

Energy Lines

The official publication of Flint Energies

August 2026

Understanding your electric bill

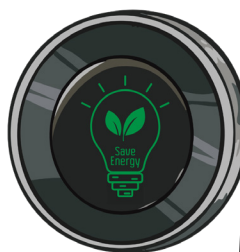
August is typically one of the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many Consumer-members may see an increase in their electric bill and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

At Flint Energies, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

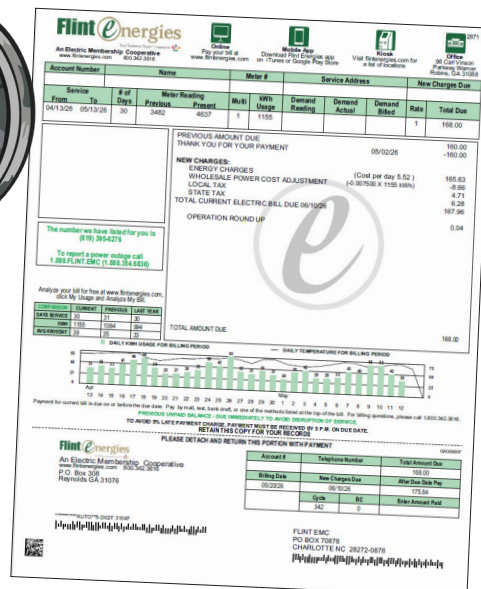
The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During the summer, air conditioning is typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s or higher, our cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, solar and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs (WPCA) influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Closer to home, Flint Energies maintains the local electric distribution system—utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. Maintaining this equipment is covered through the monthly service charge. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use.



For energy savings, Flint Energies recommends keeping your thermostat set to 78 degrees in the summer, and 68 degrees in the winter.



This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business.

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, sealing air leaks and avoiding the use of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand.

Flint Energies strives to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity while being transparent about the factors that impact energy costs. We understand every dollar matters to our members, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support the communities we serve.

Why vegetation management matters

There's something timeless about trees. They ground us. They remind us of where we've been, and they stretch toward what's ahead. Here in our community, we take pride in the natural beauty that surrounds us—the shade on a summer afternoon, the colors that mark the changing seasons, the quiet strength of something that grows slowly but endures.

At the same time, we share another responsibility—one that's just as essential to our daily lives. The responsibility to keep the lights on, to power our homes and businesses, to make sure that when you flip a switch, the energy you depend on is there.

That's why Flint Energies works every day to strike a careful balance between preserving the beauty we cherish and delivering the reliable electricity you expect.

One of the most important ways we do that is through regular tree trimming.

Now, it may not always be obvious, but keeping lines clear of overgrown vegetation plays a major role in preventing power outages. We've all seen what can happen when severe weather rolls in—strong winds, heavy ice or sudden storms can bring down branches and, with them, power lines and poles. In fact, nearly half of all power outages can be traced back to trees and vegetation coming into contact with electrical infrastructure.

That's why you may notice crews from Flint Energies or our trusted contractors working in neighborhoods throughout the year. Our crews are highly trained and certified, following the latest industry standards to ensure the job is done safely and effectively. Their work might seem routine, but it's anything but—it's a proactive step that helps prevent problems before they start.

And it's not just good practice—it's required. Electric utilities across the country are obligated to manage vegetation near power lines. Scheduled trimming helps

remove dead or weakened limbs and keeps fast-growing trees from becoming hazards. It's about staying one step ahead, especially as we prepare for the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events.

But beyond reliability and efficiency, there's another reason this work matters: safety.

Electricity is a powerful force, and when trees grow too close to power lines, that power can become dangerous. Branches that touch lines—or even come close—can carry electrical current. Children climbing trees in their own yards may not realize the risk. And during storms, fallen trees can create hazardous conditions not only for families but also for our lineworkers working to restore service.

There's also a financial reality we can't ignore. Preventative maintenance—like tree trimming—is far more cost-effective than repairing widespread damage after an outage. Left unchecked, overgrown vegetation can lead to more frequent disruptions and higher costs for everyone. A thoughtful, strategic vegetation management program helps keep those costs down for our Consumer-members.

You can help, too. When planting new trees, consider their mature height and distance from nearby power lines. Trees that grow up to 40 feet should be planted at least 25 feet away from overhead lines. Larger trees—those that exceed 40 feet—should be planted at least 50 feet away. If you're landscaping near pad-mounted transformers, keep shrubs at least 10 feet from the front and four feet from the sides to allow safe access.

If your neighborhood has underground lines, don't forget to call 811 before digging. It's a simple step that can prevent serious accidents.

At the end of the day, we all want the same thing: a community that's safe, resilient and beautiful. At Flint Energies, we're proud to be part of that effort. Our roots run deep here, just like the trees we work to care for.

CALLING ALL BRIGHT IDEAS!

Teachers, do you have a creative lesson plan for your classroom? Submit your Bright Ideas application and you could win up to \$2,000 to help make your dream a reality.



Submit your early bird application by September 4 to be entered to win a \$250 Visa gift card. Three winners will be selected.

Final entry deadline: September 18

flintenergies.com/bright-ideas



Carrie Chastain
2025 Bright Ideas winner

89th Annual Meeting of Members Tuesday, October 6

Southside Baptist Church
1040 South Houston Lake Road | Warner Robins
Doors open: 8:30 a.m. | Meeting starts: 10 a.m.

NEW Ballots and information packets will be mailed to every Flint Member in early September.

- ☀ Opportunity to win \$2,000 in electric bill credit
- ☀ FREE barbecue lunch and entertainment
- ☀ Attendee gift for first 1,000 Members

flintenergies.com/annual-meeting



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VISIT US
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Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.



Margins have been assigned

Margins accrued by Flint EMC (revenue after all expenses have been paid) have been assigned to Members' capital credits records. This assignment is made by applying the percentage of the Cooperative's margins to each Member's annual bill before taxes. The percentage from Flint's margins for 2025 is 2.851%. In addition, margins assigned to Flint by other organizations are passed on to our Members. That amounted to 1.638% for 2025.

The table below shows examples of how you may determine your assignment. Simply multiply the percentage figures shown below by your total billing, less sales taxes, for the year.

Examples

Percentage	If annual bills (less taxes) were:	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
2.851%	Credits assigned from Flint's operating margins	\$14.25	\$21.38	\$28.51
1.638%	Credits assigned from associated organizations (in certificate form only)	\$8.19	\$12.28	\$16.38

Remember to keep us informed of your correct mailing address, especially if you move out of Flint Energies' service area. If you have any questions about your assignments, please call 1.800.342.3616.