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# Summer Preview: New Analysis Shows New Yorkers Should Expect Major 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 that New York residents' total electricity bills for summer 2026 will be close to \$800.**

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.

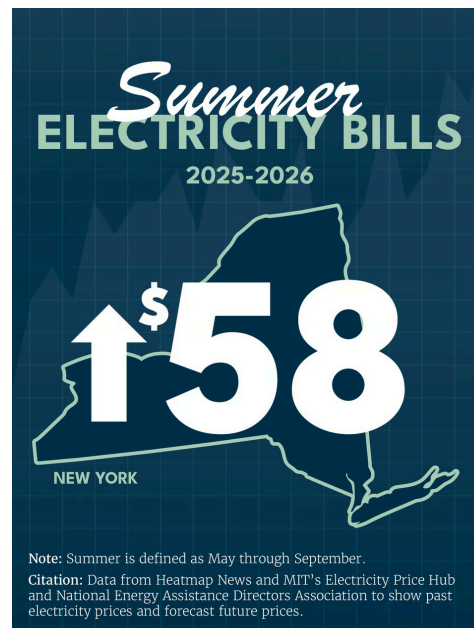
All that demand is placing further strain on our already-burdened electric grid, which is aging and long overdue for major infrastructure repairs.

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 New Yorkers are in for a summer of scorching temperatures and steep energy bills.

The typical New Yorker pays over 50% more for electricity than the average American. In some rural counties, it's even higher.

**New projections show that this summer will be even more expensive.** Data from MIT and Heatmap shows that New Yorkers spent about \$120 on their electricity bills last May. By July, they were spending around \$230, an 86% increase.

This year, forecasts from the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA) suggest New Yorkers' residential utility bills will climb 7.9% from last year's highs. If we apply that estimated rate of increase to recent electric bills from the Empire State, New Yorkers' total summer electric bill is close to \$800, up from around \$730 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 New Yorkers, the consequences of cuts to clean energy are personal. Although the courts ultimately overturned Trump Administration orders that halted the construction of 5 offshore wind farms along the East Coast, the delay caused by federal interference slowed the deployment of both Empire Wind (810 MW) and Sunrise Wind (924 MW) projects. The two wind farms are set to provide cheap, clean power for nearly 500,000 and 600,000 New York homes, respectively. As a result of political interference, that power won't hit the grid as soon as anticipated, and New Yorkers will have to suffer higher costs for a longer period of time.

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 will face brutally high prices all summer. Accelerating clean energy buildout can mitigate rising prices and give consumers some much-needed relief as we enter the warmer summer months.

