

# Light Reading



Seattle City Light



## New Rates Implemented for 2026

As of January 1, 2026, City Light has implemented new rates as adopted by the Seattle City Council in fall 2024. These updates were expected and detailed in our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Most customers will see an increase of about 5.4% on their electric bills.

### What to expect:

**Residential customers:** Most will see an increase of about \$4 per month.

**Utility Discount Program customers:** The increase will be around \$2 per month.

**Business customers:** Based on use, expect a bill increase between 4% to 7%.

Visit [powerlines.seattle.gov/2026citylightrates](https://powerlines.seattle.gov/2026citylightrates) for more information.

We understand that rate increases are challenging for everyone. We're committed to giving you the resources and financial support you need to save energy and money. If you or someone you know is having trouble paying their bill, apply for our bill assistance programs.



## How to Get Help With Your Bill

We offer bill assistance to make sure you have affordable electricity. This includes emergency bill help, Project Share, and the Utility Discount Program. Call (206) 684-3000, Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., to talk about your options.

If you qualify, joining the Utility Discount Program can get you a 60% discount on your City Light bill. If you're a Seattle resident, you'll also get a 50% discount on water, sewer, and garbage bills from Seattle Public Utilities, even if your landlord pays for them. Want to know if you qualify? Go to [seattle.gov/UDP](https://seattle.gov/UDP).



## Tips to Reduce Your Bill

With the 2026 rate increase, a typical residential customer will pay about \$8 more on a bimonthly bill. Here are several low- or no-cost ways to save that much or more:

- Run your dishwasher, washing machine, and dryer only when they are full.
- Seal air leaks to prevent drafts and reduce heating and cooling costs.
- Shorten showers to use less hot water.
- Use a microwave, slow cooker, or toaster instead of a larger oven.

Learn more ways to lighten your load and save money at [seattle.gov/city-light/energy-tips](https://seattle.gov/city-light/energy-tips).

## Protect Yourself from Scammers

Scammers often target people during the holidays, winter weather, and the start of a new year. City Light will never call and ask for immediate payment. That's not how we do business. If you suspect a scam, call (206) 684-3000 to check your account status. Do you know someone who might be vulnerable to a scam? You can help them stay protected. Here are some tips: be proactive, check their bill regularly, and update passwords.

For more tips on avoiding scams, visit [seattle.gov/city-light/scams](https://seattle.gov/city-light/scams). Stay informed and stay safe!

## Check Your Trees After Storms

Winter storms can cause tree branches to fall. It's important to check the trees in your yard for damage. Look for broken branches in the canopy or stubs where limbs snapped off. Pruning these while the tree is dormant will help it focus on healthy growth in the spring. Before you prune, make sure branches aren't near power lines or transformers. If you're unsure, contact City Light's Power Line Clearance team at [SCL\\_Vegetation@seattle.gov](mailto:SCL_Vegetation@seattle.gov).



## At Work in Your Neighborhood

Seattle City Light crews are always working to provide reliable service. The following projects continue across our service area:

- Updating electrical infrastructure for streetlights and floodlights.
- Replacing aging utility poles to enhance safety and reliability.

Learn more about projects in your area: [seattle.gov/city-light/current-projects](https://seattle.gov/city-light/current-projects)



## Safety Tip from the Field

Generators can be effective during a power outage, but they need to be used with care. Always use portable generators outside in well-ventilated areas and away from your home.