

# OHIO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

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## MEMBER INFORMATION RELEASE

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## Ohio's Electric Cooperatives Approve New Data Center Rate Schedule to Protect Current Members

**Columbus, Ohio** — Ohio's Electric Cooperatives have established a new, distinct rate schedule for high-load, energy-intensive data centers to help keep power reliable and affordable for current members, with stable rates, as cooperatives address the challenges of serving large new electric loads.

The Buckeye Power Board approved the new data center rate schedule in March 2026. It assigns the full cost of serving data centers directly to those customers while preserving reliability and affordability for residential, farm, and small business members.

The data center rate schedule aligns with the cooperatives' long-standing mission to safely provide reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity to the communities they serve. Since 1959, Ohio's electric cooperatives have owned their power generation, helping shield members from volatile energy market fluctuations and keeping electric rates stable over time.

"These data centers bring a significant increase in demand for electricity. Ohio's cooperatives stand ready to serve any data center that is built in co-op territory, but our members will not be asked to shoulder the costs of these massive new electric loads," said Craig Grooms, president and CEO of Ohio's Electric Cooperatives. "This new rate schedule requires data centers to pay for the infrastructure and power required to serve them, while existing members continue to benefit from stable, affordable electricity."

The new rate schedule establishes data centers as a separate class of electric load, recognizing their size, demand characteristics, and long-term impact on the electric system. Existing Buckeye Power generation resources will remain dedicated to current cooperative members and typical, non-data-center load growth.

Any new generation or transmission resources required specifically to serve data centers will be planned, built, and paid for exclusively by those customers under the data center rate schedule—not by cooperative members.

Key protections within the new data center rate schedule include:

- Creating a distinct rate class for large, high-load data centers
- Preserving existing Buckeye Power generation resources for current members
- Assigning all costs for new generation and transmission required to serve data centers directly to those customers
- Enforcing strict credit and financial assurance requirements to protect cooperative members

By ensuring data centers pay the full cost of the infrastructure they require, the new rate schedule prevents future cost pressures from shifting onto cooperative members and helps maintain long-term rate stability and system reliability.

“Owning our power generation has long protected members from energy market volatility,” Grooms said. “This new data center rate schedule builds on that foundation, ensuring cooperative members continue to be protected as new, large users connect to the grid.”

Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives will continue working closely with member systems, state leaders, and prospective customers to ensure the electric system remains reliable, resilient, and affordable for generations to come.

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