

# Winter is Here – Are You Ready?



*Winter weather has been in full effect with the start of the new year. It's important to know, when it comes to your electric bill, **weather matters!** It only takes a few cold days to make a significant impact on your bill, especially if they fall within the same billing cycle. Here are some common questions customers ask that can help you understand how this weather will affect your winter bills.*

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## **Will my next bill be high?**

Weather is one of the biggest factors when it comes to electric usage, especially during the coldest months of the year. In this case, the low temperatures in January will drive up February/March bills. Remember, **your bill reflects the previous 30 days of usage**, which includes things like weather and habits.

## **What about my thermostat setting? Isn't that important too?**

Yes! Even if you never adjust your thermostat, the weather is always changing. The greater the difference between your thermostat setting and the outside temperature, the harder your AC/Heating system will work in order to reach and maintain your thermostat's set point.

## What else could affect my electric bill in colder months?

Habits and the duration of cold temperatures can increase bills.

- We tend to use more electricity by staying inside watching TV, using computers, playing video games, etc.
- Some people take long, hot showers or baths to warm up. Electric water heaters are the second largest energy consumer in a home.
- Using space heaters or fireplaces, which are inefficient sources of heat.
- **The number of consecutive hours and days temperatures remain low outside is a big factor.** Without adequate insulation, the roofs and exterior walls stay cool, which means your system has to work harder to keep your home warm.

## How can I track my energy usage?

Monitor your usage with the MU Customer Portal. You can view your daily and monthly usage, as well as see payment and billing history, and even pay your bill securely through this portal. Having this information at your fingertips can help you make “real-time” lifestyle adjustments to save for the remaining cold days this winter. Just go to [www.musfiber.net](http://www.musfiber.net) and go to **My Account** to start viewing your usage.