

El Paso Electric's New Rates — What You Need to Know

PUC Docket No. 57568 | New rates effective May 1, 2026 | From Solar Smart Living

Here's the headline most people are missing: **electric rates went UP for non-solar homes, but per-kWh rates went DOWN for solar customers.** Your decision to go solar is paying off more than ever.

OLD RATES VS. NEW RATES — SIDE BY SIDE

RATE TYPE	OLD RATE (EVERYONE)	NEW RATE NON-SOLAR	CHANGE (NON-SOLAR)	NEW RATE SOLAR (DG)	CHANGE (SOLAR)
Winter (all kWh)	9.171¢	11.247¢	+23%	7.564¢	-18%
Summer — first 600 kWh	10.203¢	13.247¢	+30%	9.564¢	-6%
Summer — over 600 kWh	10.719¢	14.247¢	+33%	10.564¢	-1%

In plain English: your non-solar neighbor is paying 23–33% more per kWh than they were before. You're paying 1–18% less.

TWO MORE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

✓ GOOD NEWS

The **\$30 minimum monthly bill is gone.** The old rule that forced solar customers to pay at least \$30 every month — even when your system produced more than you used — has been eliminated.

⚠ IMPORTANT CHANGE

A new **"Demand Charge"** applies to **post-2017 solar homes.** It's based on your single highest hour of usage during the month — not your total usage. The good news: it's easy to manage once you understand it.

UNDERSTANDING DEMAND CHARGES — THE SHOWER ANALOGY

Think about water pipes in your house.

Four people each take a 15-minute shower — using 120 gallons total either way. The difference is *when* they shower.

🚿 SHOWERS ONE AFTER ANOTHER

Only one running at a time. The house needs a **small pipe**. Low demand on the system.

🚿🚿🚿🚿 ALL FOUR AT THE SAME TIME

Same total water — but now needs a **huge pipe**. High demand on the system.

Electricity works the same way. **Usage (kWh)** = total amount you used this month. **Demand (kW)** = how much you used all at once. The new demand charge bills you on the single hour you used the most all at once.

EASY WAYS TO LOWER YOUR DEMAND CHARGE

1. Lower your EV charging amperage. Charging over 4 hours instead of 1 hour barely affects your day — but cuts demand dramatically.

2. Schedule EV charging for 1–2 AM. Plug in when you get home, but set charging to start late at night after your AC and appliances are quiet.

3. Pre-cool your home during the day. Your solar produces most during sunny hours. Cool the house then so your AC doesn't strain after sunset.

4. Don't stack big loads. Avoid running dryer + oven + dishwasher + EV + AC all at the same time. Space them out by even 30 minutes.

Your solar system is still saving you money — and now even more compared to your non-solar neighbors.

Questions about your bill or how to optimize savings? Reply to our email or call us — we're here to help.