

# GEORGIA POWER'S PROPOSED FEE HIKE

Georgia Power has proposed to **nearly double the hidden, mandatory monthly fee on residential power bills**, from the current \$10 to \$17.95/month. Customers must pay this fee *no matter how much or how little energy they use*, paying **at least \$215 per year before even flipping on a light switch**. If approved, this would be **among the highest mandatory monthly fees of investor-owned utilities around the country!** Rather than such an exorbitant fee hike, Georgia Power should continue to prioritize basing customers' bills on how much energy you use--the less you use, the less you pay.

## WHY DO MANDATORY FEES HURT CUSTOMERS?

### **Mandatory fees take away customer control.**

Normally, a customer can control their bill by controlling how much power they use: use less energy... get a lower bill. A high mandatory fee throws this opportunity for savings out the window and limits a customer's freedom to control energy costs.

### **Mandatory fees most heavily burden seniors and working families with lower incomes.**

The greatest impact will be to customers who are least able to afford the higher fees -- those who use less energy than average or have below-average income. Seniors on fixed incomes and renters in apartment buildings are low energy users, while working families are on tight monthly budgets. The average social security check in Georgia is \$1,382, which is already spread too thin between food, rent, transportation, medical bills, and prescription costs. Like these other necessities, electricity is not a luxury -- it's a need. Just as Georgia doesn't tax for basic groceries, utility companies shouldn't charge so much just for basic access. It is just plain wrong to charge customers more for using less.

### **Mandatory fees help utility shareholders and executives, not customers.**

Increasing customers' fees this much puts profits over people -- increasing revenue for the benefit of shareholders and executives, rather than helping customers. Georgia Power made more than \$3.5 billion in profit over the last three years and paid their CEO millions of dollars per year, while customers are left facing even higher electric bills. With so much profit, and other, more equitable ways of raising revenue, this steep fee hike is unjustified.

### **Mandatory fees punish energy conservation and solar energy.**

High mandatory fees reduce the payback of investments customers have made in saving energy, such as replacing light bulbs, insulating their homes, or installing solar panels. People who have done all the right things at their homes and businesses to save energy, produce clean energy, and help the environment will actually be punished, rather than rewarded.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

Georgia Power's proposed fee hike can be defeated if we speak up loudly in opposition! The hike is *not* a done deal yet and cannot go into effect without first getting approval by our elected energy regulators, the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC). Make sure that your voice is heard: contact the PSC and your state legislators, and ask them to stand up for us!

**TAKE ACTION AT [NoFeeHike.com](http://NoFeeHike.com)**

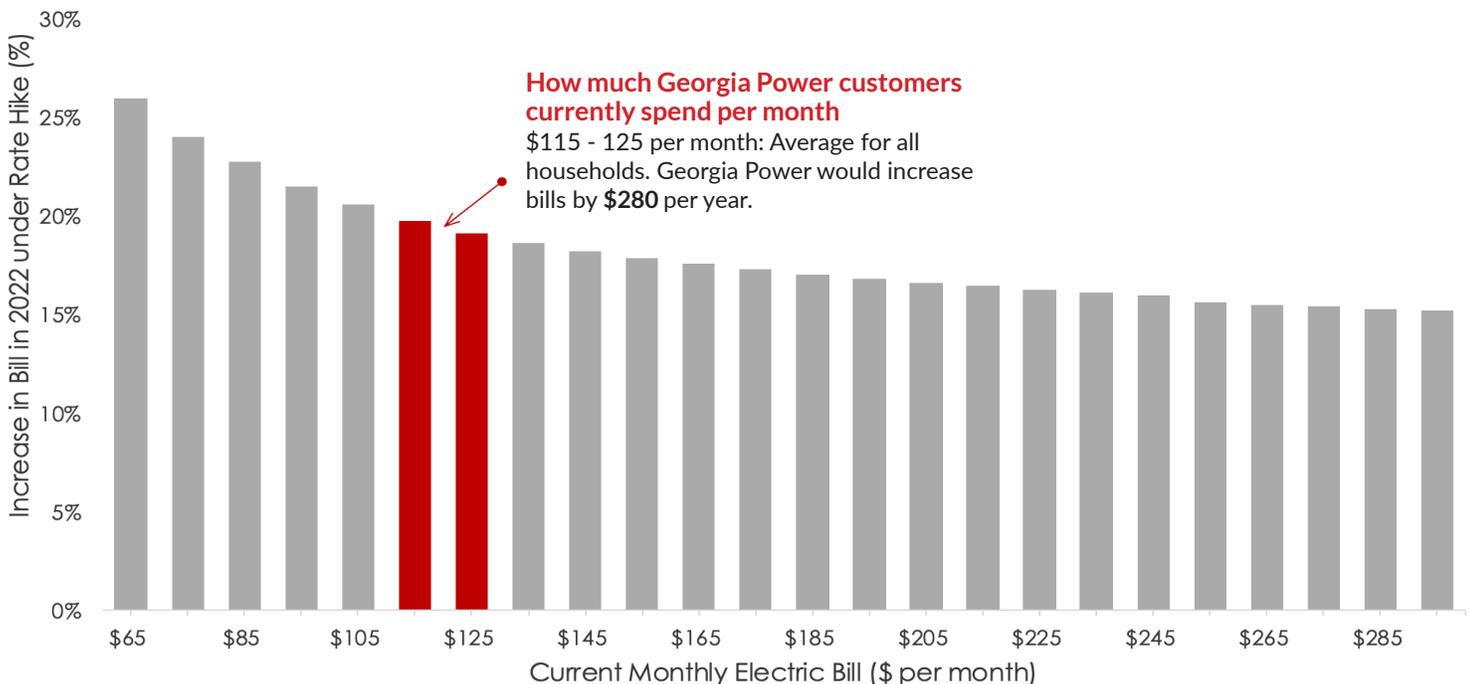
# HOW WOULD YOUR BILLS INCREASE?

## What is the Impact of Georgia Power's Rate Change Based on Current Residential Monthly Bills?

One particularly bad characteristic of Georgia Power's proposal is that the largest impacts would be to customers who use the least energy. These low-usage customers include seniors on fixed incomes, working families earning lower incomes, and renters living in apartment buildings – and are often those who can least afford the costly changes. You can clearly see in the chart and table below how low-usage customers are stuck with the largest proportional increases in their bills.

The customers who currently pay \$65/month and would end up paying around \$82 would suffer a bill increase of about 26% in 2022, while customers who currently pay \$265 would end up with a \$306 bill, a lesser increase of about 15%. Though we know how much the fixed charge will increase, Georgia Power has not disclosed exactly how much they plan to charge customers for energy usage (per kWh) in 2021 or 2022, so we had to calculate estimated energy rates for those years based on other information in the filing.

Current Average Monthly Electric Bill (\$ per month)	Estimated Average Monthly Electricity Use (kWh)	New Average Monthly Bill in 2022 (\$)	% Increase	Total Increase in 2022 (\$/year)
\$65	500	\$82	26%	\$202
\$75	595	\$93	24%	\$216
\$85	685	\$104	23%	\$232
\$95	765	\$115	22%	\$245
\$105	845	\$127	21%	\$259
\$115	925	\$138	20%	\$273
\$125	1,005	\$149	19%	\$286
\$135	1,085	\$160	19%	\$302
\$145	1,165	\$171	18%	\$317
\$155	1,245	\$183	18%	\$332
\$165	1,325	\$194	18%	\$348
\$175	1,405	\$205	17%	\$363
\$185	1,485	\$217	17%	\$378
\$195	1,565	\$228	17%	\$394
\$205	1,645	\$239	17%	\$409
\$215	1,725	\$250	16%	\$424
\$225	1,805	\$262	16%	\$440
\$235	1,885	\$273	16%	\$455
\$245	1,965	\$284	16%	\$470
\$255	2,040	\$295	16%	\$477
\$265	2,120	\$306	15%	\$492
\$275	2,200	\$317	15%	\$508
\$285	2,280	\$329	15%	\$523
\$295	2,360	\$340	15%	\$538



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