



# Electric Utility Services Bylaw No. 2017-44 Summary of Changes and the Process

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*The City is recommending a number of changes to bring the policies of our Electric Utility Services Bylaw up-to-date with current operating procedures and to consolidate information about electrical servicing in one place. The proposed changes apply to requirements for new developments, use of Net Meters, and voltage and service supply standards but will not affect the energy rates that are set in Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 2014-07. The proposed Bylaw No. 2017-44 was given first reading at Council on Oct. 3. Second and third readings are required before the changes can be adopted by Council. The Bylaw must also receive approval from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Customers who have questions or concerns about the proposed Bylaw can go to [shapeyourcitypenticton.ca](http://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca) to get more information and share their feedback.*

## **Changes for Residential Customers:**

- We simplified the definition for a Residential Service to include any occupied dwelling unit. Within Residential Services, there are now only two categories:
  - Any standard home or dwelling is charged under Rate Code 10.
  - Any dwelling with a commercial component such as a vacation rental or bed and breakfast are now included and charged under Rate Code 15.
- Residential customers with home-based businesses who were assigned Rate Code 10 will be changed to Rate Code 15 if the bylaw is adopted.
- Affected customers will receive a notice from the City to make them aware of the proposed changes.

## **Changes for Net Meter Customers:**

- Several changes to the requirements for Net Meters are proposed for customers who contribute or want to contribute excess power to the grid.
- We are removing the requirement for a covenant and statutory right-of-way to be registered on title to allow City access to Net Meters. This access is now provided for in the Bylaw.
- The City will purchase excess energy at wholesale rates instead of retail.
- Customers requesting a Net Meter are responsible for 100% of the connection costs but do have the option of a payment plan with the City.
- All customers with Net Meters will receive a letter advising them of the changes to the requirements.

## **Changes for New Developments and Stratas:**

- All new services and service upgrades shall be made underground. Overhead services will not be allowed.
- All new services are metered.
- As the Municipal Act no longer allows for a "latecomers fee" for electrical servicing, all references to the fee have been removed from the Bylaw.
- The responsibilities of Strata developments have been reflected in the Bylaw.

## **Changes for Commercial / Industrial Customers:**

- A surcharge has been created for Commercial/Industrial Customers having a low power factor to encourage customers to improve the energy efficiency of their operations.
- Updated the Bylaw to reflect what is the standard voltage and electrical service sizes the City provides.