 2026

ELECTRICITY GUIDE

UNDERSTANDING YOUR BILL

STANDARD OFFER INCREASES IN 2026

In Maine, the supply price for electricity is set annually through a “standard offer” process administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC). In this process, the PUC solicits competitive bids for the price of electricity for the following year.

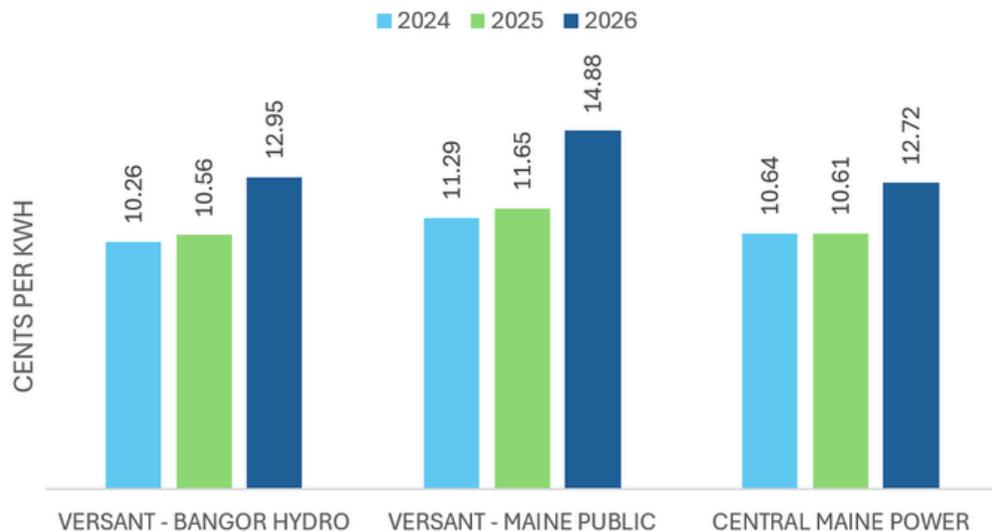
The PUC recently announced the new Standard Offer prices per kilowatt-hour beginning January 1, 2026 for residential and small commercial customers.

For Central Maine Power, the Standard Offer increased by around 20% to 12.72 cents per kWh from 10.61 cents per kWh in 2025.

For Versant’s Bangor Hydro District, the Standard Offer increased 23% to 12.95 cents per kWh from 10.56 cents per kWh in 2025.

For Versant’s Maine Public District, the Standard Offer increased 28% to 14.87 cents per kWh from 11.65 cents per kWh in 2025.

RESIDENTIAL STANDARD OFFER RATES



Learn more at

maine.gov/energy/electricity-prices

*CMP and Versant BH went down in July 2024. The newer rate is reflected above.

WHAT'S USING THE ELECTRICITY IN YOUR HOME?

Everyday Appliances Energy Usage Chart

Appliance	kWh (National Avg)	Cost Per Month (CMP Customers)
Dishwasher	54.7 kWh	\$14.52
Oven	85.2 kWh	\$22.62
Refrigerator	60 kWh	\$15.93
Television 27"	13 kWh	\$3.45
Computer/ Monitor	12.2 kWh	\$3.24
Air Conditioner (Central)	630 kWh	\$167.27
Space Heater	364 kWh	\$96.64
Dehumidifier	72 kWh	\$19.12
Dryer	180 kWh	\$47.79

Of course, these are just averages to give you an idea of what may be happening in your home. Curious about your own home's usage? CMP's Energy Manager can show your specific home's usage on a day-to-day, and hour-by-hour basis. Visit www.cmpco.com to learn more.

WHAT'S USING THE ELECTRICITY IN YOUR HOME?

Everyday Appliances Energy Usage Chart

Appliance	kWh (National Avg)	Cost Per Month (Versant-BH Customers)
Dishwasher	54.7 kWh	\$17.23
Oven	85.2 kWh	\$26.83
Refrigerator	2,259 kWh	\$18.90
Television 27"	13 kWh	\$4.09
Computer/ Monitor	12.2 kWh	\$3.84
Air Conditioner (Central)	630 kWh	\$198.40
Space Heater	364 kWh	\$114.63
Dehumidifier	72 kWh	\$22.67
Dryer	180 kWh	\$56.69

Of course, these are just averages to give you an idea of what may be happening in your home. Curious about your own home's usage? Versant's Online Tools can show your specific home's usage on a day-to-day, and hour-by-hour basis. Visit www.versantpower.com to learn more.

WHAT'S USING THE ELECTRICITY IN YOUR HOME?

Everyday Appliances Energy Usage Chart

Appliance	kWh (National Avg)	Cost Per Month (Versant-MPD Customers)
Dishwasher	54.7 kWh	\$16.42
Oven	85.2 kWh	\$25.57
Refrigerator	2,259 kWh	\$18.01
Television 27"	13 kWh	\$3.90
Computer/ Monitor	12.2 kWh	\$3.66
Air Conditioner (Central)	630 kWh	\$189.09
Space Heater	364 kWh	\$109.25
Dehumidifier	72 kWh	\$21.61
Dryer	180 kWh	\$54.03

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Solar and Your Bill

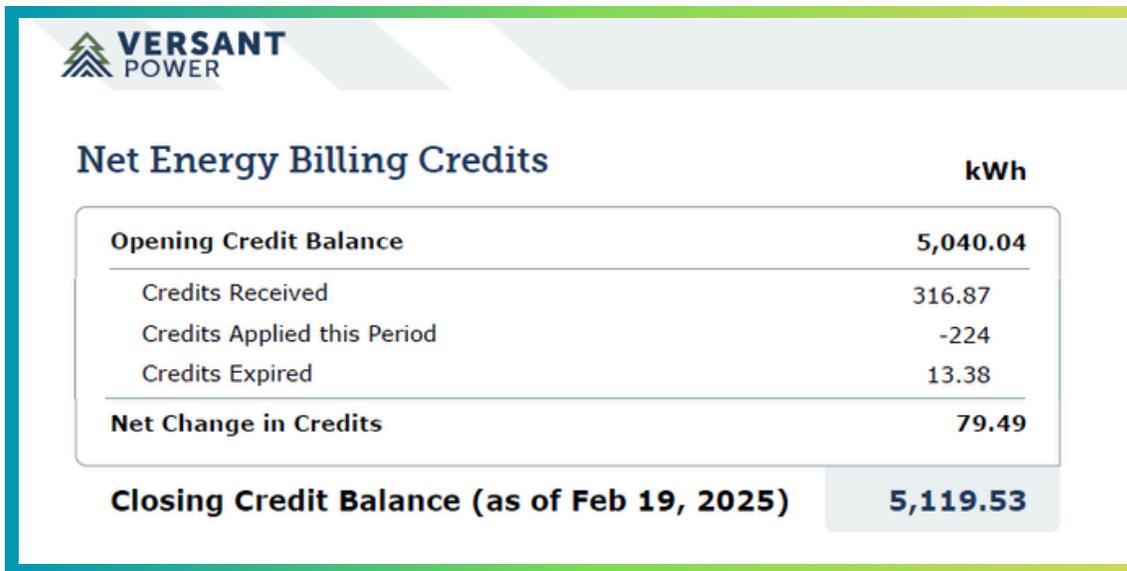
Understanding the impact of a community solar subscription

Many Community Solar companies promise a savings between 10-15% compared to your normal electric bill. However, this doesn't mean your utility bill is automatically discounted every month - community solar and its billing are a bit more complicated.

In simplest terms, your electric bill is based on the amount of energy you use. Community solar subscribers purchase "solar credits" that reduce the amount of energy usage on the electric bill. **Note: Subscribers usually have a separate bill for solar credits in addition to your electric bill.** Generally, customers often purchase more credits in the summer to bank and use to reduce electric bills in the winter, resulting in higher solar bills in the late spring/summer months and lower solar bills during the winter months.

CMP and Versant both provide sections on their bills to help you understand the solar credits on your bill.

Versant



The image shows a screenshot of a Versant Power bill section titled "Net Energy Billing Credits". The table lists various credit metrics in kWh. The opening credit balance is 5,040.04 kWh. Credits received are 316.87 kWh, credits applied this period are -224 kWh, and credits expired are 13.38 kWh. The net change in credits is 79.49 kWh. The closing credit balance as of Feb 19, 2025, is 5,119.53 kWh.

Net Energy Billing Credits		kWh
Opening Credit Balance		5,040.04
Credits Received		316.87
Credits Applied this Period		-224
Credits Expired		13.38
Net Change in Credits		79.49
Closing Credit Balance (as of Feb 19, 2025)		5,119.53

**This is a sample. Your informational table can usually be found on page 3 of your bill*

Opening Credit Balance: Describes the credits you have as of the previous billing period.

Credits Received: Describes the new credits provided to you during this billing period.

Credits Applied: Shows the credits used to reduce your usage this billing period, which will be subtracted from your balance. **Credits Expired** are also subtracted from your balance.

Closing Credit Balance: Shows how many solar credits you have leftover after this month, to be used in the future. Solar credits expire after one year.

Solar and Your Bill - continued

Understanding the impact of a community solar subscription

CMP

Your Generation Details (kWh)

You can find definitions and explanations of Net Energy and Distributed Generation invoices on our website at cmpco.com/NEB-DG

Fixed Percentage	Billing Period	Usage	Allocated Generation	Banked Generation	Unused Expired Credits
0.090000%	06/10/23-07/12/23	901	633	121	0
0.090000%	05/11/23-06/09/23	587	878	389	0
0.090000%	04/12/23-05/10/23	563	661	98	0
0.090000%	03/11/23-04/11/23	595	175	0	0
0.090000%	02/10/23-03/10/23	655	94	0	0
0.100000%	01/12/23-02/09/23	712	281	0	0
0.100000%	12/13/22-01/11/23	814	268	291	0
0.100000%	11/10/22-12/12/22	770	430	837	0
0.100000%	10/13/22-11/09/22	251	542	1,177	0

Please contact the Project Sponsor for details regarding the allocated generation credited to your account. You receive allocated generation produced by Riverside Solar.

**This is a sample. Your informational table can usually be found on page 2 or 3 of your CMP bill*

Fixed Percentage: Explains what percentage of the solar farm's output you have subscribed to.

Billing Period: Describes the time period the rest of the row relates to.

Usage: Describes how much energy, in kilowatt hours, your home used that month.

Allocated Generation: Shows how many solar credits you received from your farm that month.

Banked Generation: Shows how many solar credits you have leftover after this month, to be used in the future. Solar credits expire after one year.

Unused Expired Credits: Shows the number of solar credits that have expired; any credits you see in this column are credits you've paid for that you didn't get to use.

Solar Cancellation

Understanding billing lags and cancellation periods



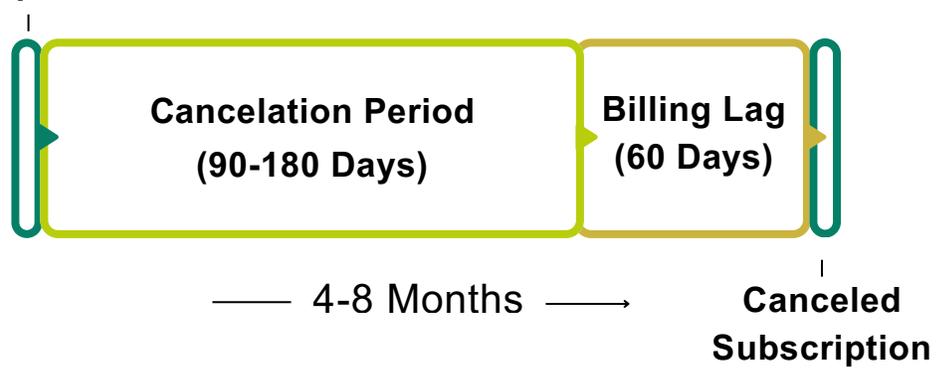
Many consumers are used to subscriptions that you can end relatively quickly, like a streaming subscription.

Community solar subscriptions are **not** like that.

Cancellation periods often range from **90 days to 180 days**, and are followed by a billing lag of around **60 days**.

This means that many folks who cancel a solar subscription **receive bills for 4-8 months** after the initial request.

Cancelation Request



If you cancel any time before or up to **five days** after your first solar bill, you are **only responsible for paying that first bill**.

However, customers will usually still see solar credits on their electric bills for **at least a couple of months** afterward.

If you close your account and are not moving to another location within your utility's service territory, **any banked credits are lost** and cannot be transferred. Ask your utility if you can keep credits when moving.



If you are considering signing up for community solar, **read your contract carefully** before signing!

Keep Your Lights On

Electricity bill assistance tips and programs

Behind on Your Bills?

Call your utility company



- Let them know you're actively applying to assistance programs
- Make a payment arrangement

CMP Customer Service: 1-800-750-4000

Versant Customer Service: 1-855-363-7211

Contact 2-1-1



- Call 2-1-1 or visit 211maine.org to be connected with your community action agency and talk about:
 - The Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP)
 - The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
 - The Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ENCIP)
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Reach out to other avenues of support

- You can contact your town to apply for General Assistance
- If there are children involved, you can contact your child's school district to talk about McKinney Vento grants, as well as the Maine Office for Family Independence



OFI: 1-855-797-4357

- Veterans can contact:

USA Cares: 1-800-773-0387

Veterans Forward: 347-443-0005

Office of the Public Advocate

112 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0112

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Your Trusted Source for Utility Information



ABOUT THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE



The Office of the Public Advocate's primary responsibility is to represent the interests of Maine utility consumers. Our attorneys advocate for rates, services, as set forth in our authorizing statute, 35-A M.R.S. § 1702 and practices to benefit utility customers in regulatory and court proceedings. Most of our work takes place in proceedings before the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

Our Office also intervenes in cases before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the federal agency that oversees wholesale electricity markets, interstate electricity transmission and interstate gas transportation, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which regulates telecommunications. We are also active as a consumer representative in the stakeholder process at ISO New England, the regional electric transmission grid operator.

In addition, our Office testifies before the Legislature on matters affecting utility consumers, and provides information regarding utility services to the public at large.

Learn more at www.maine.gov/meopa