

THE COST

HOW DOES WHAT WE GET FOR OUR ELECTRICITY BILL COMPARE TO WHAT WE SPEND ON OTHER THINGS?

There are changes to the electricity system all across Canada these days. Grids everywhere are being upgraded to ensure reliability and increase capacity. New and cleaner sources of power are coming on line.

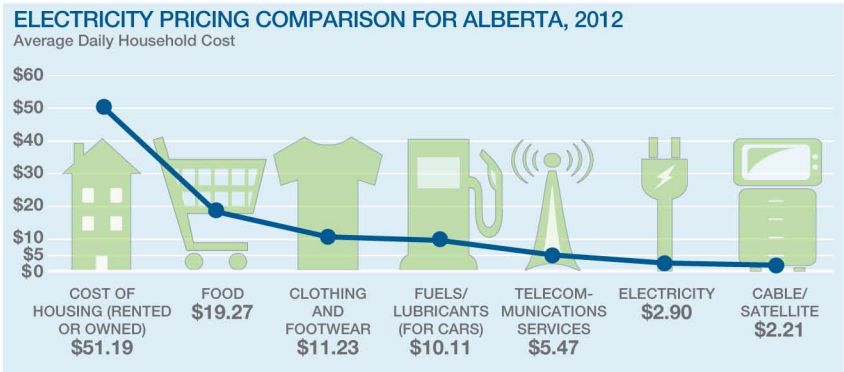
There is a lot going on and some concern expressed, as Canada's electricity regulators and companies are coming to terms with securing power for the future. In large part, the concern is about the cost of all this and its impact on prices.

How much we each spend depends on our personal circumstance, but the average bill for a typical home is in the range of \$2 to \$9 per day, with the national average coming in at under \$4*. In most cities, according to Statistics Canada,

electricity costs a dollar or two more a day than a cell phone, land line, natural gas for heat, water and sewer charges or internet fees. It is many dollars less than the daily cost of shelter and food—two other indispensable necessities. As a share of major daily household expenses, electricity in Canada averages out to less than two per cent, or two cents of every dollar spent. It is probably worth considering what else the members of a household buy and seeing how the value of those things stacks up to the value of electricity.

These are Canadian figures. In many other parts of the world electricity can be far more expensive.

* Statistics Canada



Source: Statistics Canada

