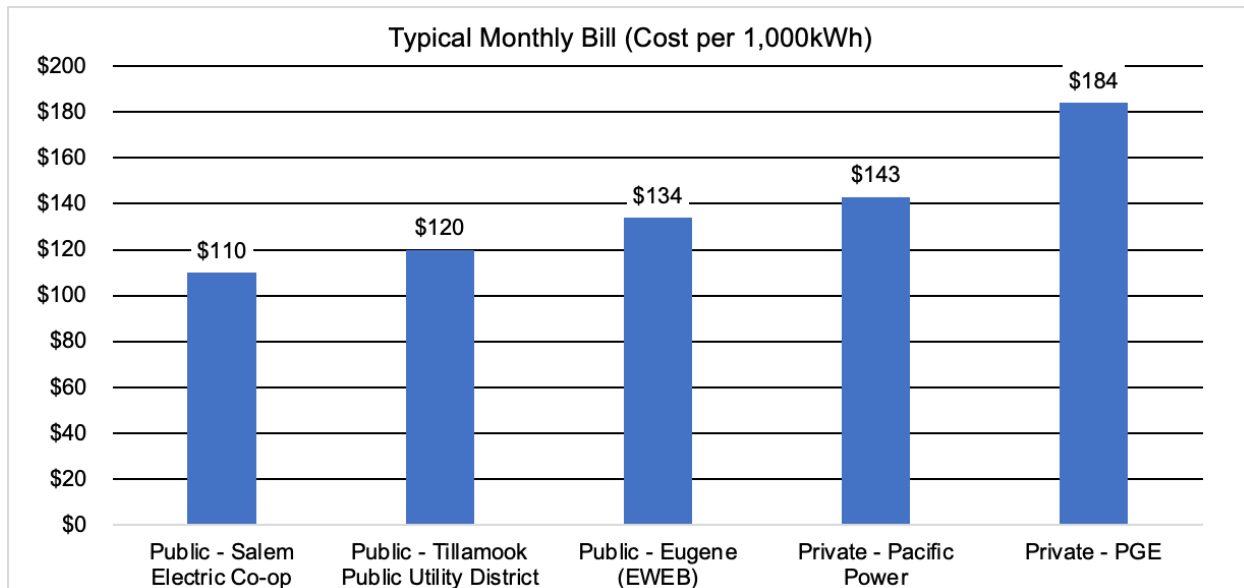


Why is My Electric Bill So Damn High?

The Problems with Investor-Owned Utilities

Portlanders rely on private utilities to power their homes. Most have seen their electric bills go up by 50% over the past 5 years, which is double the rate of inflation. Portlanders also pay more than Oregonians who have publicly-owned utilities.



So, where does all that extra money go?

- **Clean Energy?** ❌
 - Neither PGE nor Pacific Power has a plan or adequate progress to meet Oregon's state climate goals of 100% renewable energy by 2040.
- **Profit?** ✅
 - Investor-owned utilities must prioritize profit for investors. PGE increased its investor dividend by 36% in 5 years while hiking rates.
 - Private utility CEOs are very well compensated. In 2024, PGE's CEO Maria Pope made \$7.4mil, and Gregory Abel of Pacific Power made approximately \$21m.
- **AI Data Centers?** ✅
 - Since 2020 demand from data centers grew 34%; residential demand is up 5%.
 - Rate hikes have been led by data center demand - PGE attempted to cut down a swath of Forest Park to deliver more electricity to data centers, but were halted by DSA-led public pressure.

Public Utilities could be a solution - they are not obligated to make a profit and are controlled democratically by the communities they serve, who can make decisions about clean energy and other investments as they see fit.

