

**Submitted by Michigan Environmental Council
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[26. What impact, if any, has there been on the rates paid by Michigan residential customers as the result of Michigan's electric choice program?](#)

On March 19, 2013, DTE Energy presented to the Senate Energy and Technology Committee regarding the residential rate increases that have been experienced in Michigan between 2008-2012.¹ In that presentation, they broke down the causes behind rate increases as follows:

13% - Capital Investments – These include investments and operating expenses for pollution controls, renewable energy, energy efficiency and investment in base capital. There was no further breakdown between those categories.

11% - Load loss – The report did not distinguish between load loss due to customers leaving the system for other power providers or from the loss due to the economic downturn experienced by Michigan beginning in 2008.

6% - Increase in fuel costs.

9% - Cost or service changes that transferred costs from other rate classes to residential ratepayers.

The Commission should require all energy providers to generate similar information and perform further dissecting of the figures so that decision makers have a clearer idea of the reasons behind rate increases to Michigan energy users.

¹ <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committees/files/2013-SCT-ENERGY-03-19-3-02.PDF>