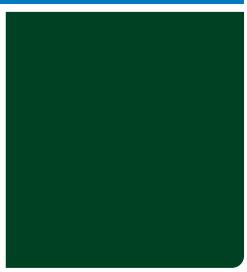




# Energy Affordability Toolkit





# **Toolkit contents**

| Components of the electric bill  The electric bill is made up of several components and understanding how those components impact the total bill is important to managing costs. Our toolkit includes a downloadable fact sheet of a sample bill.  | 3 |
|--|---|
| The best way to manage energy bills is to manage usage. We offer tools that can help customers understand how they use electricity. An explanation of our Usage Alerts and Energy Manager tools and links for enrollment are included in your toolkit.   | 4 |
| Help with bill  SimplePay helps customers manage seasonal fluctuations in usage with a stable monthly payment based on the customers average monthly usage. Customized payment plans are also available for customers who have fallen behind and need to catch up. Your toolkit includes information for customers. Most importantly, customers who are struggling with making payment should reach out to us.  Other resources include:  Local Community Action Agencies (CAA)  2-1-1 Maine | 5 |
| Financial assistance  There are resources to help qualified customers with their electricity costs. This toolkit contains downloadable fact sheets and links to online content regarding assistance programs including:  Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)  CMP's Electricity Lifeline Program (ELP)  CMP's Arrearage Management Program (AMP)   | 6 |
| Additional services  • Friend Alert  • Lifelight  • Interpreter Services   | 7 |

# Components of the electric bill

Understand your bill 🕹

## Understanding your monthly electric bill

Let's review the information on your bill to help you understand the amount due.



View and pay your bill with eBill, you can acce time from your compute fast, secure, convenient a

#### Page 1

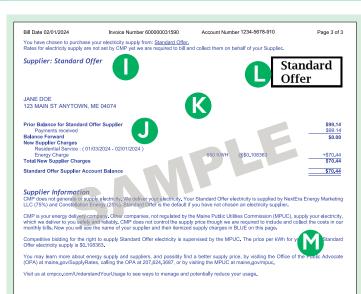
#### When is this bill due?

Your amount due and due date can be found here.

#### Is there a prior balance?

Under Your Account Summary on page 1 of your bill, your PRIOR balance or Balance Forward is listed, along with any payments that were received since the last bill was issued. Payments received after the current bill was issued will be reflected on the following month's bill.

What is "Your Messages" on my bill?



#### Page 3

#### Who is your supplier?

Review the supplier page of your bill to see who your supplier is. You may choose a Competitive Energy Provider (CEP) or you'll receive supply from the default Standard Offer Provider. The Standard Offer rate is determined by the Maine Public Utilities Commission annually through a competitive bidding process.

#### Why is supply charged separately?

Your electricity bill has two parts: delivery and supply. CMP is required by statute to include the supply charges on your electricity bill and to pass your payments on to suppliers. CMP delivers your electricity and is prohibited by legislation from generating or supplying electricity.

#### Why is this page blue?

The supplier page includes information about your supplier and the rate they are charging for your electricity. Supplier information can be easily found on your bill in blue as well as supplier contact information and other information about electricity supply.

#### What is this?

# **Electricity usage**

# Manage your electricity bill with Usage Alerts and Energy Manager

You can better understand and manage your usage, and your bill, with our free tools – Usage Alerts and Energy Manager.

When you sign up for Usage Alerts, you can receive updates about your electricity usage and estimated cost — all made possible by your smart meter! You can choose to receive any or all of the following alerts:

- Usage Update: Receive weekly updates with your usage, estimated cost, and daily averages for the current billing period.
- Usage Amount Exceeded: Set a monthly electricity usage, or dollar goal, and we'll notify you if you exceed that amount.
- Usage Change: We'll notify you of big changes to your daily usage.
   Specifically, if your daily usage is significantly higher or lower than your past 30-day average usage for three days in a row.

Energy Manager provides daily and even hourly data. You can compare your usage from this year to last year, this month to the previous month, or even individual days and figure out exactly when your usage changed.







Energy Manager 🛇

# Help with bill

# Struggling with your energy bill? We have options.

Having trouble paying your energy bill? We have programs and services designed to help.

- Payment plans: Call us at 800.750.4000 to make a reasonable payment plan to help you get caught up.
- SimplePay: Make a stable monthly payment based on your average monthly electricity usage over the past year. You'll get a bill for the same amount each month, so you'll know what to expect.

## Call 2-1-1 if you need assistance

**2-1-1** is Maine's 24/7 health and human services information and referral system. They can also be reached by calling **877.463.6207** or texting your zip code to **898-211**. Visit **211maine.org** for information about services available throughout Maine.

#### SimplePay



### **Community Action Agencies (CAA)**

CAAs connect the community with resources that provide social and economic assistance.



## Financial assistance

### **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**

HEAP

**ELP** 



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HEAP offers income-qualified customers heating assistance, repairs and weatherization. Apply for HEAP with your local CAA.

### **Electricity Lifeline Program (ELP)**

Our Electricity Lifeline Program (ELP) offers you help with your electricity bill. You may be eligible to receive a benefit based on household income and estimated electricity usage.

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Our Electricity Lifeline Program (ELP) offers you help with your electricity bill. You may be eligible to receive a benefit based on household income and estimated electricity usage.

## Who qualifies for ELP?

You may qualify for ELP if you are a year-round, residential CMP customer. ELP provides bill credits to qualifying customers based on their annual electricity usage and their household income. You may also qualify if you live in subsidized housing and qualify to

## Who will determine if I am eligible?

CMP will determine your eligibility based on your reported annual income and your past electricity usage.

## How will I know if I qualify?

You will receive a credit and a bill message on your electricity bill. If you are not

# If you have an oxygen pump or ventilator

- You may receive financial assistance for your oxygen pump/ventilator if there is at least 8 hours of use each day.
- You must qualify for the Electricity Lifeline Program (ELP) and have your

## **Arrearage Management Program (AMP)**

Our Arrearage Management Program (AMP) is designed to help you reduce your past due balance.

## Arrearage Management Program

Our Arrearage Management Program (AMP) is designed to help you reduce your past due balance.

## Who qualifies for AMP?

You may qualify for AMP if you are a year-round, residential customer approved for Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) or Electricity Lifeline Program (ELP) benefits during the current program year and have a qualifying past due balance on your electricity bill.

How do I apply?

you apply for HEAP benefits. We encourage customers to apply for all three assistance programs - AMP, ELP and HEAP through your local CAA.

# I participated in AMP before. Can I re-apply?

You are not eligible for AMP if you have previously participated in the program in the last 6 years. information about how to succeed in the program and eliminate your outstanding balance.

## What happens if I do not qualify for AMP?

You will receive a letter if you do not qualify.

## What happens if I move?

If you are still a CMP customer

AMP



## Additional services

### **Friend Alert**

Friend Alert

CMP's Friend Alert Third Party Notification service offers you extra peace of mind. A friend, agency or organization you designate will receive a copy of any important notices we may send to you. This may also be helpful if you are helping someone else with their bill, like an elderly parent, friend or neighbor. They can designate you as their Friend Alert. For more information, please call us at **800.750.4000**.

## Lifelight

Lifelight



If you have life-sustaining equipment that depends on electricity service, you will be notified of planned outages for maintenance and/or unplanned outages for repairs. For more information, see our **Lifelight fact sheet** or contact us at **800.750.4000** during our business hours.

### **Interpreter Services**

We want you to be comfortable talking with us. If you prefer to speak in a language other than English, just let us know what your preferred language is, and we'll be happy to get a translator on the line with us. Call us at **800.750.4000**.

