

22 JULY 2025



NEWSLETTER



BEYOND THE “PEAK”: UNDERSTANDING SOUTH AFRICA’S NEW POWER PRICING

A RURAFLEX Case Study by SunRanch Solar

The 2025/26 Eskom electricity tariffs are in – and businesses are feeling the burn. The Ruraflex tariff update introduces changes to both fixed and variable charges, including sharp increases in summer peak and standard time-of-use rates, alongside decreases in winter peak tariffs and service charges. These changes especially impact seasonal users, leading to an average year on year cost increase of around 20% for a number of our Ruraflex Customers. This newsletter breaks down the key updates, and offers practical insights to help businesses adapt and plan effectively.

[SCROLL FOR MORE](#)

[Visit Our Page - www.sunranch.solar](http://www.sunranch.solar)



WHAT'S CHANGING, AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

As part of Eskom's 2025/26 tariff update, the Ruraflex structure for Non-Local Authority customers has undergone several important changes. These adjustments aim to better align with evolving national energy priorities and infrastructure needs, but what does that actually look like for commercial, agricultural, and industrial users?

| Ruraflex – Non-local Authority | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | ACTIVE ENERGY CHARGE (c/kWh) | | | | | | | | | | Network capacity charges [R/kVA/m] | | | |
| | | High demand season Jun - Aug | | | | | Low demand season Sep - May | | | | | | | | |
| Transmission zone | Voltage | Peak | Standard | Off Peak | | Peak | Standard | Off Peak | | | | | | | |
| | | VAT incl | VAT incl | VAT incl | | VAT incl | VAT incl | VAT incl | | VAT incl | | VAT incl | | | |
| ≤ 300km | < 500V | 633.61 | 728.65 | 191.95 | 220.74 | 104.26 | 119.90 | 206.70 | 237.71 | 142.23 | 163.56 | 90.24 | 103.78 | R36.60 | R42.09 |
| | ≥ 500V & ≤ 22kV | 627.35 | 721.45 | 190.07 | 218.58 | 103.19 | 118.67 | 204.66 | 235.36 | 140.82 | 161.94 | 89.30 | 102.70 | R33.54 | R38.57 |
| > 300km and ≤ 600km | < 500V | 639.98 | 735.98 | 193.88 | 222.96 | 105.29 | 121.08 | 208.76 | 240.07 | 143.69 | 165.24 | 91.17 | 104.85 | R36.71 | R42.22 |
| | ≥ 500V & ≤ 22kV | 633.60 | 728.64 | 191.93 | 220.72 | 104.26 | 119.90 | 206.70 | 237.71 | 142.22 | 163.55 | 90.24 | 103.78 | R33.73 | R38.79 |
| > 600km and ≤ 900km | < 500V | 646.38 | 743.34 | 195.83 | 225.20 | 106.33 | 122.28 | 210.86 | 242.49 | 145.10 | 166.87 | 92.09 | 105.90 | R36.89 | R42.42 |
| | ≥ 500V & ≤ 22kV | 639.93 | 735.92 | 193.82 | 222.89 | 105.29 | 121.08 | 208.76 | 240.07 | 143.69 | 165.24 | 91.17 | 104.85 | R33.90 | R38.99 |
| > 900km | < 500V | 652.83 | 750.75 | 197.76 | 227.42 | 107.38 | 123.49 | 212.88 | 244.81 | 146.55 | 168.53 | 92.98 | 106.93 | R37.06 | R42.62 |
| | ≥ 500V & ≤ 22kV | 646.36 | 743.31 | 195.83 | 225.20 | 106.33 | 122.28 | 210.86 | 242.49 | 145.10 | 166.87 | 92.09 | 105.90 | R33.91 | R39.00 |

| Customer categories | Service charge [R/account/day] | Administration charge [R/POD/day] | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | VAT incl | VAT incl | VAT incl | |
| ≤ 100 kVA | R36.00 | R41.40 | R10.21 | R11.74 |
| > 100 kVA & ≤ 500 kVA | R122.76 | R141.17 | R56.92 | R65.46 |
| > 500 kVA & ≤ 1 MVA | R377.63 | R434.27 | R87.36 | R100.46 |
| > 1 MVA | R377.63 | R434.27 | R162.09 | R186.40 |
| Key customers | R7 401.38 | R8 511.59 | R162.09 | R186.40 |

| | Reactive energy charge [c/kVArh] | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------|
| | High season | Low season |
| | VAT incl | VAT incl |
| | 17.59 | 0.00 |

| Voltage | Ancillary service charge [c/kWh] | Network demand charge [c/kWh] in all time-of-use periods | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|----------|-------|
| | VAT incl | VAT incl | VAT incl | |
| < 500V | 0.80 | 0.92 | 52.09 | 59.90 |
| ≥ 500V & < 22kV | 0.80 | 0.92 | 45.67 | 52.52 |

Figure 2 - Ruraflex Tariffs for 2025/26 (Non-Local Authority):
An updated tariff structure reflecting changes for the 2025/26 year, including newly introduced charges such as the legacy and generator capacity charges, and revised time-of-use energy rates. (Source: Eskom Tariffs and Charges Booklet 2025/2026)

| Ruraflex – Non-local Authority | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|--------|-------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|--------|--------|
| Transmission Zone | Voltage | Active energy charge [c/kWh] | | | | | | | | | | Legacy charge [c/kWh] | Generation capacity charge [R/kVA/m] | Network capacity charges [R/kVA/m] | | | | | |
| | | High demand season [Jun – Aug] | | | | | Low demand season [Sep – May] | | | | | | | VAT incl | VAT incl | VAT incl | | | |
| | | Peak | Standard | Off Peak | | Peak | Standard | Off Peak | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ≤ 300km | < 500V | 690.99 | 794.64 | 172.75 | 198.66 | 115.16 | 132.43 | 286.77 | 329.79 | 161.23 | 185.41 | 115.16 | 132.43 | 23.00 | 26.45 | R3.34 | R3.84 | R52.04 | R59.85 |
| | ≥ 500V & < 66kV | 678.76 | 780.57 | 169.68 | 195.13 | 113.12 | 130.09 | 281.69 | 323.94 | 158.38 | 182.14 | 113.12 | 130.09 | 22.59 | 25.98 | R5.03 | R5.78 | R48.32 | R55.57 |
| > 300km and ≤ 600km | < 500V | 697.91 | 802.60 | 174.48 | 200.65 | 116.31 | 133.76 | 289.64 | 333.09 | 162.84 | 187.27 | 116.31 | 133.76 | 23.00 | 26.45 | R3.34 | R3.84 | R52.14 | R59.96 |
| | ≥ 500V & < 66kV | 685.55 | 788.38 | 171.39 | 197.10 | 114.25 | 131.39 | 284.51 | 327.19 | 159.97 | 183.97 | 114.25 | 131.39 | 22.59 | 25.98 | R5.03 | R5.78 | R48.42 | R55.68 |
| > 600km and ≤ 900km | < 500V | 704.82 | 810.54 | 176.20 | 202.63 | 117.46 | 135.08 | 292.50 | 336.38 | 164.45 | 189.12 | 117.46 | 135.08 | 23.00 | 26.45 | R3.34 | R3.84 | R52.25 | R60.09 |
| | ≥ 500V & < 66kV | 692.34 | 796.19 | 173.09 | 199.05 | 115.39 | 132.70 | 287.33 | 330.43 | 161.55 | 185.78 | 115.39 | 132.70 | 22.59 | 25.98 | R5.03 | R5.78 | R48.53 | R55.81 |
| > 900km | < 500V | 711.73 | 818.49 | 177.93 | 204.62 | 118.61 | 136.40 | 295.37 | 339.68 | 166.07 | 190.98 | 118.61 | 136.40 | 23.00 | 26.45 | R3.34 | R3.84 | R52.36 | R60.21 |
| | ≥ 500V & < 66kV | 699.12 | 803.99 | 174.78 | 201.00 | 116.52 | 134.00 | 290.15 | 333.67 | 163.13 | 187.60 | 116.52 | 134.00 | 22.59 | 25.98 | R5.03 | R5.78 | R48.64 | R55.94 |

| Customer categories | Service charge [R/POD/day] | Administration charge [R/POD/day] | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| | VAT incl | VAT incl | VAT incl | |
| ≤ 100 kVA/kW | R23.15 | R26.62 | R1.35 | R1.55 |
| ≤ 100 kVA/kW & ≤ 500 kVA/kW | R64.28 | R73.92 | R12.40 | R14.26 |
| ≤ 500 kVA/kW & ≤ 1 MVA/kW | R198.52 | R228.30 | R19.37 | R22.28 |
| > 1 MVA/kW | R198.52 | R228.30 | R19.37 | R22.28 |
| Key Customers | R1 118.46 | R1 286.23 | R19.37 | R22.28 |

| | Reactive energy charge [c/kWh] | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------|
| | High season | Low season |
| | VAT incl | VAT incl |
| | 19.83 | 0.00 |

| Voltage | Ancillary service charge [c/kWh] | Network demand charge [c/kWh] in all time-of-use periods | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|----------|-------|
| | VAT incl | VAT incl | VAT incl | |
| < 500V | 0.41 | 0.47 | 48.32 | 55.57 |
| ≥ 500V & < 66kV | 0.41 | 0.47 | 41.89 | 48.17 |

Figure 1 - Ruraflex Tariffs for 2024/25 (Non-Local Authority):
This table presents the active energy charges, network capacity costs, and service fees applicable during the 2024/25 tariff year, categorized by transmission zone, voltage, and time-of-use periods. (Source: Eskom Tariffs and Charges Booklet 2024/2025)

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN...

Notice in *Table 1* (A summary of *Figure 1* and *Figure 2*) that the active energy rates (R/kWh) – which vary by season and time of use – have changed across the board. During winter (June – August), there's a slight increase in peak and off-peak rates, while standard winter rates have actually decreased by around 10.7%. That could be good news if your operations are more active in colder months.

But if you're a summer-based or seasonal (cyclic) user, things look a little different. The summer (low-demand season) rates – particularly in peak – have increased by up to 37.6%. That's a noticeable shift, especially for those in farming or increased summer sales periods, where most energy consumption happens outside of winter. These updates are intended to reflect more balanced pricing across the year, but they do mean that seasonal users may experience higher summer bills.

| Ruraflex (R/kWh) | | | | Additional Charges | | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | Tariff Book | | % Change | Tariff Book 2025/26 | | | |
| | Summer 2024/25 | Summer 2025/26 | | Network Demand Charge | Ancillary Service Charge | Legacy Charge | Total Variable Cost |
| Peak | R 2.0466 | R 2.8169 | 37.6380% | R 0.4189 | R 0.0041 | R 0.2259 | R 3.4658 |
| Standard | R 1.4082 | R 1.5838 | 12.4698% | R 0.4189 | R 0.0041 | R 0.2259 | R 2.2327 |
| Off-Peak | R 0.8930 | R 1.1312 | 26.6741% | R 0.4189 | R 0.0041 | R 0.2259 | R 1.7801 |

| | Tariff Book | | % Change | Tariff Book 2025/26 | | | |
|----------|----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | Winter 2024/25 | Winter 2025/26 | | Network Demand Charge | Ancillary Service Charge | Legacy Charge | Total Variable Cost |
| Peak | R 6.2735 | R 6.7876 | 8.1948% | R 0.4189 | R 0.0041 | R 0.2259 | R 7.4365 |
| Standard | R 1.9007 | R 1.6968 | -10.7276% | R 0.4189 | R 0.0041 | R 0.2259 | R 2.3457 |
| Off-Peak | R 1.0319 | R 1.1312 | 9.6230% | R 0.4189 | R 0.0041 | R 0.2259 | R 1.7801 |

Table 1 - Applied Tariff Comparison – Case Study Summary:
A side-by-side breakdown of summer and winter electricity rates from 2024/25 vs. 2025/26, showing the percentage change per time period and the total variable cost when applying new fixed charges.

Looking beyond energy use, *Table 2* dives into the bigger picture: fixed charges. While daily service and admin fees have dropped significantly, new components have been introduced to better capture long-term infrastructure costs. A new Legacy Charge (22.59 c/kWh) and a Generator Capacity Charge (R5.03/kVA/month) have been introduced, both aimed at strengthening long-term sustainability and system reliability. These changes mean that while daily fixed costs have gone down, total monthly costs may still increase depending on your installed capacity and usage profile.

Another notable change is in the Network Capacity Charge, which increased by around 44%. On the flip side, the Network Demand Charge, which is based on actual consumption, has decreased slightly. This shift signals a broader industry trend toward capacity-based billing, where electricity cost depends not just on how much energy is consumed, but on the infrastructure required to provide that energy available at any time.

| Eskom General Charges | Tariff | All Seasons 2024/25 | All Seasons 2025/26 | % Change |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Standard Connection Charge | Fixed Rate | R 328.00 | R 328.00 | 0.00% |
| Administration Charge | R/day | R 87.36 | R 19.37 | -77.83% |
| Network Capacity Charge (kVa) | R/NMD | R 33.54 | R 48.32 | 44.07% |
| Network Demand Charge | R/kWh | R 0.4567 | R 0.4189 | 8.27% |
| Ancillary Service Charge | R/Network Demand kWh | R 0.0080 | R 0.0041 | -48.75% |
| Service Charge | R/day | R 377.63 | R 198.52 | -47.43% |
| Energy Charge | Based on Surplus Energy | | | |
| Re-Active Energy | c/kVarh kWh in excess of 30% | R 0.1759 | R 0.1937 | 10.12% |
| Generator Capacity Charge | R.kVa/month | R - | R 5.03 | 100.00% |
| Legacy Charge | R/kWh | R - | R 0.2259 | 100.00% |

Table 2 - Eskom General Charges (All Seasons) – 2024/25 vs. 2025/26: A detailed comparison of service, administration, capacity, and energy-based charges across both years, highlighting percentage increases and the introduction of new billing components.

To put this into real terms, we applied the 2025/26 tariffs to a previous year’s usage profile for a number of Ruraflex Customers. The result? An average cost increase of about 20% over the previous year – without any increase in actual consumption. That’s a helpful benchmark when planning budgets or reviewing efficiency strategies.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

This update isn’t about catching anyone off guard – it’s about staying informed and prepared. Here are a few ways to proactively respond:

- **Review your energy profile:** Are your operations concentrated in summer? If so, expect to see some upward movement in your bill.
- **Know your capacity:** Since fixed charges are now more capacity-based, right-sizing your installed load and generation assets is more important than ever.
- **Plan around TOU:** Make the most of lower-cost periods (especially winter standard times) where possible.
- **Explore alternatives:** Solar, storage, and smart controls could help offset peak and seasonal charges.

Eskom’s 2025/26 Ruraflex tariff changes represent a shift in how energy costs are structured, particularly with the introduction of new fixed charges and the rebalancing of time-of-use rates. It’s not just about how much energy you use anymore – it’s about when you use it, and what kind of capacity you require to stay connected. As illustrated, the changes may impact different users in different ways, so now’s a great time to take stock of your energy patterns and assess where savings or increased efficiencies could be realised.

Let us know if any assistance is required to review your current electrical reticulation and consumption or identifying areas for strategic adjustment – SunRanch is always available to support smarter energy planning.