



Additional Charge on Bills

Starting in the current months power bill, each customer of Highlands should notice a new line item on their power bills. The additional charge is a fee mandated by the North Carolina General Assembly (Session Law 2007-397) that mandates all electric utilities, including the Town of Highlands, obtain a portion of their power supplies from renewable resources and/or reduce its energy requirements through energy efficiency measures. This legislation is known as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, or “REPS”, legislation

Municipal electric utilities, such as Highlands must begin to meet the renewable/energy efficiency requirements in 2010 with ever-increasing energy portfolio requirements. By 2018, Highlands must obtain at least 10% of its power supplies through renewable resources or curtail energy usage through various energy efficiency measures. The town’s wholesale power supplier, Duke Energy, has agreed to meet the town’s REPS requirements. To recover the costs associated with meeting the REPS, Duke is now charging the town a set fee each month. To recover its fees from Duke Energy, the Town of Highlands has no choice but to pass this charge onto its customers in fixed amounts per customer each month. The charges for January through August of this year are as follows:

Residential consumers:	\$0.16 per month
Commercial consumers:	\$0.86 per month
Industrial consumers:	\$8.56 per month

In September, the above charges will change based on the new forecast for renewable energy and the upcoming requirements for such power and/or energy efficiency.

The REPS Rider is not applicable to outdoor lighting, nor for sub metered service agreements. Furthermore, the REPS Rider is not applicable to small auxiliary separately metered services provided to a customer on the same property as a residential or other service. An auxiliary service is defined as a non-demand metered, nonresidential service, provided on a commercial account, at the same premises, the same address, and with the same account name as an agreement for which a monthly REPS charge has been applied. To qualify for an auxiliary service, not subject to the REPS Rider, the Customer must notify the Town and the Town must verify in writing that such agreement is considered an auxiliary service, after which the REPS Rider will not be applied to qualifying auxiliary service agreements. The Customer shall also be responsible for notifying the Town of any change in service that would no longer qualify the service as auxiliary.