



May 1, 2026

CONSUMER ALERT: EFFECTIVE TODAY, MAY 1, 2026, PUBLIC BENEFITS CHARGES WILL DECREASE; USAGE IMPACTS RATES.

- Based on available estimates, Eversource customers will see an overall reduction in total electric bills of roughly 15 percent, while UI customers are expected to see reductions in the range of approximately 13.8 percent. These percentages may vary depending on usage and customer-specific factors.
- Eversource customers should see the combined components in the Public Benefits charge change from approximately 4 cents per kilowatt hour change to a credit of about 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour.
- United Illuminating customers, the combined components in the Public Benefits charge change from approximately 4 cents per kilowatt hour change to a credit of about 1.3 cent per kilowatt hour.
- This means that you will see a negative rate on your bill for this bill component, which is actually a credit, not a charge.

OCC FAQ on 2026 Rate Adjustment Mechanism “RAM” Decision Setting May 1 Rates

This FAQ provides information regarding the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) approval of the 2026 Rate Adjustment Mechanism (RAM) in Docket No. [26-01-03](#) and [26-01-04](#), resulting in lower electric rates for Eversource and United Illuminating (UI) customers.

This RAM decision updates several components of electric rates for Eversource and United Illuminating (UI) for the period of May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027. The RAM is an annual reconciliation process overseen by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) that adjusts certain rates to reflect actual costs incurred by the utilities, as well as forecasted costs for the upcoming year.

With this in mind, this FAQ hits on the following topics:

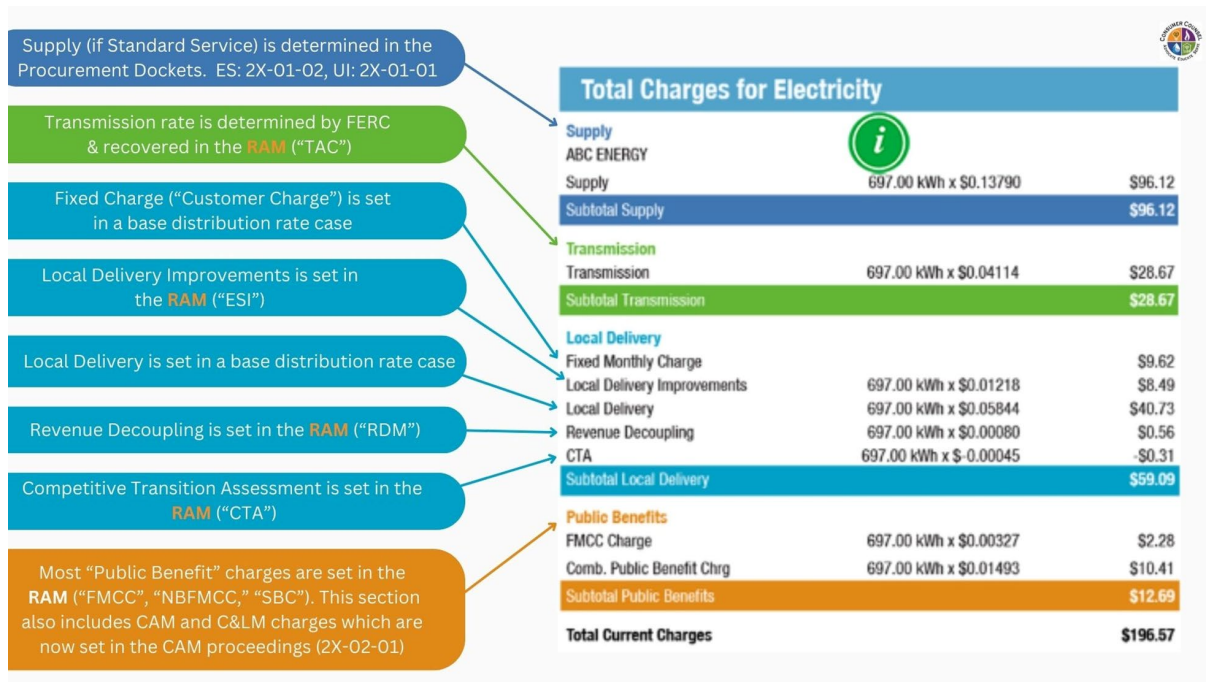
- 1. What bill components are impacted by the RAM?**
- 2. What are the impacts of the RAM decision effective in average residential customer and small commercial customer rates on May 1, 2026?**
- 3. What is the overall percentage decrease in customer bills?**
- 4. What is the Impact on the Public Benefits component of Bills?**

5. How did state bond funding contribute to lowering electric rates and what is the corresponding bill reduction?
6. What other primary factors are driving the rate decrease this year?
7. How did hardship protection costs impact rates in the Public Benefits category?
8. Did this decision address Eversource’s outstanding storm costs?
9. How will individual customer usage affect monthly bills?
10. What can customers do to help lower electric bills?

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1. What bill components are impacted by the RAM?

This is a sample Eversource residential customer bill, indicating which PURA proceedings recover which PURA elements:



The RAM reflects changes across six bill components adjusted through the annual RAM: Non-Bypassable Federally Mandated Congestion Charge (NBFMCC), Transmission Adjustment Clause (TAC), Systems Benefit Charge (SBC), Competitive Transition Assessment (CTA), Electric System Improvements Tracker (ESI), and Revenue Decoupling Mechanism (RDM).

The NBFMCC and SBC are part of the Public Benefits Category, while the CTA, RDM and ESI are part of the Local Delivery Category, and the TAC is part of the Transmission Category on electric bills. You can find out more about these bill components on OCC’s website here: [Electricity](#).

2. What are the impacts of the RAM decision on average residential and small commercial customer rates on May 1, 2026?

The 2026 RAM decision results in a net decrease in overall electric rates for both utilities.

For Eversource residential customers (Rate 1), rates are decreasing by approximately 4.4 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), while UI residential customers (Rate R) will see a reduction of approximately 4.88 cents per kWh.

For a typical residential customer using approximately 700 kWh per month, these changes will result in an average monthly bill decrease of about \$31 for Eversource customers and approximately \$34.15 for UI customers. Actual bill impacts will vary based on individual usage levels and rate structures, but these estimates provide a reasonable benchmark.

For UI small commercial customers (on General Service Rate GS), the energy-related rates are going down about 30%.

For Eversource small commercial customers (Rate 30), the energy-related rate is decreasing by 26%.

Given commercial usage varies and the additional demand charges, OCC is unable to calculate an average rate impact for C&I customers. More information on these specific rates can be found here: [UI Tariffs](#) and [Eversource Tariffs](#).

3. What is the overall percentage decrease in customer bills?

Based on available estimates, Eversource customers will see an overall reduction in total electric bills of roughly 15 percent, while UI customers are expected to see reductions in the range of approximately 13.8 percent. These percentages may vary depending on usage and customer-specific factors.

4. What is the impact on the Public Benefits component of bills?

On May 1st, as a result of this rate adjustment, Eversource customers should see the combined components in the Public Benefits charge change from approximately 4 cents per kilowatt hour to a credit of about 1.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

For United Illuminating customers, the combined components in the Public Benefits charge will change from approximately 4 cents per kilowatt hour to a credit of about 1.3 cent per kilowatt hour.

This means that you will see a negative rate on your bill, which is actually a credit, not a charge.

5. How did state bond funding contribute to lowering electric rates and what is the corresponding bill reduction?

State bond funding authorized through recent legislation played a significant role in lowering electric rates by offsetting a portion of costs that would otherwise have been recovered directly from customers through their bills, particularly within the Public Benefits category. Specifically, Electric Vehicle charging program and arrearage-forgiveness bond funding was approved within Public Act 25-173, removing more than \$155 million from the public benefits charges in 2025-2026 and \$145 million in 2026-2027. By financing these costs through state bonding rather than electric rates, the total amount collected from ratepayers in this period is reduced.

Bond funding represents a meaningful share of the overall bill reduction. On average, customers have experienced roughly \$10 per month in reduced costs within the Public Benefits portion of their bill during the past year, which will continue into the next May 2026 – April 2027 RAM rate cycle. The precise impact may vary depending on usage and rate class.

6. What are other primary factors driving the rate decrease this year?

The overall decrease in rates is the result of several factors, including:

- state bond funding;
- reductions in arrearage-related costs;
- the Millstone and Seabrook Nuclear contracts were profitable during 2025 due to higher natural gas and wholesale market prices
 - For Eversource Customers, the Millstone line item changed from a \$56 million cost to a \$160 million net benefit
 - For UI customers, the Millstone line item changed from a \$15 million expense to a \$43 million credit/revenue source
- the expiration or reduction of certain contractual and program costs;
- prior over-collections that are being returned to customers.

These decreases collectively outweigh increases in other components, such as transmission charges and certain storm-related costs.

7. How did hardship protection costs impact rates in the Public Benefits category?

Reductions in hardship protection costs, including costs of uncollectible debt and arrearage forgiveness programs, contributed to lower costs in this year's RAM. Eversource's hardship protection costs went down \$34 million in 2025 as compared to the prior year; UI decreased by \$4.3 million. These reductions are attributable to a combination of improvements and changes to bill assistance and forgiveness programs.

8. Did this decision address Eversource's outstanding storm costs?

Eversource's costs incurred for responding to catastrophic storms between 2018 – 2023 are currently being litigated before PURA in a separate proceeding, in [Docket 25-12-13](#). However, in the Eversource RAM Decision, PURA ordered a one-time adjustment to the Competitive Transition Assessment (CTA) charge to increase the customer contribution to the Storm Fund reserve by \$100 million to offset the expected increases resulting from the adjudication of Docket 25-12-13. The impact of the \$100 million of this one-time adjustment is approximately \$3.50 / month on an average residential bill.

9. How will individual customer usage affect monthly bills?

Individual usage is one of the primary factors determining the total cost of a monthly electric bill. With one exception, nearly every charge on an electric bill is calculated by kWh usage. The only cost not based on usage is the fixed monthly customer charge which is intended to cover the costs of connecting a customer to the distribution system, including metering, service lines and customer service. The fixed charge for Eversource is \$9.62 and \$13.02 for United Illuminating.

All other charges on the bill are volumetric meaning they are calculated based on the amount of electricity a customer uses. Each component of the electric bill has its own price per kWh, and the total costs increase as kWh usage increases. As a result, customers with higher usage will see higher overall bills, even when rates decrease.

Usage typically increases during the summer months due to greater reliance on cooling systems, particularly on high heat days. Seasonal changes influencing electricity consumption can offset changes in rates. For this reason, understanding and managing energy usage remains a critical factor in controlling monthly electricity costs.

10. What can customers do to help lower electric bills?

Customers have several options to help manage and reduce their electric bills, particularly by focusing on energy usage and supply choices. As stated, total monthly bills are based on usage. The average residential customer uses approximately 700–800 kWh per month, although usage can increase significantly during periods of extreme temperatures.

Customers who use significantly more than average may benefit from participating in a [Home Energy Solutions audit](#), which provides an in-home assessment and identifies opportunities to improve efficiency and reduce energy consumption. During the summer months, using high-energy appliances such as air conditioners and pool pumps more efficiently can result in meaningful savings.

For customers who can make longer-term investments, installing solar panels may reduce monthly electricity costs over time, depending on factors such as system size, available

sunlight, and current electricity prices. Customers considering solar are encouraged to compare multiple proposals and review guidance from state resources before deciding.

In addition, customers can reduce costs by regularly reviewing their electricity supply rate. Those enrolled with a third-party supplier should check the Supply Cost Comparison section of their bill to ensure their rate remains competitive. Rates that were favorable at one time may no longer provide savings, particularly if a contract has expired and automatically renewed at a higher rate. Customers can return to Standard Service or select a new supplier at any time. The [EnergizeCT](#) rate board provides a comprehensive and reliable source for comparing available supply rates. OCC has issued [guidance](#) on how to change suppliers to ensure customers can benefit from the lowest rates possible.
