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Administration

February 27, 2026

Update: Extreme cold weather impact on fuel costs

During the unusually low temperatures earlier this month, demand for electricity surged as heating systems worked much harder. To keep everyone warm and meet the demand, utilities across Central Florida, including the City of Winter Park, had to purchase additional natural gas and diesel at significantly higher-than-normal prices.

The fuel component of your bill is a direct pass through of the actual cost the city pays. The city maintains a fuel costs stabilization fund to help normalize rates in these events but because of this sudden spike in demand, the city spent \$3.1 million more on fuel than we were able to recover in January and February. As a result, our fuel cost stabilization fund dropped from \$2.3 million on December 31, 2025, to a projected -\$0.8 million by February 28, 2026.

To rebuild this fund, a fuel cost adjustment will take effect on March 1, 2026. For a typical residential household using 1,000 kWh, this will mean an increase of about \$21 per month. This increased fuel adjustment is expected to be in effect for nine months.

The city acknowledges any increase in your monthly expenses matters. Please know this adjustment is required solely to cover the actual cost of fuel and nothing more. The city reviews fuel costs monthly, and if prices come down, the rate will lower accordingly. The goal of the policy is to recover only the fuel costs the city pays to its bulk power providers (currently Florida Municipal Power Agency and the Orlando Utilities Commission).

Thank you for your understanding and for being such an engaged, supportive community. Your partnership during the cold weather and every day helps keep our city strong, resilient, and connected.

If you have any questions, please contact our Utility Billing Customer Service at customer_service@cityofwinterpark.org or [407-599-3220](tel:407-599-3220).

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