

TAKING SOME OF THE PRESSURE OFF WITH THE CAPACITY TARIFF

Since 2023, new grid tariffs have been introduced in Flanders. This means that the grid tariffs on your electricity bill no longer depend solely on the amount of electricity you consume, but also on the amount of electricity you use simultaneously. We are using more and more electricity, which can lead to overloading of the electricity grid. By introducing the capacity tariff, the Flemish Utility Regulator, formerly known as VREG, aims to better distribute the use of the grid.

You charge your electric vehicle at home.

So, how will the capacity tariff affect you?

Why a capacity tariff?

The capacity tariff is part of the price you pay for the electricity grid's infrastructure. It is based on your **peak consumption**: the higher your peak consumption, the higher your capacity tariff. This should encourage you to **use fewer electrical applications at the same time**. You can avoid electricity peaks by spreading your energy consumption as much as possible. If you are entitled to the social tariff, the capacity tariff does not apply.

Who does the capacity tariff apply to?

- ✓ The capacity tariff for private individuals has only been in effect in Belgium's Flanders region since January 2023. It is the responsibility of the Flemish regulator VREG.



There is no similar scheme in the Wallonia or Brussels-Capital regions.

- ✗ In Wallonia, regulator CWaPe is looking at the possibilities.
- ✗ In Brussels, regulator Brugel has since 2019 based the capacity tariff on the supply capacity rather than peak consumption. The Brussels capacity tariff makes up about 20% of the grid infrastructure price and will remain in force until 2024.

How will the grid infrastructure price in Flanders be calculated from now on?

The grid infrastructure price in Flanders is currently made up of two parts: the kWh tariff for the electricity you use and the capacity tariff for the maintenance of the electricity grid. Different day and night tariffs have been abolished.

The kWh tariff

The amount of electricity you consume each month is charged at this tariff.

kWh **0 0 2 6 4 3 5**



1

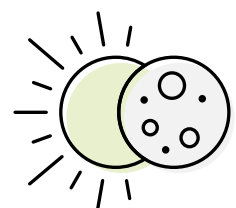
The capacity tariff

- The capacity tariff is a charge you pay for the **maintenance and modification** of the electricity grid.
- The capacity tariff is based on your peak consumption. If your **peak consumption** is high, you will pay more than if you spread your electricity consumption. According to VREG, the capacity tariff is **about 7%** of your total electricity bill.

2

No more day and night tariffs

All electricity consumption is now charged at the same rate throughout the day. So, if you use several devices at the same time at night, this may also increase your peak consumption.



✗



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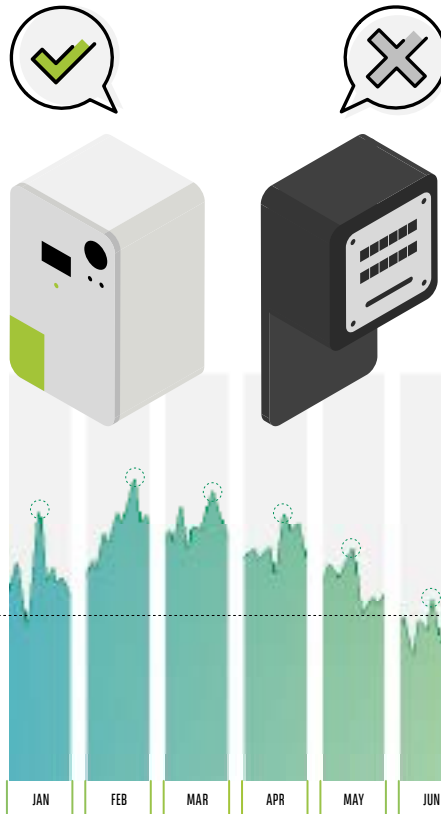
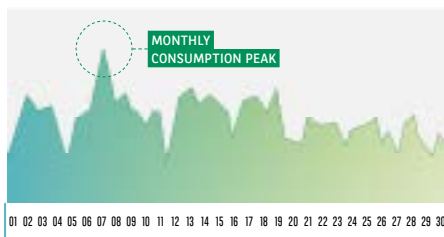
How is the capacity tariff calculated?

That depends on whether you have a **smart meter** or a **conventional meter**.

You have a smart meter

Your smart meter allows the electricity company to **consider the 15 minutes when you used the most electricity**. This is referred to as the **monthly peak (kW)**. This monthly peak is calculated 12 times a year. The average of those 12 peak meter readings is used to avoid one high monthly peak pushing your grid infrastructure price up too much.

Regardless of whether you get a monthly or yearly settlement bill, your capacity tariff is always based on the average of 12 monthly peaks. Even if your average monthly peak is less than 2.5kW, you will still be charged for at least 2.5kW.



You have an older conventional meter

A conventional meter **does not monitor your peak consumption**. In that case, you will therefore pay a flat-rate amount based on the above minimum peak of 2.5kW.

However, this does not mean you are always better off with a conventional meter because if you don't have a smart meter, you will pay a higher kWh tariff for your consumption.

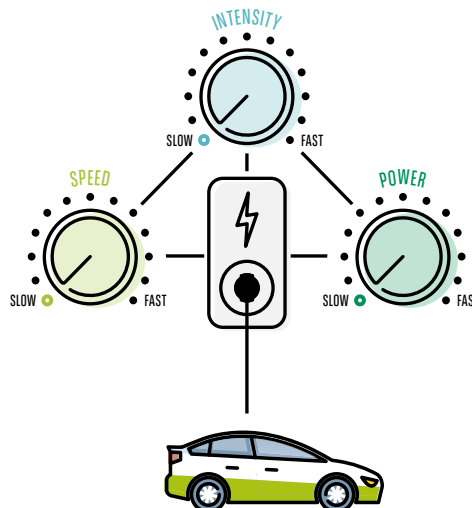
You drive an electric vehicle.

Will you be better or worse off with this new calculation method?

The capacity tariff may be to the advantage of drivers of electric vehicles. Research by Ghent University has shown that bills will increase mainly for small consumers. Heavier consumers like you, may actually see their bills go down if their consumption stays the same. However, you do need to approach this in a certain way, so keep reading.

How can electric car drivers reduce their electricity bill?

- Charge your vehicle more slowly. This will save you a lot of money.
- Check your vehicle's on-board computer to set the charging speed to the minimum.
- You can also restrict your charging point's power to 16, 20 or 32 amps, for example (or 3.7kW, 4.6kW or 7.4kW, respectively for a single-phase 220V connection).
- If you have a 50five charging point, you can contact [50five](#) directly by e-mail for this.
- If you have a Luminus charging point, you can e-mail your request to [Luminus](#).



- Charge your car when you are using as few other high-consumption appliances as possible.
- Some cars allow you to set a time when the car should start and stop charging. Take advantage of this feature.
- If you have solar panels, make sure to charge your car when the sun is out as the solar panels will offset your peak consumption!
- If you can charge your car at work, try to take advantage of that benefit as much as possible.

Would you like more information?

The [VREG](#) website and your electricity supplier's website explain the new capacity tariff in Dutch.

VREG also has an online [simulator](#) in Dutch that allows you to see the effect of the new rates on your personal situation.



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