

# Fresno residents could face an overall electricity rate increase of 36.2% in 2023

FRESNO, Calif. (FOX26) —



[Pacific Gas & Electric has put in an application](#) through the California Public Utilities Commission to increase rates and charges for electric and gas service by 36.2% over 2023.

**[RELATED]** [Highway 1 to reopen in weeks: "It's great to announce that we're making progress."](#)

Periodically over three months increments, [PG&E is hoping to increase electricity prices](#), having a drastic jump in September.

According to Fresno City [Mayor Jerry Dyer](#), this is what the increases will look like in 2023:

- January: 3.3%
- March: 3.7%
- June: 5.7%

- September: 23.5%

"When you consider the fact that 25% of the people that live in Fresno live below the poverty line and then to have a 36% recommended increase in their electricity bill this year on top of the previous 39% over the last 3 years, That is absolutely absurd," said Mayor Dyer.

Mayor Dyer said if the increase in 2023 is approved, over a four-year period, PG&E will have a 75% increase in electric and gas service.



*Fresno residents could face an overall electricity rate increase of 36.2% in 2023 (Photo: John Dwelle KMPH FOX26)*

"We have people in our community that are struggling to make ends meet and then to be able to have this kind of rate increase is absolutely unacceptable," he said.

PG&E released a statement to FOX26 stating:

*"Providing safe, reliable and affordable energy to our customers and*

*hometowns is our most important responsibility. PG&E does not control the market prices for gas and electricity, and like other utilities, PG&E does not mark up the cost of the gas and electricity that we purchase on behalf of our customers. We know that any proposed increase to our customers' rates and bills can be challenging. We will continue to support our customers with a variety of rate plan options, energy savings programs and tools, and financial assistance programs for eligible customers.*

*Residential customers may soon see some bill relief through the statewide Climate Credit. The credit is scheduled for April; however the California Public Utilities Commission is scheduled to vote on moving up the credit this year. For combined gas and electric customers, the credit is \$91.17. PG&E supports the proposal. Also, nearly \$207 million in debt relief will be distributed to qualifying PG&E customers in the form of bill credits through the California Arrearage Payment Program to support customers who experienced financial hardship during the pandemic.*

*PG&E is taking actions to stabilize customers' bills overall in the long term, with a goal of keeping increases at or below assumed inflation. PG&E is working to reduce or offset investment costs in its energy system for customers, including selling licensing agreements to wireless providers to attach equipment to transmission towers to generate more than \$970 million; undergrounding powerlines to reduce recurring maintenance costs; and pursuing federal funding to offset some costs of making the energy system safer and more climate resilient."*

According to Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, [20.6% of Fresno County residents are in the poverty rate](#), that's 1.5 times the

rate than California.

"Then to have a 36% recommended increase in their electricity bill this year on top of the previous 39% over the last 3 years," said Dyer. "That is absolutely absurd."

Dyer said even if the costs of gas and electricity are going up on PG&E's end, that shouldn't burden the customers.

"But the reality is that cost cannot and should not be passed on to the customers," said Dyer.

If people would like to voice their opinions about the increases they can visit the California Public Utilities Commission's website: [FILE A COMPLAINT](#)