

Understanding your Utility Bill



City of Columbia, Missouri

Utilities Department
701 E. Broadway
P.O. Box 1676
Columbia, MO 65205

Billing Questions:
(573) 874-7380 or ucs@como.gov
Online Portal: MyUtilityBill.CoMo.gov

Pay Bill: (573) 874-7694
Online: Pay.CoMo.gov

Utility after-hours emergency: (573) 875-2555



Notes about your service will appear here.

Customer - Account #: 00000000-0000000

Name: JANE DOE
JOHN DOE

Service Address: 1414 ROLLING ROCK DR

Billing Date	12/17/2024
Previous Balance	\$321.20
Payment(s)	(\$321.20)

BALANCE FORWARD	\$0.00
-----------------	--------

NEW CHARGES are due 1/8/2025	\$116.87
Charges if not paid by 1/8/2025	\$120.38

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$116.87
-------------------------	-----------------

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us to either use the information from your check to make a one-time electronic funds transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.
3.0% late fee applies if not paid by due date

The contact information for the City of Columbia Utilities billing office is located at the top of the first page of your utility bill. You can pay your bill online, by phone, at the drive-thru or drop box behind City Hall. Our office is located on the first floor of City Hall.

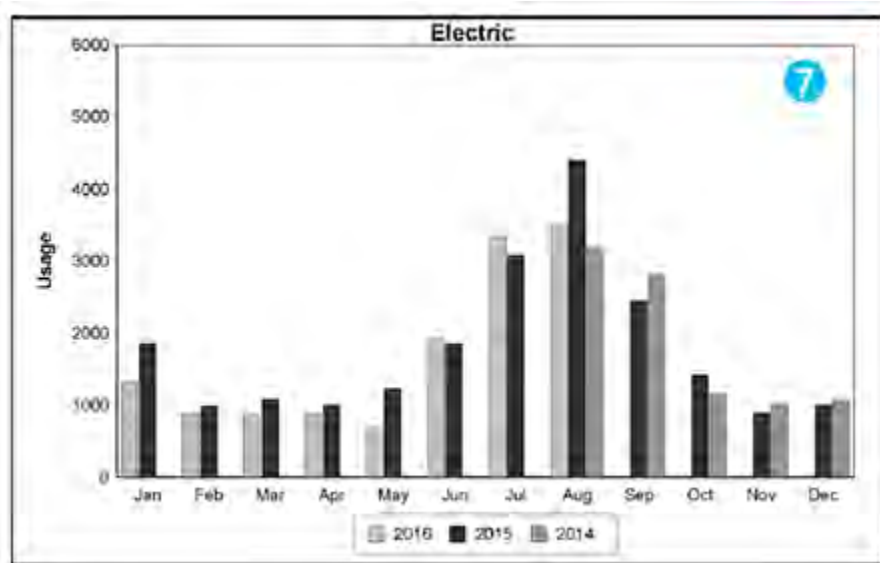
If you are paying your bill on the due date, please do not mail your payment.

Front page: overview of electric and water usage

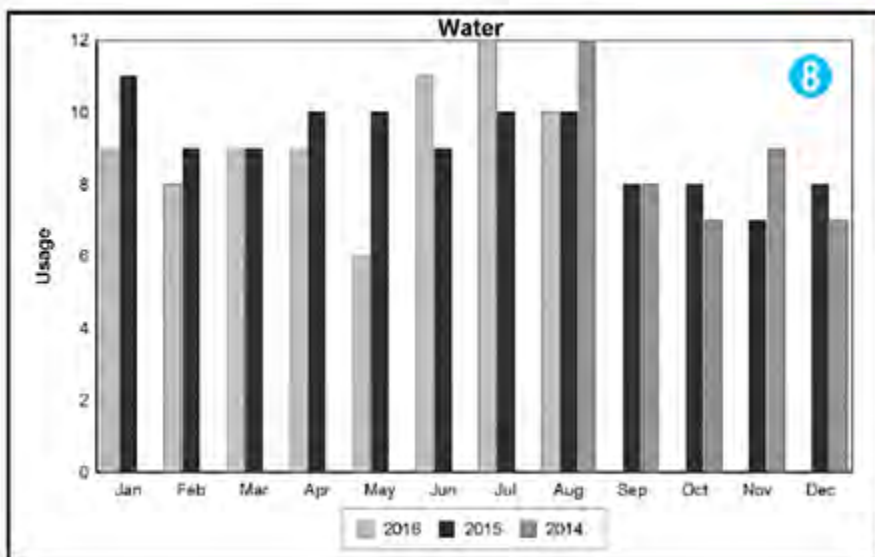
Service	Meter	Previous ¹		Current ²		Meter Multiplier	Usage ³	Units	Days ⁴	Meter Size
		Date	Read	Date	Read					
Electric	43810L	07/13/16	44538	08/15/16	48038	1	3500	KWH	33 ⁵	
Water	37863W	07/13/16	1258	08/15/16	1268	1	10	CCF	33 ⁶	5/8 INCH

The previous meter reading **(1)** is subtracted from the current meter reading **(2)** to calculate the usage **(3)** for the billing period. **(4)** The days in a billing cycle can vary according to the meter reading cycle. **(5)** Electric usage is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh). A residential electric customer uses on average 805 kWh a month. **(6)** Water is measured in Hundred Cubic Feet or CCF. There are approximately 748 gallons per 1 CCF. A residential water customer uses an average 6 hundred cubic feet (CCF) each month.

Understanding your Utility Bill



(7) The previous 24 months of your electric usage, measured in kWh, is shown on a graph. You can use this information to follow how weather patterns, energy efficiency upgrades and your habits impact your bill.



(8) The previous 24 months of your water usage, measured in Cubic Hundred Feet (CCF), is shown on a graph. Tracking water usage will help you determine if there are water leaks and/or how much water you are using on irrigation in the summer months.

The weather can make a huge difference in your electric usage. Leaks and irrigation can increase your water bill. See Columbia Water & Light's efficiency website (ColumbiaPowerPartners.com) for free tips and incentives.

Understanding your Utility Bill

Back page: details on charges

	Usage	Rate	Charge
Customer Base Charge			\$22.00
9 Electric kWh Tier 1 Non-Summer	300.00	\$0.0889	\$26.67
Electric kWh Tier 2 Non-Summer	450.00	\$0.1089	\$49.01
10 ± PCA - Residential	2,393.00	\$0.0124	\$29.73
Electric kWh Tier 3 Non-Summer	1,643.00	\$0.1000	\$164.30
11 Electric - PILOT Fee			\$21.96
Electric Tax 12			\$7.85
Electric Total			\$321.52

(9) Electricity is charged on a tiered system, which is now itemized. When a customer's usage hits a certain threshold (300 kWh is the first one) they are bumped into a higher-rate tier. The tier system is not new; only the itemization of it on the bills is new. Tiered rates encourage efficiency and help recover costs associated with the infrastructure needed to supply higher consumption amounts, particularly during the summer months. There are different electric rates for summer and for winter. The new bill format shows the tiers used to figure your bill and the rate for each.

Large commercial customers also pay an electric demand fee because demanding a large amount of electricity all at once goes into the cost to provide electric service.

(10) The City of Columbia has adopted a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) beginning Oct. 1, 2023. The PCA accommodates monthly fluctuations in power costs by making adjustments that reflect the true cost of power each month.

Taxes

(11) By City Charter, the water and electric utilities are required to collect Payment-in-Lieu-of-Tax (PILOT), an amount equal to the taxes that would be charged for utilities if the utility were privately owned. These funds are transferred to the Columbia General Fund and are used for police, fire and other services provided by the General Fund.

(12) Sales tax is applied according to the utility billing amount for electricity and water.

Water Meter Charge			\$8.30
13 Water Consumption Tier 1	2.00	\$2.79	\$5.58
Water Consumption Tier 2	8.00	\$3.91	\$31.28
11 Water - PILOT Fee			\$3.52
State Regulatory Fee - Water 14			\$0.13
15 Fire Flow Charge			\$1.55
Water Tax 12			\$4.00
Water Total			\$54.36

(13) During the summer months, water is charged on a tiered system, which is now itemized. Water usage is measured in hundred cubic feet (CCF). There are approximately 748 gallons per one CCF.

(14) The State Regulatory Fee is a set charge for water testing by the Department of Natural Resources.

(15) The Fire Flow Charge is an additional charge to cover the cost of providing water for public fire protection. The charge is based on meter size.

The weather can make a huge difference in your electric usage. Leaks and irrigation can increase your water bill. See Columbia Water & Light's efficiency website (ColumbiaPowerPartners.com) for free tips and incentives.

Understanding your Utility Bill

16	Backflow Charge			\$2.00
	Backflow - PILOT Fee	11		\$0.15
12	Backflow Tax			\$0.17
	Backflow Total			\$2.32

(16) If you have an irrigation system, you are required to have a backflow protection device. Without one, a drop in the city's water pressure could cause water in your irrigation system to be siphoned into the city's drinking water system. Most commercial and industrial customers are required to have backflow devices in specific locations. State regulations require the water utility to maintain records on all backflow devices in the system and report information annually. The fee is collected to pay for the administrative costs of tracking and reporting these devices.

17	Sewer Base Charge			\$11.01
	State Sanitary Sewer Permit Fee	18		\$0.04
19	Sewer Flow Charge	8.33	\$2.27	\$18.91
	Sewer Total			\$29.96

(17) Sewer is a non-metered service that is billed every 30 days or twelve times a year. There is a base charge each billing period to be connected to the system.

(18) State Sanitary Sewer Permit Fees are collected to cover the costs of the State of Missouri charges.

(19) The volume rate (flow charge) you pay is based upon your water consumption or information provided by other water utilities, if you are not a Columbia water customer. Monthly charges for residential customers are based on the average monthly billing of water usage from November through March. For commercial and master meter customers, charges are based on the water used each month.

20	Storm Water Charge - Residential			\$1.44
	Storm Water Total			\$1.44

(20) Storm water is a non-metered service that is billed every 30 days or twelve times a year. The charges are based on the square footage of buildings or other impervious surfaces where rain water cannot be absorbed by the ground. Some commercial customers will see a zero charge as information that the owner of the property is paying the storm water fee.

21	Solid Waste Charges Residential			\$15.42
	Solid Waste Total			\$15.42

(21) Trash or solid waste is a non-metered service that is billed every 30 days or twelve times a year. Charges for refuse depend on the type of solid waste pick up the customer receives. For example, there are different rates for bag pick up versus facilities with dumpsters.

The weather can make a huge difference in your electric usage. Leaks and irrigation can increase your water bill. See Columbia Water & Light's efficiency website (ColumbiaPowerPartners.com) for free tips and incentives.

Understanding your Utility Bill

22

Donation-Public Art	\$20.00
Donation-Beautification	\$10.00
Donation-Fire Dept	\$10.00
Donation-Police Dept	\$10.00
Donation-Youth Rec Services	\$10.00
Donation Total	\$60.00
Donation-Utility Assistance Program	\$20.00
Adjustment Total	\$20.00

(22) Miscellaneous charges you may see on your bill include: service deposits, voluntary charitable contributions (Utility Assistance and Share the Light), major appliance pick-up, etc.

The weather can make a huge difference in your electric usage. Leaks and irrigation can increase your water bill. See Columbia Water & Light's efficiency website (ColumbiaPowerPartners.com) for free tips and incentives.