

Utility Rates 2025-26

Overview of Campus Utilities

This document outlines the various utility rates applicable for electricity, steam, natural gas, water, and sewer for the fiscal year 2025-26. It provides an overview of the source of our utilities, how rates are determined, and how costs are distributed.

Natural Gas

Rate Structures

Purchase Cost:	\$4.3516 per thousand cubic feet (MCF)
Commodity Rate:	\$3.2475 per thousand cubic feet (MCF)

The purchase cost represents the cost Western Michigan University pays for natural gas, including both the cost of the gas and the cost to transport the gas to the point at which it is used. The purchase cost is used as the cost avoidance rate to evaluate energy conservation projects.

The commodity rate covers only the cost of the gas itself, excluding transport costs. The commodity rate is applied in addition to Consumers' transport charges for each natural gas account when billing internal customers.

Utility Providers and Sources

Natural gas is supplied to East Campus, West Campus, and the Parkview Campus by Consumers Energy. SEMCO Energy supplies natural gas to the Battle Creek Aviation Campus.

Electricity

Rate Structures

Purchase Cost:	\$0.07985 per kilowatt-hour (kWh)
Billing Rate:	\$0.15211 per kilowatt-hour (kWh)
Cost Avoidance Rate:	\$0.04923 per kilowatt-hour (kWh)

Annual electric rates are based on monthly rates set by the power plant for the prior fiscal year. These rates cover electricity generated from the power plant, as well as electricity imported from and exported to Consumers Energy.

The purchase cost is the rate the university pays when electricity must be imported to the power plant. When electricity is exported to Consumers Energy, the university is paid \$0.02-0.03 per kilowatt-hour.

The billable rate includes the cost of fuel as well as the overhead costs of generation and distribution. This rate is primarily used to bill internal customers.

The cost avoidance rate includes the cost of fuel, but excludes generation and distribution overhead. It is primarily used to assess the cost savings of energy conservation projects.

Buildings that receive electricity directly from Consumers Energy are billed according the appropriate Consumers Energy rate. The cost avoidance rate for these accounts are a “blended” rate, as determined by the previous three years of bills on a by-account basis.

Utility Providers and Sources

Electricity for the majority of buildings on East Campus and West Campus is supplied from the Beam Power Plant. A small number of peripheral buildings, Parkview Campus, and the Battle Creek Aviation Campus receive electricity directly from Consumers Energy.

During periods of high electrical demand on the campus microgrid, additional electricity may be imported from Consumers Energy through the power plant. At other times, the power plant may export excess electricity to the Consumers Energy grid. In the event of high demand on the wider grid, the power plant may be called upon to export electricity onto the grid and/or significantly reduce energy consumption at the Parkview Campus.

Steam

Rate Structures

Billing Rate:	\$16.89 per thousand pounds (klb)
Cost Avoidance Rate:	\$5.4658 per thousand pounds (klb)

Annual steam rates are based on monthly rates set by the power plant for the prior fiscal year. These rates cover steam generated from boilers, heat recovery steam generators, and duct burners. June monthly rate are typically greater than other months’ rates to accommodate end-of-year budget wrap-up.

The billable rate includes the cost of fuel as well as the overhead costs of generation and distribution. This rate is primarily used to bill internal customers.

The cost avoidance rate includes the cost of fuel, but excludes generation and distribution overhead. It is primarily used to assess the cost savings of energy conservation projects.

Utility Providers and Sources

Steam is supplied to main campus from the Beam Power Plant. The water used to create steam comes from the City of Kalamazoo.

Water & Sewer

Rate Structures

Water

Pass-through Rate (Institutional):	\$0.817 per cubic meter (m ³)
Pass-through Rate (Multi-family Residential):	\$0.721 per cubic meter (m ³)

Sewer

Pass-through Rate:	\$1.174 per cubic meter (m ³)
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The City of Kalamazoo sets its water and sewer rates. Flat fees also apply to each account according to pipe size and service type. Cost avoidance is the same as the billable rate since all systems are owned by the City of Kalamazoo.

Utility Providers and Sources

Water is supplied from the City of Kalamazoo, and our wastewater returns to the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant. A small amount of water is released to the atmosphere via evaporation from cooling towers on campus.

Resources and Contact Information

For more information, please visit the Facilities Management webpage at wmich.edu/facilities or reach out to our Energy Administration Specialist at zachariah.richardson@wmich.edu or (269) 387-8526.

Additional Resources

[Consumers Energy Company – Rate Book for Electric Service](#)

[Consumers Energy Company – Rate Book for Natural Gas Service](#)

[SEMCO Energy Gas Company – Rate Book for Natural Gas Service](#)

[City of Kalamazoo – Water and Wastewater Rate Schedules](#)