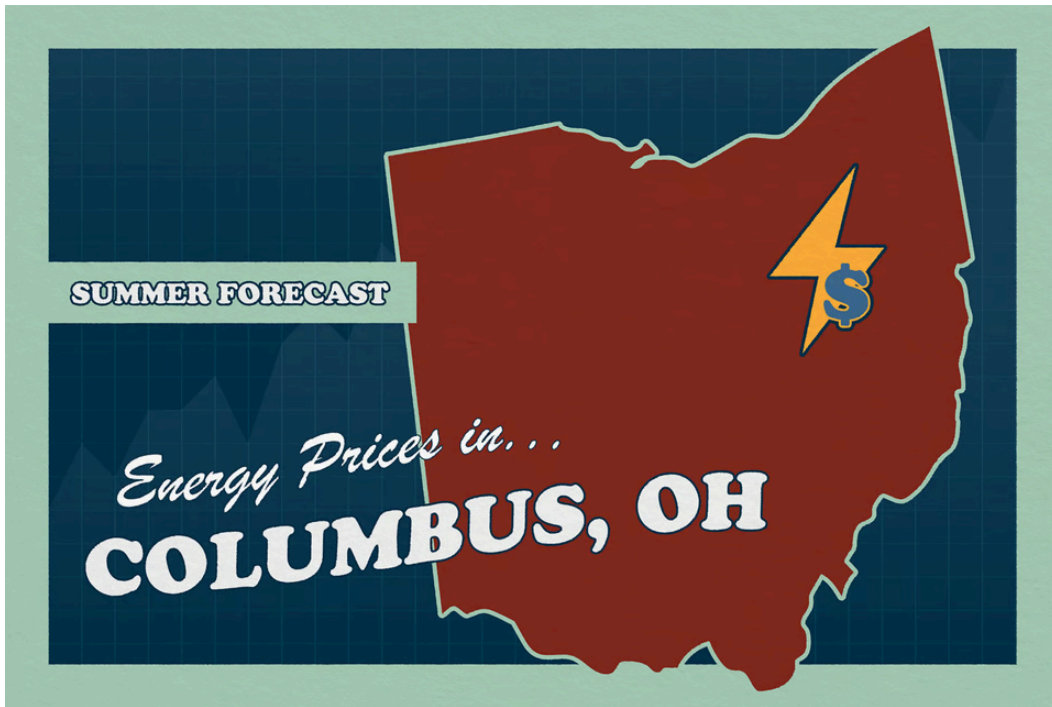


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Summer Preview: New Analysis Shows Ohioans Should Expect Major Price Spikes On Summer Electricity Bills

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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 Ohio residents' total electricity bills for Summer 2026 could exceed \$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 affordably meet rising demand.

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.

In May 2025, data from MIT and Heatmap showed that Ohio residents were spending \$101 on their electricity bills. By July, they were spending \$208, a 106% increase.

Utility Spotlight

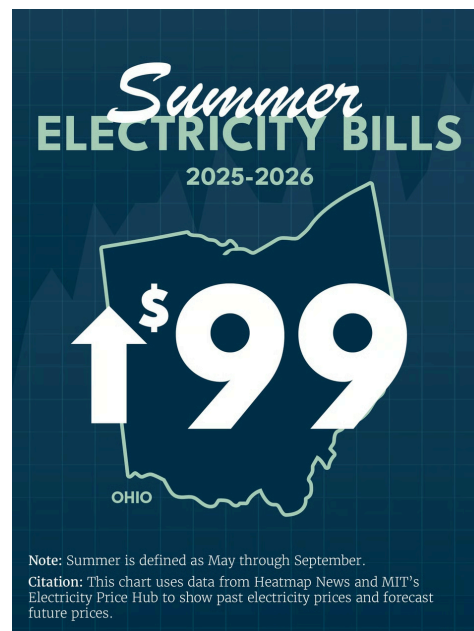
EP Ohio customers faced higher prices than folks covered by other utilities—and saw significant price spikes between 2025 and 2026. In May 2025, AEP customers paid about \$123 for their electricity. By August of that year, they paid \$235 for their electricity, a 91% increase.

This year, May bills are about 5% higher for AEP customers – around \$129 for the month. If prices continue to rise as they did last summer, total summer electricity bills (June-September) could be almost \$800.

New projections show that this summer will be even more expensive. The National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA) released new forecasts showing a

regional price jump of 7.8% from 2025 prices for Ohio and the surrounding states. Their projected rate of increase, when applied to Ohioans' most recent electric bills, brings total electricity bills for summer 2026 to close to \$735, up from \$682 last summer.

But a closer look at MIT and Heatmap's electricity bill data suggests that summer electricity costs could exceed NEADA's estimate. This year, Ohio residents are entering the summer with higher baseline bills: the typical May 2026 bill was around \$115, about 14% higher than last year's. If costs increase at a similar rate as last year, July bills will be around \$238. And total electricity bills for summer 2026 could exceed \$780.



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 be working 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 folks in Ohio, the consequences of cuts to clean energy are personal. The Trump administration has slowed or reversed investments in renewable energy in the Buckeye

State. And they've paired that obstruction with investing federal tax dollars to keep costly, aging coal plants open well past their anticipated retirement.

According to a recent Grid Strategies report, the Department of Energy's decision to extend the lifetime of Miami Fort power station, located in Hamilton County, will cost ratepayers in the state nearly \$100 million annually.

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.
