

2026 Energy Market Trading Charge

The AESO has set a 2026 energy market trading charge at 60.6 cents per megawatt hour traded, including charges from the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) and the Market Surveillance Administrator (MSA). The trading charge is subject to amendment in accordance with ISO Rules Section 103.6, ISO Fees and Charges.

The overall energy market trading charge in 2026 has increased by 12.1 cents from the 2025 charge of 48.4 cents per megawatt hour traded.

AESO Energy Market Trading Charge	2026 Budget	2025 Budget
AESO Component		
General and administrative costs, interest, amortization and other industry costs	51.5¢	40.0¢
Energy market deferral deficit (surplus)	(3.1)¢	(3.9)¢
Total	48.4¢	36.1¢
AUC Component	7.3¢	7.3¢
MSA Component	4.9¢	5.1¢
AESO Energy Market Trading Charge	60.6¢	48.4¢

AESO Component

The AESO's component of the 2026 energy market trading charge has been set at 48.4 cents per megawatt hour traded compared to 36.1 cents in 2025. The increase is primarily due to an increase in budgeted costs related to the restructuring of Alberta's energy market, transmission policy changes and continued efforts to ensure system reliability.

Given the significant costs associated with the procurement and development of IT systems needed for the restructured energy market, and to ensure intergenerational fairness, the AESO is deferring recovery of the costs until the system is operational. Costs will be included in the trading charge over the subsequent 4-to-5-year period (estimated useful life of the systems). This approach does not create any material additional costs and will function to levelize the trading charge over a longer period of time.

AUC Component

Under the provision of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*, AUC operating and capital costs are recovered from natural gas and electricity market participants under its jurisdiction or any person to whom the AUC provides services. Accordingly, the AUC apportions all of its costs related to its wholesale electric market activities to the AESO as an AUC administration fee.

The AUC's component of the 2026 energy market trading charge has been set at 7.3 cents per megawatt hour traded.

MSA Component

In accordance with the *Electric Utilities Act*, the energy market trading charge will also recover the costs required by the MSA. The MSA's budgeting process is a separate activity, and their budget is approved by the Chair of the Alberta Utilities Commission. The AESO receives the cost recovery requirement determined by the MSA and must include that amount net of any surplus or deficit collection from 2025 and prior years in the energy market trading charge.

For 2026, the MSA's costs represent 4.9 cents per megawatt hour traded which is the current year cost recovery.

If you have questions or would like to discuss this topic further, please email info@aeso.ca.

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