

EWEB Board Approves 2026 Budget, Expands Bill Assistance

After months of public meetings, EWEB's elected Board of Commissioners approved the 2026 budget and new electric and water rates, effective February 2026.

The Board reaffirmed its commitment to fair, cost-based rates and expanded support for customers who need help paying their bills. The 2026 budget includes \$2.1 million in bill assistance for income-qualifying customers — an increase of \$500,000 from 2025.

EWEB's combined electric and water budget for 2026 is \$487 million, a \$2 million decrease from 2025, while still funding critical projects that keep services safe and reliable.

HOW YOUR RATES ARE BEING USED

EWEB is a cost-based public utility — there are no profits or shareholder dividends built into rates. All revenue beyond operating costs is reinvested in infrastructure, services, and community programs.

Electric and water rates support essential work across our system, including:

- Maintaining and upgrading power lines and substations
- Modernizing the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project to provide clean, local energy for the next 40 years
- Reducing risks along the Leaburg Canal while planning for long-term project decommissioning
- Replacing and renewing water storage and transmission infrastructure
- Planning for a second source of drinking water on the Willamette River



We are modernizing College Hill Reservoir and other facilities needed to deliver your power and water even as infrastructure ages and new challenges arise.

You can find more information about EWEB's budget, major factors driving price changes, and where your dollars go on our website: eweb.org/RateInfo.

What This Means for Your Bill

For a typical all-electric household using about 1,600 kilowatt-hours of electricity in winter and 9,000 gallons of water, the combined electric and water bill increase is about \$4–\$5 per month in winter 2026, with lower impacts expected in the warmer months.

Electric rates (overall increase: 4.4%)

Basic charge ▲ to \$38.50 per month

Usage charge ▼ to 10.82¢ per kWh

Water rates (overall increase: 5.1%)

Basic charge ▲ to \$26 per month

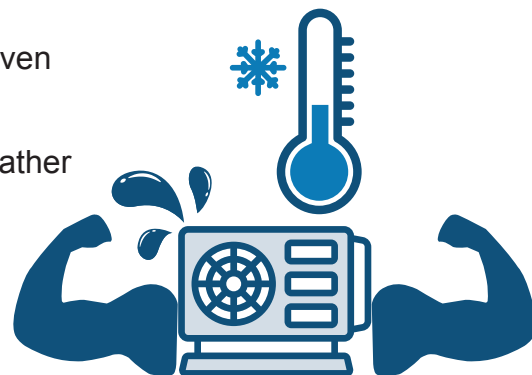
Usage charge ▲ to \$2.15 per thousand gallons

Your Heating System is Working Hard!

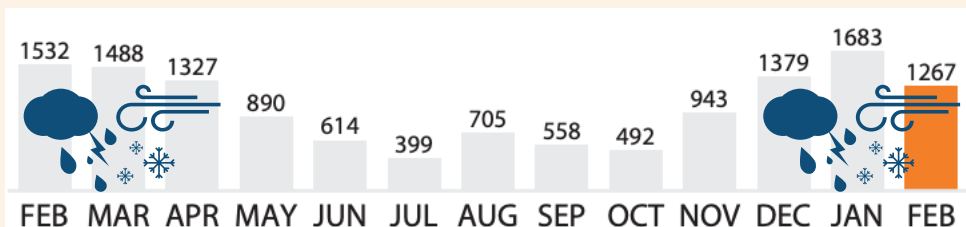
During cold weather, energy use can increase significantly—even if you don't change your thermostat setting.

For example, maintaining a home at 68°F during very cold weather can increase energy use by 75–200%, depending on:

- Home size and insulation
- Heating system type
- Overall energy efficiency



Smaller, well-insulated homes with heat pumps typically see smaller increases, while larger homes or those with baseboard or wall heaters may see higher usage.



Example bill snapshot for all-electric single family home, 1500 sq ft, three residents, well-insulated, with Ductless Heat Pump

Help is Available

We offer programs to help you manage bills and reduce energy and water use year-round.

- **Customer Care Program** provides an annual \$280 bill credit
- **Energy efficiency loans and rebates** can cover up to 100% of costs to upgrade heating systems, insulation, windows, toilets, and water heaters
- Programs for **rentals and multi-family units**



If you need assistance with your bill, please contact us at 541-685-7000 or visit eweb.org/Assistance.

Beware of Scams

We routinely receive reports about various scam attempts targeting customers. Be suspicious of any emails or phone calls that claim to be urgent and require immediate action to prevent shut-off of any of your utility services.

Scammers often use valid-looking phone numbers, graphics, uniforms, and other forms of fraudulent identification.

When in doubt, call EWEB using the number provided on your bill and on our website.



We recommend registering with our online portal so you can always check the status of your account.