



GENERAL
MANAGER

ERIC
HALFMANN

Electricity Provides Powerful Value

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, there are aspects of your life that become sort of a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car and stop for a coffee on the way to the office. At lunchtime, I typically drive to get a bite to eat. When I end the day at home, I stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in these days of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provided me compared to the money I spent.

A morning cup of coffee cost me about \$6; lunch tacos and a drink set me back \$10 or more; and my TV subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses add up to around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. And what was the real value—short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline?

This got me thinking: Is this the best value for my money?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$6, and the average monthly electric bill for residential members of Karnes Electric Cooperative is less than \$200. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate.

Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amid rising inflation.

As a member-owned co-op, Karnes EC does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity—some within our control but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, and maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewables or regulations on emissions, shape power costs as well.

Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we carefully consider the impact of those costs on our members. After all, you're the reason we exist.

As we continue to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, Karnes EC always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money. ■



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