

Canton Electric Rates

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This is an open letter to the *Canton Citizen*, in response to a letter from Paula Vozzella in the February 20, 2025 issue. She complains that, in spite of reductions touted for Canton's negotiated electric rates, her bills have been going up.

The necessary information can be dug out of Eversource bills. From our 02/12/25 bill, what we pay is in three parts:

1. The energy rates (cost of electricity) are paid to the supplier, Constellation. This is the rate negotiated by the town. My wife and I chose the "green" option, a painless way to help address climate change. Our rate is higher than for those who did not make that choice. Our rate has gone from .17216 per KWH one year ago to .14555, a savings of 15.5%. This is a great deal!
2. A fixed charge of \$10 per month, paid to Eversource as part of the delivery charge. This rate has not changed.
3. The cost of delivery, nine line items on the bill that add to or subtract from the net delivery rate. Perhaps intentional obfuscation, they don't print the effective net rate on the bill. Take the total delivery charge, subtract the \$10 customer charge, and divide by the number of KWH used: the net delivery rate from our 02/12/25 statement is .19123 per KWH. Comparing to the net delivery rate from the bill one year ago of .16637, this an increase of 14.9%, year over year.

For people on the green plan, our total electric rates are only slightly better than a year ago. Those not on the green plan should see more savings this month.

While our energy rates are fixed for the life of the contract, the old Eversource energy rates varied from month to month, so the 15.5% monthly savings varies as well. Delivery rate increases went into effect around July 1 and January 1.

The Massachusetts DPU Electric Power Division supervises delivery rates. Assuming they are doing their job properly, those rates are what the service costs, period. Consider that electric power has been a major factor in California wild fires - we want to assure that our delivery facilities are reliable and safe.

The best way to save on electricity is to use less. Without changing your lifestyle, the first point of attack is to replace all incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs. This saves about 85% on the cost of electricity for lighting, and LED bulbs usually last much longer. (Throw the costly-to-use incandescent bulbs away!) LED lighting is also nicer and safer than fluorescent. The Feit LED bulbs available at Costco and other places have a switch to select the color of the light: select 2700K for the soft white beloved by many.