

insight

August 2014

Utility Price Changes

GRU customers will see changes to their utility bills starting October 1, based on the fiscal year 2015 budget preliminarily approved by the City Commission. The



proposal includes a residential electric rate increase of \$1.35 per 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh), which is significantly less than the initial projection of \$9.85 per 1,000 kWh.

Based on industry standard comparisons, residential customers using electric, natural gas, water and wastewater services – or about 30 percent of GRU customers – could see an increase of \$6.16 per month due to declining or stagnant sales and increasing expenses across all systems. This includes a \$2.36 increase for gas, a 50-cent increase for water and a \$1.95 increase for wastewater.

In November, staff set a goal of reducing the proposed fiscal year 2015 budget by \$12 million in order to minimize price increases for customers. They were able to achieve this goal through a reduction in the General Fund Transfer, the elimination of employee raises, leaving positions unfunded and other reductions in ongoing expenses.

All price changes are pending ordinance approval. A copy of the complete budget proposal is available at gru.com.

For money-saving tips,
visit gru.com


More than Energy



Reducing Carbon Dioxide Emissions

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a new rule to

reduce nationwide carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-fired power plants, with Florida responsible for a 38-percent reduction from 2012 levels by 2030. GRU and the City of Gainesville have prepared for carbon regulation by achieving a long-term goal to reduce carbon emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels. A large part of these reductions have come from increasing the amount of electricity produced from renewable energy sources and establishing aggressive energy conservation programs that have helped customers save more than 130,000 megawatt hours of energy. GRU will continue to evaluate the impact of the EPA's proposed rule to the utility and the community.

Storm Restoration Priorities

Following a major storm, GRU works to make repairs that will benefit the most people

in the shortest amount of time, with priority given to hospitals, police and fire stations, utility plants and lift stations, and other facilities essential to public health and safety. Repairs may take a considerable amount of time, particularly if trees have to be removed, flooding has occurred or broken poles need to be replaced. To learn more about GRU's storm restoration procedures, visit gru.com/stormcentral.



New Home Energy Calculator

GRU recently launched an interactive Home Energy Calculator to give customers a detailed look at their home's estimated energy use as well as personalized cost-saving recommendations. The first 50 customers to complete the assessment will receive a free energy savings kit, compliments of GRU. Visit gru.com/hec to start saving today.

Move-in Safety

Are you moving into a new house or apartment? Follow these tips to have your utility services connected safely:

- Ensure that stoves and ovens are turned off and that no flammable or combustible items are nearby.
- Make sure all water taps are turned off, including the one at the washing machine connection.
- Make sure GRU staff has unobstructed access to your gas, electric and water meters.
- Learn where your electric breaker panels are located and confirm that the breakers are flipped on.

Portable Generator Safety

Portable generators can provide a convenient source of back-up electricity when used properly. Follow these tips to keep your family safe if a storm knocks out your power:

- Carefully read the instruction manual before using a portable generator.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator using appropriately rated and sized extension cords.
- To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, place your generator in a well-ventilated area outside your house or garage.

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public service announcements

Don't Move Your Trash

Moving in or moving out? Alachua County Waste Collections will help manage your curbside collection of old furniture and help you properly dispose of your moving trash. Call 352-338-3233 for more information.

Al-Anon Family Groups

Al-Anon Family Groups offer understanding and support to families and friends of problem drinkers. Learn more by attending a confidential meeting in your community. Call 1-800-851-1795 to find a local meeting or visit al-anon.alateen.org.

View More PSAs at gru.com:

- Fix Pets for Less
- National Alliance on Mental Illness 2014 Walk

Submit a PSA

GRU offers PSAs to help local nonprofit organizations that support the arts and sciences or provide a community service. Call 352-393-1306 or email littonjenkl@gru.com well in advance to schedule a reservation.