

Hong Wang

From: Shonna McCray
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 9:18 AM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: FW: excessive increases in electric bills

Good morning!

Please add to Docket 20240173.

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NF 5/16/25

Thanks

From: Judith <restorationofthefamily@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 10:05 PM
To: Consumer Contact <Contact@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: excessive increases in electric bills

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Home owners are a CAPTIVE audience to utility companies, including those who provide our electricity. Is there a cap on the percentage utility companies can raise our rates? According to a Duke Energy customer service phone representative, there was a **25% increase in March of 2025** and there were three raises in rates in 2024. This is especially outrageous for those who are on fixed incomes and/or social security, or really for any family. In addition to increasing the cost per kWh, there is **also** a consistent increase on what is called a "Customer charge" on our bill. Regarding my bill, there has been what I think would be a 57% increase since 2022.

It's difficult to analyze what is going on; however, on **3/14/2022, I paid \$93** for my light bill. This month, I paid \$131 and have been notified that next month, I will be billed **\$146**. (I have been on the budget billing plan but asked to get off that.) My kWh usage for the month was 334.

The main answer I get when I call regarding the consistent increases, especially in the last several months, is that I need to decrease my usage with suggestions that I keep my thermostat around 78-79 and use cold water to wash my clothes—what I have done for years already.

Given as company "reasoning" for the increases in rates is that costs have increased to provide our services. Have costs really gone up almost 60%? According to the Internet, the following information may or may not be correct; however, if it is, perhaps a more than minimal amount of the "costs" are due to company revenue/profits going somewhere.

- Duke Energy gross profit for the quarter ending December 31, 2024 was **\$5.176B**, a **4.48% increase** year-over-year.
- Duke Energy gross profit for the twelve months ending December 31, 2024 was **\$20.586B**, a **6.22% increase** year-over-year.
- Duke Energy annual gross profit for 2024 was **\$20.586B**, a **6.22% increase** from 2023.
- Duke Energy annual gross profit for 2023 was **\$19.381B**, a **3.59% increase** from 2022.
- Duke Energy annual gross profit for 2022 was **\$18.71B**, a **5.94% increase** from 2021

Florida is the **42nd** most expensive state in the country for electricity. In 2024, Duke Energy Corp. CEO Lynn Good received a total compensation package of nearly \$21.3 million, according to a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Governor DeSantis is trying to get property tax relief which is great; however, I hope he is aware of what is going on with our electric bills and can provide relief in that area also.

Judith Brumbaugh
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