

# Electricity

## Summary

Hermiston residents<sup>2</sup> still generally enjoy the second-lowest monthly electricity bills of the surveyed areas<sup>3</sup>. Since the 2012 analysis was done, several of the providers in the other cities have raised rates in various ways, and while The Dalles is still lower than Hermiston, that difference has narrowed from \$9 per month to \$5 per month. Additionally, Hermiston has widened its savings relative to other cities.

## Base Rates

Most every electric utility charges a “Base Rate,” which is automatically billed every month, regardless of usage. The base rate for Hermiston is \$6.50 for a residential customer. All of the other cities surveyed feature higher base rates, as high as \$21.56 per month in Baker City and La Grande. A high base rate is viewed as a regressive fee because it applies to all customers, regardless of usage.

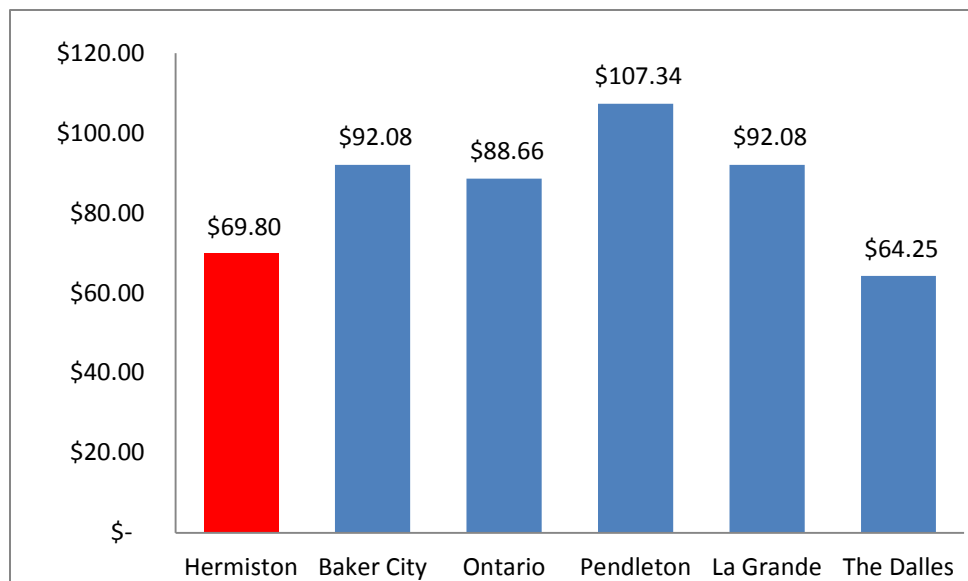
Base Rates by City	
City	Base Rate
Hermiston	\$6.50
Ontario	\$8.00
Pendleton	\$9.61
The Dalles	\$11.25
Baker City	\$21.56
La Grande	\$21.56

## Energy Charges

The remainder of an electricity bill comes from the charges for usage, measured in kilowatt-hours (Kwh). A commonly accepted usage for residential customers is 1,000 Kwh per month. This usage amount can then be used to compare costs across different utilities. Hermiston’s usage rate of \$0.0633/Kwh is lower than all of the other utilities surveyed, with the exception of The Dalles.

Energy Charges by City	
City	Energy Charge
The Dalles	\$0.0530
Hermiston	\$0.0633
Ontario	\$0.0807
Pendleton	\$0.0977
Baker City	\$0.0705
La Grande	\$0.0705

*(Right): Monthly electric bills calculated for a residential customer using 1,000 Kwh per month.*



<sup>2</sup> This analysis only takes into account Hermiston Energy Services, and does not include Umatilla Electric Co-op.

<sup>3</sup> Utilities surveyed: The Dalles—North Wasco County PUD; Ontario—Idaho Power; Pendleton—Pacific Power; Baker City—Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op; La Grande—Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op.