

TARIFF ON-BILL REPAYMENT



THE PROGRAM

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Tri-State's on-bill repayment (OBR) program has a list of qualifying measures, ranging from appliances such as heat pump water heaters, heat pumps, and efficient AC units to insulation measures in attics, walls, and windows. All are meant to aid customers in selecting energy upgrades for their homes that will improve home comfort and save money. Heat pumps are highly efficient HVAC measures that move heat from one place to another, such as moving heat from the outdoors into a home to provide comfortable heating during cold months and moving heat from the indoors to outside to provide cooling during warm months. Because heat pumps operate at a high efficiency, they are often more cost effective than electric heating and many gas-powered heating appliances, such as propane. Additionally, efficiency measures in the OBR program have the potential to substantially reduce energy usage, increasing the comfort of your home and providing significant financial savings over the lifetime of the installation. While each homeowner will pay for the cost of these energy measures via the utility bill, the utility savings realized through the lifetime of the new energy measures often offset these costs, delivering a lower overall utility bill for the homeowner each month!* The monthly charges associated with the repayment of these measures have been calculated over a term agreed upon by CCEF and the property owner, and each installment will be included as a single line item on your monthly utility bill, titled the "On-bill Repayment (OBR)" charge.

Upon approval and installation of qualifying energy measures, your local electricity provider will begin billing the service location to include your regular electricity usage charges as well as the repayment obligation associated with the on-bill repayment program. When a customer has paid for the cost of the measures in full, the voluntary tariff is removed from your electricity meter and you will no longer see monthly line-item charges on your electricity bill for the OBR charge.

MONTHLY REPAYMENT

HOW IT WORKS

Tariff on-bill repayment (TOBR) is a mechanism by which a resident or business owner may elect to install certain energy upgrades to their property at no upfront cost and repay the cost of the measure and installation via a voluntary tariff on their monthly utility bill. The term "repayment" included in TOBR denotes the fact that a third party, in this case the Colorado Clean Energy Fund, provides the upfront funding for the installation. In turn, your local electric utility will bill customers on a monthly basis to recover CCEF's costs over an agreed-upon timeframe. In many cases the energy savings achieved through the newly installed measures is greater than the monthly repayment obligation, thereby saving customers money on their utility bill every month.

1

You (the homeowner) set up your electricity account with your electric coop

2

Your monthly utility bill will include the Electrify and Save line item for repayment of your eligible energy measures

3

When the cost of the measures is paid in full, the tariff is removed & you'll no longer see the Electrify and Save line item

* Please note that savings are subject to the combination of measures installed (an energy audit can help determine the best measures for you) and the energy usage habits of the resident or business. For this reason, we cannot guarantee savings every month and can only provide an estimate.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Who do I contact for issues around my new energy measures?

CCEF has vetted and authorized a network of qualified contractors who can perform the installations for qualifying measures in the OBR program. The contractor you, as the consumer, select is responsible for the installation of the equipment. Any maintenance issues or concerns with operability should be directed to them.

Wait, so who actually owns the energy measures if they haven't been fully paid off?

You (the property owner) do! A benefit of on-bill repayment is that the measure becomes yours at the time of installation, even though the upfront cost is covered by another entity (in this case, CCEF). The ownership only changes if/when you sell your house to a new owner.

What additional actions must I take to pay for these measures?

None! The repayment is included on your monthly utility bill, so your payment will be processed each month when you pay your electricity bill to your provider.

Who do I contact for billing questions?

Billing for this equipment is handled by your electricity provider. You would contact them with any billing questions around the measures, just as you would contact them about any questions you have related to your traditional electricity bill.

Can I pay for my energy measures early?

Yes! The beauty of on-bill repayment programs is that it allows customers to pay for the measures ahead of schedule, should you wish to do so. And there's absolutely no penalty for paying early!

What happens if I miss a payment?

Your utility will pursue full payment for any balance on your utility bill (including for the OBR charges) through its regular collections procedures. If you are late on a payment, the utility will likely reach out to you requesting payment of any past due balances. Please be aware that your utility may shut off power due to nonpayment - the OBR charge is part of your regular electricity bill and for that reason the same disconnection rules apply.

What happens if I move?

If you move from the house and sell it while you are still paying the E&S charge, the financial obligation remains with the electricity meter associated with the property. Therefore, when you stop your electricity service, the obligation to pay remains at the property and will be assumed by the new homeowner. You do have an obligation to disclose the existence of this financial obligation to prospective buyers so they are aware of the tariff before buying the house. Often, homeowners will choose to pay off the measures in full before selling a home, to avoid the tariff transferring to a new homeowner.

Additional questions?

Feel free to reach out to the Colorado Clean Energy Fund!

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