

## Panama electricity bills

After the generation the electricity must be transmitted to the distribution companies or Large Customers. The Transmission is in charge of the only transmission company in the Panamanian electricity market, the Electric Transmission Company, S. A. (ETESA), 100% owned by the state.

Three main companies are responsible for the distribution and marketing of electrical energy: ENSA, Edemet and Edechi, the last two are part of the Naturgy group. ENSA distributes electricity to users in Colón, Darién, the Kuna Yala Region, Eastern Panama, and the Pacific Islands. Naturgy distributes energy to West Panamá, Coclé, Herrera, Los Santos and Veraguas, Chiriquí and Bocas del Toro

According to the latest data from the International Energy Agency in 2021, the electricity generation sources are Hydro at 68,9%, followed by Natural Gas at 13,2%, Solar PV at 4,8%, Wind and Oil at 4,4%, and finally Coal at 4,1%. The Total electricity production in Panama 2021, is 12106 GWh, the 99th country in the world by electricity production.

Renewable energies are becoming an increasingly relevant source of energy for countries, as they can reduce CO2 emissions and dependence on imported fossil fuels. According to the latest data from the International Energy Agency, Panama's share of modern renewables in final energy consumption is 22,73% in 2020, placing it in 40th place among countries in the world.

Studying the electricity final consumption by sector, we can find that the commercial and public services are the first consumers with a share of 52,8% in 2021, followed by the residential sector at 29,7%, and the Industry sector at 16,8%. These data are correlated to the GDP produced by the sector in the economy of Panama.

[1] Statista - Price of Residential Electricity in Panama[2] Enerdata - Energy Market in Panama[3] International Energy Agency - Panama[4] Global Petrol Prices - Electricity Prices in Panama[5] Enel Green Power - Fortuna Hydroelectric Plant[6] Database Earth - Hydro Power Plants in Panama[7] IEA - Renewables in the Energy Mix of Panama[8] Panama National Energy Plan 2015-2050

In some parts of the country, mostly in or near Panama City, there are also Rapid Money and E-Pago kiosks in malls (as well as in supermarkets). You simply give the clerk the bill and pay them directly. Keep in mind that, Rapid Money payments can take several days to be credited. The E-Pago payments only take a few hours.

However, there can be a few requirements for paying online, depending upon the utility. For instance, some only accept payments from specific banks. If you don't have a bank account at one of those banks, you cannot pay online.



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All our bills are hand-delivered by an employee of the utility company. If you are home, they will hand it to you. If not, they may leave it rolled up in your fence like they do at our house.

The monthly garbage bill is only \$3 in Puerto Armuelles. This month I paid through December and it only cost me \$15. \$15 for 5 months of garbage sounds good to me. They pick the garbage up every Tuesday in our neighborhood.

Cable & Wireless will promise you a higher speed if you pay more. Don't believe them. That is their maximum speed, at least in our neighborhood of Puerto. Other Internet provider such as Cable Onda or Planet Telecom you can get 10mbps.

I still grimace to think about how horrible the experience was of having to wait in an interminable line at the Cable and Wireless office in Puerto Armuelles. This office used to only be open on Tuesdays and Thursday. Back then, Puerto didn't have enough Internet customers to merit an office with regular daily hours, and Portenos were treated as if purchasing internet service were some sort of a grand privilege, rather than a business.

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