



CITY OF WILSON

North Carolina

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Wilson City Council approves historic electric rate decrease

What this will mean for consumers

For immediate release

The Wilson City Council approved Thursday the largest reduction ever in electric rates, creating savings for residents and businesses beginning this fall.

City Council approved rate changes for Wilson Energy, all of which go into effect Sept. 1:

- A 17.6-percent reduction for electricity for residential customers, the vast majority of Wilson Energy's customers.
- A 15.4-percent reduction for electricity purchased by businesses and commercial customers.
- A 7.2-percent reduction for electricity purchased by industrial customers.
- A 12.3-percent reduction in the wholesale rate to Walstonburg, Pinetops and Macclesfield.

"This is a landmark day for Wilson and its future," Mayor Bruce Rose said of the rate reductions. "Our residents are going to have more money every month, businesses will find it easier to succeed, and industries will be better able to hire new employees. This will be great for everyone."

The impact will be regional as Wilson Energy serves around 34,000 customers in Wilson, Wilson County and surrounding counties.

Some customers will see their next bills reduced while others will see the savings later. It depends on when their meters are read. The city has five billing cycles and is checking meters throughout the month. All meters read on or after Sept. 1 will be billed at the new lower rates.

The City Council was able to take this unprecedented step because the N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA) – a collection of cities and towns including Wilson that provide electricity to their residents – recently completed a sale of its share of coal- and nuclear-power plants to Duke Energy Progress.

The sale relieved the NCEMPA members of more than \$1 billion in debt from the construction of those power plants decades ago.

NCEMPA now is a wholesale customer of Duke Energy Progress. The deal will allow Wilson Energy to charge electric rates that will be nearly identical to those charged by DEP, yet customers will continue to have a local work force to maintain electrical lines and respond to outages.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR WILSON HOUSEHOLDS

- You'll pay 17.6 percent less for electricity. Residents had paid \$141.00 for 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, a typical amount for a newer home to use in a month; you now will pay \$116.70. In comparison, Duke Energy Progress charges \$111.63.
- The savings begin with meters read on or after Sept. 1. All October bills will reflect the new rates.

- Households that heat with electricity will benefit the most this winter. Natural gas costs are not impacted by Thursday's rate changes.
- The City of Wilson includes other items on monthly bills -- water, wastewater and garbage, for example. Those rates are not changing.