

PW CONNECTIONS

Your Link to News & Information from the Fayetteville Public Works Commission April 2024

Upcoming Events

Safe Digging Month
April 1st – 30th

NC Lineworker Appreciation Day
Monday, April 8th

National Lineman Appreciation Day
Thursday, April 18th

Earth Day
Monday, April 22nd

Arbor Day
Friday, April 26th

42nd Annual Dogwood Festival
Festival Park
Visit PWC's booth
Saturday & Sunday
April 27th – April 28th
www.faydogwoodfestival.com/

PWC Connections: The Podcast
Listen to PWC's Podcast for FREE on your favorite podcast listening platform.



Get your questions answered about your utility services, learn more about PWC, and get the scoop on hot topics!



Learn More!

PWC TV: Now Streaming!



Watch *Your PWC Connections* anytime on your favorite streaming device in addition to daily airings on Fay TV – the City of Fayetteville's government access channel on Spectrum Cable channel 7. *Your PWC Connections* is also available on PWC's Youtube channel & website.



Before You Spring into Action...

Spring Planting? Have a Plan!

Don't plant tall-growing trees where they'll interfere with power lines. And be strategic – for example, put trees where they'll provide shade and/or windbreaks to reduce warm-weather energy costs.

Don't Crowd Our Transformers!

If you have a green PWC transformer box on your property, DO NOT PLANT anything within 9 feet from the front of the box and 3 feet from each side. It impedes our lineworkers' ability to make repairs and restore your power.

Remember Easement/Right-of-Way

Check to see if you have an easement/right-of-way on your property and be sure to keep those areas clear of fences, sheds, or other permanent structures.

Call NC811 Before You Dig...

... if your plans include significant excavation. Through this free service, the utility companies serving your property will mark the location of underground lines, so you can dig carefully around them.



Consider Water-Wise Gardening.

Landscape with plants, flowers, and shrubs that require minimal watering and grow well in shade. Use mulch. Choose drought-tolerant grasses, such as Centipede or Bermuda, and reduce lawn area with ground cover, such as mulched beds, etc.



Scan the QR code for more detailed information, as well as warm-weather tips to conserve water and power.

Electric Rates Fund Safe, Reliable Services - What You Need to Know About Upcoming Adjustments

As a public power organization, PWC is not-for-profit and operates solely for the benefit of our hometown customers, not shareholder profit. We are committed to keeping customer's rates as low as possible.

Utility rates fund PWC operations that provide safe, reliable utility services. Inflation, supply chain and increased building and material costs are impacting utility operations. Like all electric providers in our area, we are experiencing rising costs. To keep services reliable, PWC must adjust rates beginning May 1, 2024.

For prospective, PWC lowered electric rates in 2020 and had expected to be able to maintain that rate through this year. However, economic circumstances required us to implement a temporary Power Cost Adjustment in 2023 and now an adjustment beginning in May. Ultimately, the price you will be paying with the new rate, is the same as it was in 2020.

For a typical customer, the average cost of the increase is about the cost of a loaf of bread or a drink at a fast-food restaurant. For a residential electric customer who uses 1,000 kwh a month, the impact will be \$2.39 beginning May 1 and another \$2.38 in May 2025. However, we have other adjustments that will offset these rate changes. The current Power Supply Adjustment (\$6.35 per 1000 kwh) will expire in August 2024 and the Coal Ash Charge (\$2) will end in May 2025.

Scan the QR code for more information about the rate adjustments



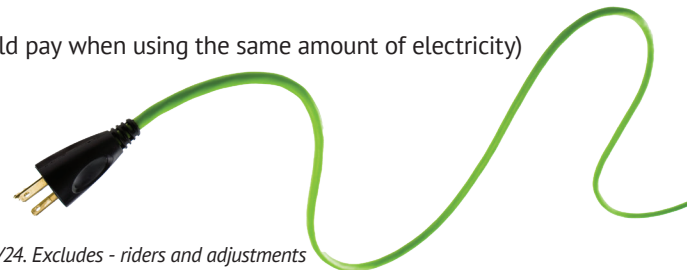
How We Compare

(what a customer of each local utility would pay when using the same amount of electricity)

Residential Electric Rates 1,000-kWh*

- Lumbee River EMC \$121.86
- South River EMC \$130.90
- Duke Energy Progress \$122.53
- PWC (As of May 1) \$121.86

*Comparison includes basic facility charges - As of 4/1/24. Excludes - riders and adjustments



Make every day, Earth Day!

- Save water- Fix a leak!
- Save energy- Use LED bulbs
- Reduce waste- Switch to e-billing
- Improve air quality- Plant a tree (but not near power lines!)

PWC's Solution for Charging Your Electric Vehicle



If you own a plug-in electric vehicle (or want to buy one), Fayetteville PWC makes it easy to keep your vehicle ready to hit the open road. PWC's new Whole Home/Whole Business Rate might help you save money while charging your vehicle at home. The optional rate is 44% to 47% lower than the Peak rate and is in effect from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily. If you drive your electric vehicle more than 16 miles a day, this plan may be right for you. Contact PWC Customer Service at (910) 483-1382 to see if the Whole Home Rate option is the right one for you.

Summer Time-of-Use Hours Began April 1st

April 1 marked the beginning of Summer Time-of-Use (TOU) Electric Rates. Peak hours are 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and will run through October. The afternoon during this time of year is when energy demand is at its highest and costs the most. Shifting use on weekdays to Off-Peak hours (20 hours each weekday) and all weekend will save you 35%.

Summer Peak Hours (April - October)
For PWC Electric Customers



3-7 p.m. Weekdays



Scan the QR code for more details and conservation tips.

Rain Sensors; They Help Protect Your Wallet and Your Yard!

PWC has a program to help you save money. Rain sensors are devices that can be attached to an automatic irrigation system to monitor rainfall levels. When the weather is wet, the sensor temporarily overrides the controller to prevent unnecessary irrigation so it can save you money on your water bill!

For a limited time, PWC is offering a bill credit of up to \$50 for installing a rain sensor on your irrigation system. Scan the QR code to learn more about the rain sensor incentive program.



Scan to Learn More!



Work Zone Safety Is in Your Hands

While road work may be a hassle, please be courteous and respectful of the workers present. Here are some extra safety tips to keep in mind when you encounter the work zone:

Reduce your distractions

Distraction-free driving is always important, especially when you're driving in a construction zone. Be on high alert when approaching or entering construction, turn down (or turn off) your radio, end cell phone calls, and keep both hands on the wheel and eyes on the road.

Look for the orange diamond signs

Signs will be placed alongside the roadway well before the actual construction zone to warn drivers. As soon as you see a "work zone ahead" sign, reduce your speed and be on the lookout for workers, machinery and obstacles.

Orange cones direct the flow of traffic in work zones

Do not steer into or run over these objects. You will be responsible for any damage to your vehicle if you make contact with construction cones or barrels.

Flaggers are often used to stop and direct traffic in work zones

Their instructions supersede any posted or implied traffic signals. Their presence will be announced by orange construction signs that say, "flagger ahead." Keep an eye out for flaggers in all construction zones and give them as much space as possible. Thank you for helping keep our workers safe while we work to keep your services reliable.

Info courtesy of driving-tests.org



Thank a Lineworker!

We appreciate our lineworkers and what they do for our customers every day! In 2013, Congress designated April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day, a day to recognize the efforts of lineworkers across the U.S. in keeping the power on and protecting public safety. In 2015, the NC General Assembly designated the second Monday in April as NC Lineworker Appreciation Day, which is April 8th this year.

- Lineworkers are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes
- Lineworkers work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing
- Lineworkers often work under dangerous conditions far from their families to construct and maintain our reliable electric grid
- Lineworkers put their lives on the line every day despite the danger of their work

