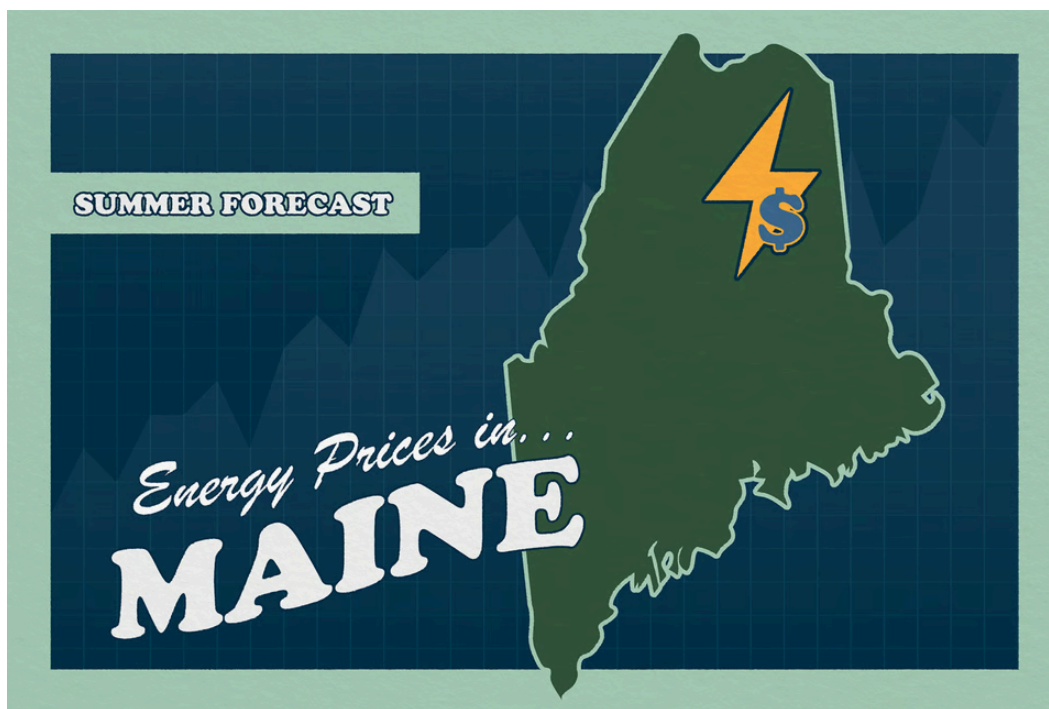


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Summer Preview: New Analysis Shows Mainers Should Expect Price Spikes on Summer Electric Bills

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Every summer, energy demand surges nationwide as Americans cope with rising temperatures. More and more Americans experience extreme summer heat and need to power on air conditioners to cool down. For many families, it's an annual tradition: higher temperatures mean higher energy bills—this summer, price hikes will hit even harder.

New analysis shows Mainers' total electricity bills for summer 2026 could reach almost \$650.

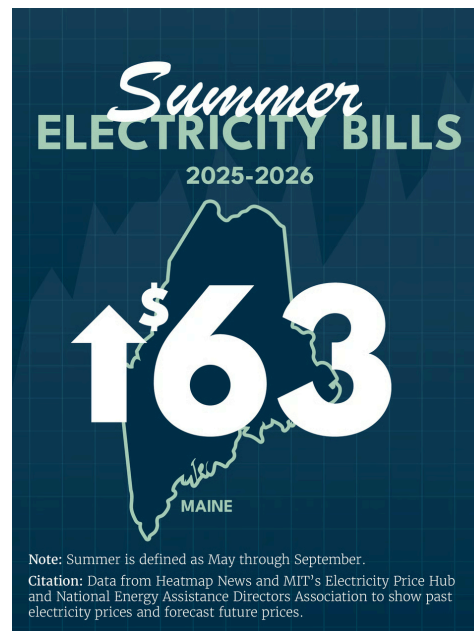
New projections show that this summer will be even more expensive. The United States is currently experiencing record energy demand driven by data center growth, domestic manufacturing, and electrification. And we simply aren't bringing on new energy quickly enough or in large enough quantities to meet rising demand affordably.

All that demand is placing further strain on our already-burdened electric grid, which is aging and long overdue for major infrastructure repairs.

These factors combined—seasonal demand spikes made worse by climate change, arriving amid already record-high electricity demand and putting additional stress on a strained energy grid—mean Americans are in for a summer of scorching temperatures and steep energy bills.

Data from MIT and Heatmap shows that Maine residents spent \$140 on their electricity bills in May 2025. By August, they were spending \$165, a 17% increase. This year, Maine residents are entering the summer with higher baseline bills: the typical May 2026 bill was around \$150, about 7% higher than last year's. If month-to-month costs increase at a rate similar to last summer's, August bills will be around \$176.

The National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA) released new forecasts showing even higher utility bill growth in Maine and across the US. They estimate electricity bills will increase by 10.6% in Maine and the surrounding states. Applying that rate of increase to the most recent Maine electric bills available through MIT and Heatmap's electricity pricing database brings Mainers' total electricity bills to \$658, up from about \$595 last summer.



What's Next?

Rising energy costs are a compounding problem, and delayed action only makes the problem at hand more daunting. Federal, state, and local governments should work together to expand generation and improve our aging grid. Instead, the Trump administration has made it significantly harder to meet rising energy demand.

To grow domestic energy generation and mitigate the impact of rising electricity demand, increasing clean energy deployment is a natural next step. Clean energy sources like wind, solar, and batteries take less time to build and aren't subject to the same kind of supply chain shortages and price fluctuations that plague natural gas. But the Trump Administration has stymied clean energy deployment by undermining financing for clean energy, imposing administrative roadblocks that delay project reviews, and formally deprioritizing low-cost resources like solar and wind in federal directives.

Some estimates suggest the Administration has canceled or blocked 22 GW of clean energy deployment from coming online. To put that in perspective, the number of projects canceled in Q1 of 2026 alone could power between 2 and 3 million homes and businesses each year.

For Maine families, the consequences of cuts to clean energy are personal. Actions at the federal level are constraining the deployment of much-needed new energy generation. A regional study by RENEW Northeast found that offshore wind could have cut New England electricity prices by 11% and delivered \$400 million in wholesale savings in just three winter months.

It's normal for energy prices to rise over the course of the summer. But the current pressures on our energy sector, combined with recent federal policy failures, mean consumers are facing devastating price hikes. Accelerating clean energy buildout can mitigate rising prices and give consumers some much-needed relief as we enter the warmer summer months.

