

When NorthWestern Energy Meteorologist Matthew Sargent says he "watches the weather," he's not talking about checking an app on his phone. As a part of our Wildfire Situational Awareness team, Matt is always on the lookout for what he calls the "wildfire triple threat:" hot, dry, and windy conditions.

By predicting these patterns up to a week in advance, he gives field crews valuable time to get equipment ready and safeguard communities. He's also leading an effort to grow NorthWestern's network of weather stations to 100 sites by next year.

Before joining NorthWestern Energy, Matt spent 10 years in the U.S. Air Force, jumping out of airplanes, releasing weather balloons, and gathering critical environmental data in deployed locations around the world as a combat meteorologist.

"That was such an interesting and fulfilling job," Matt said.

Originally from Butte, Matt developed a love for the natural sciences early on, which led him to the University of Alaska. There, he earned degrees in both meteorology and political science. At first, Matt envisioned running for office, which inspired him to pursue the military. But over time, he decided politics weren't for him and focused fully on meteorology.

After a medical discharge from the military, caused by shrapnel injuries, Matt got a job in the tech industry. Then he traveled to Mexico to learn the art of making teguila before moving back to Butte where he put his new skills to use at a local distillery.

Eight years ago, Matt made his way to NorthWestern Energy, initially working in gas transmission until he was able to put his meteorology skills to work in his current position.

"I finally felt a sense of purpose," Matt said of joining NorthWestern. "It was the first time since the military that I felt truly fulfilled."

Street Cart Chicken & Yellow Rice (AKA Halal Chicken)

Matt spent six months living in New York City, and Halal Chicken became his favorite meal. This is Matt's simplified at home version that tastes just like the real thing.

INGREDIENTS

CHICKEN

4 pound chicken thighs. 2 tablespoons dried oregano boneless 3 cloves garlic 5 whole cloves 1/4 lemon, iuiced 1 tablespoon cumin seeds 3 tablespoons mayonnaise 1 tablespoon freshly ground 1 teaspoon salt black pepper

YELLOW RICE

1 cup basmati rice 1 cup chicken broth (or water) 2 tablespoons butter ¼ cup onions, finely diced 1 tablespoon cumin seeds

1 tablespoon turmeric powder 1 tablespoon smoked paprika 2 bay leaves 1 teaspoon salt

WHITE SAUCE

2 cups mayonnaise 1 cup greek yogurt 2 tablespoons white vinegar ¼ lemon, juiced

1 teaspoon dried oregano 1 teaspoon smoked paprika salt to taste

DIRECTIONS

1Salt chicken thighs and set them aside. Crush the cloves and cumin in a mortar and pestle. Add black pepper, oregano, and garlic cloves into the mortar with the spices and crush into a rough paste. In a large mixing bowl, combine the lemon juice, mayo, and spice mixture. Add the chicken thighs and mix to thoroughly coat. Cover and refrigerate for up to 24 hours or cook right away.

Melt butter in a pot over medium heat. Add Zonion, cumin, turmeric, smoked paprika, and bay leaf. Bloom the aromatics until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add the rice to the pan with the aromatics and mix. Lightly toast the rice and stir for about 2 minutes.

Add chicken broth, turn up the heat, and cover The pan to bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to the lowest setting. Let the rice gently simmer while covered for about 20 minutes. Uncover and taste the rice. Add salt as needed.

4 In a bowl, mix the mayo, yogurt, vinegar, lemon juice, black pepper, oregano, smoked paprika, and salt. Adjust seasoning as you see fit.

☐ Place a pan over medium-high heat. Sear the Ochicken thighs on both sides until the internal temp reaches at least 165 F. Slice the chicken.

Serve a portion of chicken & rice on a plate. OAdd pita bread, thinly sliced lettuce, diced tomatoes or other fresh vegetables/herbs for garnish. Drizzle with white sauce.

CONTACT US

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We are proud of the diversity in the communities we serve. To better serve the needs of some of our customers, we translate important customer information into two languages: Spanish and Karenic.

Estamos orgullosos de la diversidad en las comunidades que servimos. Para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de algunos de nuestros clientes, traducimos información importante del cliente a dos idiomas: español y

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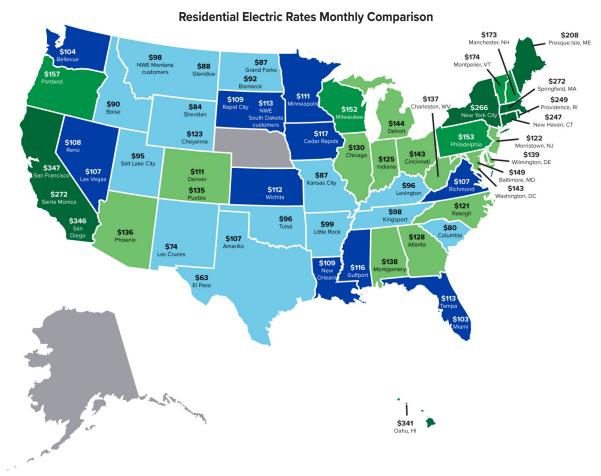
Customer Bill Insert

Montana | September 2025

In this issue: Northwestern Energy Rate Comparison | Bill Payment Assistance Programs | Energy Savings



Dirty air filters make your furnace work harder. Replacing or cleaning your air filter once a month, or as recommended, can lower your furnace's energy consumption by 15%.



Source: Edison Electric Institute Typical Bills and Average Rates Report, Jan. 1, 2025

How do NorthWestern Energy's rates stack up?

NorthWestern Energy historically has had rates that are among the lowest in the nation. We work to keep costs as low as possible while meeting our commitment to ensure that your lights and heat come on when you need them.

Learn more about how to read your bill at NorthWesternEnergy.com/ReadYourBill

Residential Electric Monthly Costs

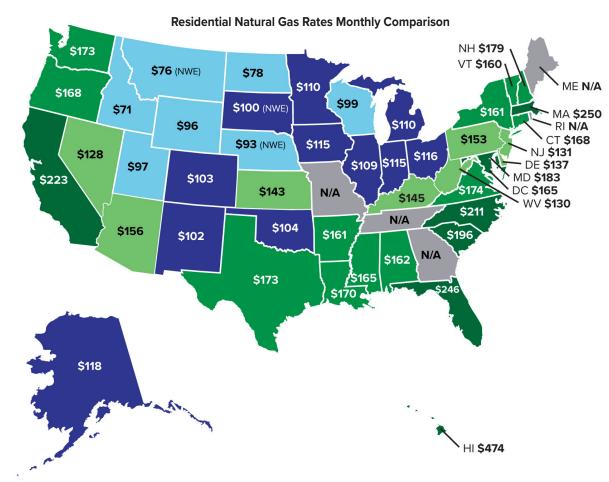
Our electric rates are well below the national average of **\$134** per month for a residential customer using 750 kWh per month.

\$98 per month for a NorthWestern Energy customer in Montana

Residential Natural Gas Average Monthly State Costs

Our natural gas rates are well below the national average of **\$146** per month for a residential customer using 100 therms per month.

\$76 per month for a NorthWestern Energy customer in Montana



Source: www.eia.doe.gov. US Natural Gas Sector Report for average cost of gas sold in March 2025

Help is available

Don't delay. Prepare now for the winter heating season. The sooner you sign up for assistance, the sooner you will receive bill assistance. NorthWestern Energy customers have access to many programs and resources to get help paying your bill.

 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEAP) – Available to customers who may not otherwise be able to afford to heat their homes or apartments during the winter. Applications are accepted Oct. 1 through April 30 through your local Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) office. dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/energyassistance

- NorthWestern Energy Bill Discount NorthWestern Energy offers a bill discount to customers who qualify for LIHEAP. NorthWestern Energy.com/help
- Weatherization Assistance Program Call your local HRDC office for more details.
- Energy Share of Montana Energy Share helps people who are facing loss of heat or lights in their home. Applications are available through your local HRDC office. Learn more at energysharemt.com or call 888-779-7589.