LEAD MAINE

Why Your Power Bill Is Rising

Maine now pays the 5th-highest electricity prices in the country and Augusta is making it worse.

Every bill has two parts: **supply**, which pays to generate the power, and **delivery**, which pays to move it to your home or business. Both are rising, but for very different reasons.

5th	+165%	$234M/yr
highest electricity prices in U.S.	supply price jump, 2021–2023	solar subsidy cost to ratepayers

New England relies on natural gas

Natural gas fuels about half of New England's grid and usually sets the price for everyone on it. When gas spikes for reasons that have nothing to do with Maine, your bill spikes too. This is how Augusta Democrats and their allies blame high energy prices on our dependence on natural gas, ignoring that it is half of our energy mix precisely because it is reliable.

Ideology blocked reliable energy

Pipelines that would have carried affordable American gas into the region were killed by regulators in New York and Massachusetts, but Mainers pay the price. A federal law, the Jones Act, keeps cheap U.S. gas from being shipped to Boston, so New England imports costly LNG from the volatile global market. Maine has required a statewide vote before any nuclear plant can be built since 1987.

Augusta keeps adding subsidies

Net Energy Billing, the solar-subsidy program, costs ratepayers about $234 million a year, roughly $275 per household, whether or not you own a panel. This adds backup-power costs on top because solar and wind are intermittent. Instead of pursuing more stable, base-load energy, left-wing political activists have held us hostage to their “clean energy” experiments.

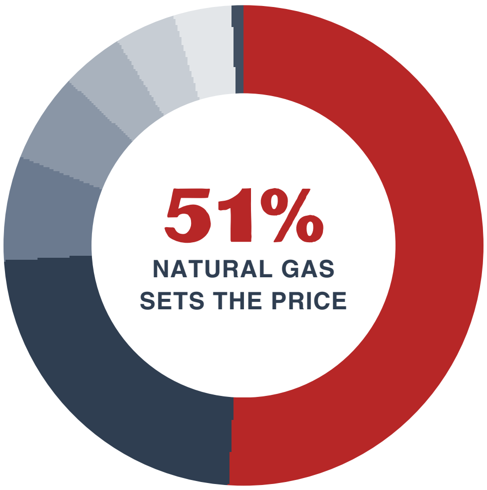
Delivery rose even more than supply

Over the past decade, delivery climbed even faster than supply: transmission up about 114%, distribution about 100%. Some of that is aging equipment and storm repair. But the costs of bad state policy are folded into that same line, so the subsidies land on your bill twice.

continued on reverse →

The grid mix that sets our supply price

ISO-NEW ENGLAND, FULL-YEAR 2025



- **51%** Natural gas
- **23%** Nuclear
- **7%** Net imports
- **6%** Hydro
- **4.2%** Other renewables (wood, refuse, landfill gas)
- **4.1%** Solar
- **3.9%** Wind
- **1.8%** Oil, coal & other

This is the **regional grid mix** that sets the wholesale price Mainers pay, not what's generated in-state, which leans far more on hydro and wind. Gas is about half of it and usually sets the marginal price, so it drives your bill even though wind and solar are each under 4%.

Source: ISO New England Resource Mix, full-year 2025 preliminary.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Global gas prices are a national problem. But whether Maine expands reliable power like nuclear, and how much subsidies cost you, is decided in Augusta, and will determine future energy costs.

Tell your legislator: repeal Net Energy Billing, cut all solar subsidies, and let Mainers build reliable power.

LeadMaine.com

Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration, state rankings, Oct. 2025; Brattle Group, "Factors Driving Electricity Prices in Maine," prepared for the Maine Dept. of Energy Resources, Feb. 2026; CMP 10-Year Rate History (Rate Class A), Maine PUC; ISO New England Resource Mix, full-year 2025; Maine Office of the Public Advocate testimony, 2023; 35-A M.R.S. §4302; Maine Public, Apr. 8, 2025 (LD 601).