

Trends that are impacting your utility rates

Like power and water utilities around the country, EWEB is facing many pressures, including the need to reinvest in aging infrastructure, increase our resilience to natural disasters, respond to growing demands for clean electricity, protect our digital and physical assets from external threats, operate under increasing regulations, and attract skilled workers in a tight labor market. Underlying all these challenges is our ongoing obligation to support a high quality of life in our community while keeping prices affordable.

Looking ahead, needed infrastructure investments and rising costs of operations will require increases in the price of water and electric services.

At the July 11 public Board of Commissioners meeting, EWEB kicked-off a multi-month process that will culminate in December with adoption of a 2024 budget and rates.

Some of the major factors driving projected 2024 price changes are:

- **Water investments** – including constructing a treatment plant on the Willamette River, replacing aging water storage tanks, and strengthening pipelines
- **Electric investments** – including rebuilding aging substations and upgrading the Carmen-Smith hydroelectric project
- **Purchased power costs** – including rising costs of power supplied by the Bonneville Power Administration
- **Global inflationary pressures** – rising costs of equipment such as pipes (up 50% in the past two years), transformers (up 50-85%), and power poles (up 30%)

Our customer-owners are invited to provide testimony on proposed rate adjustments at public Boards meetings, including rate hearings in November and December. Learn more at eweb.org/RateInfo.

Some facts about your customer-owned utility

You own EWEB, not wealthy investors or shareholders, and there are no profit margins or shareholder dividends built into your EWEB rates.

Most of our community's electric and water infrastructure was built in the 1960s and 70s and is reaching end of life.

More than 200,000 EWEB customers rely on well-built and maintained systems that deliver approximately 8.5 billion gallons of drinking water and 2.4 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity every year.

Our community's utility assets include five power generating facilities, 1,300 miles of power lines, 38 substations, one water filtration plant, 22 water storage tanks, 25 pump stations, and approximately 800 miles of water pipes.

Eugene's utility infrastructure will require almost \$1 billion in investment over the next 10 years to continue providing safe and reliable power and water.

Charting our future energy supply choices

After 18 months of study to assess Eugene’s future electricity needs, EWEB has found that demand for electricity will rise over the next two decades, and that a diverse portfolio of energy resources will be needed to meet that demand.

The energy planning analysis also shows that EWEB and customers can save money and reduce greenhouse gas pollution by using less electricity overall and using less electricity at times of peak demand.

Energy efficiency can offset the need for new power supplies, but by how much?

For decades, EWEB has relied significantly on conservation, which is the practice of paying customers to use less electricity through home weatherization rebates and technology upgrades. Our analysis shows that conservation should continue to be a part of EWEB’s resource strategy. However, many homes are already fully weatherized, with energy efficient heat pumps and appliances installed. EWEB will be conducting additional research to understand how much local energy savings are available.



There is significant value in reducing peaks in electricity demand.

“Demand response” programs trim peak demand and reduce the need for EWEB to procure expensive electricity that also tends to be associated with higher carbon emissions. For example, customers can charge their electric vehicles overnight rather than in the evening. EWEB will do further analysis to understand the cost and availability of demand response potential in Eugene.



Hydropower is still a good fit, but new resources will be needed.

EWEB is already working toward a new contract with our largest supplier of hydropower, the Bonneville Power Administration. Our analysis shows that wind and batteries can help supplement hydropower, and we will need to explore future additional low- or zero-carbon electricity resources to continue supplying reliable electricity to customers at a reasonable cost. Learn more at eweb.org/IRP.



Your Board of Commissioners

Wards 6 & 7	Sonya Carlson (President)
Wards 2 & 3	John Barofsky (Vice President)
Wards 4 & 5	John Brown
Wards 1 & 8	Matt McRae
At-large	Mindy Schlossberg

The citizens of Eugene elect five commissioners to four-year terms. They dedicate their service to the utility as volunteers without pay. Commissioners hold regularly scheduled public meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, typically at 5:30 p.m. Our customer-owners are welcome and encouraged to participate. Meetings are streamed live and archived on eweb.org/board.

Follow us @EWEButility for water & electricity news, programs and tips



Join our email list at eweb.org/newsletters