

U.S. Bank Solutions for Utility Organizations

Mission Critical Payables

u.s. bank payables solutions

Check | Wire | ACH | Cards | Payment Plus | EIPP



Experience on-time payments of critical utility invoices

Utilities are crucial for keeping organizations running. Without gas or electricity, water and waste removal, business comes to a grinding halt. Payments must be timely and accurate. Dependence on utilities makes these payments a top priority, leaving organizations little room for processing errors or inefficiency. Yet, paying utility bills remains a constant challenge.

Most utility payment terms are short, ranging from 10 to 20 days — leaving precious little time for approval or payment processing, let alone pre-payment audits. An estimated 65% of companies are overcharged, representing 5% to 10% of the invoice amount.

The penalties for late or missed payments are high. Late fees are typically at least 1.5% to 5% of the past due amount, and are often much higher. Collection fees on past due amounts are also common, driving utility costs up. A missed payment can lead to service interruptions. Just one missed electric payment can force a work shutdown resulting in thousands of dollars in lost revenue, work-force disruption along with the added expense of reconnect fees.

When you add these factors to the high cost of processing invoices manually, utility payments represent a uniquely troublesome expense. The rapidly evolving business environment makes utility expense management even more complex.

Take advantage of U.S. Bank Utility Payment to reap the benefits of an automated and highly efficient solution for your utility payment:

Eliminate Expense

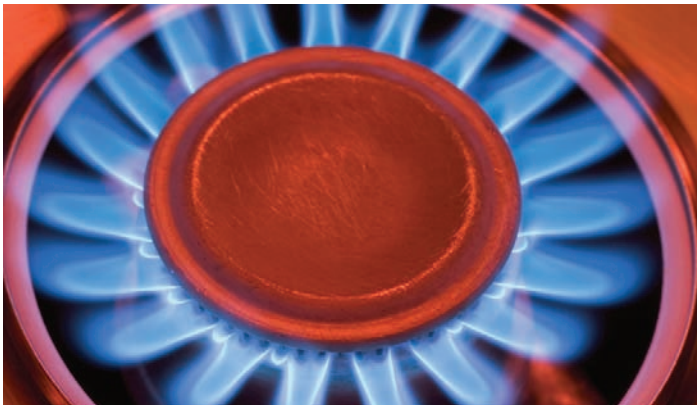
- Make timely payments—reduce late fees and service interruption notices
- Vendor validation
- Operational efficiency—streamlined approval, back office savings, reduced paper handling

Harness Critical Information

- Detailed expenditure reports
- Accrual reports
- Approval and payment cycle statistics
- Comparative analysis
- Usage information for green initiatives and carbon footprint reporting
- Financial reports

Enable Financial Control and Regulatory Compliance

- Flexible and accurate expense allocations, sophisticated and secure bank payment technology; AS-70, OFAC and Sarbanes-Oxley compliant.



Achieve greater flexibility, control, visibility and efficiency

As the global payment leader, U.S. Bank Payables Solutions are second to none. Our web-enabled application is available anytime, anywhere there is an Internet connection, providing unmatched visibility and control. It is an indispensable solution for managing utility payments.

Invoice Receipt and Processing

Whether your utility providers send paper, CDs, or electronic invoices, U.S. Bank makes every invoice available and visible to you online. Our solutions:

- **Eliminate paper** — Take the hassle out of paper by converting the invoice and making it available online within three days of receipt.
- **Capture data** — Collect all financial data and add detailed energy information. Answering inquiries and generating reports is easy with the wealth of information at your fingertips.
- **Improve invoice validation audits** — U.S. Bank Utility Payment automatically conducts a series of audits based on your requirements. Audits include: vendor verification, point-of-service validation, duplicate invoice identification and even expected versus billed amount analysis. Post-payment analysis and disputes are also greatly simplified.
- **Streamline payment approval workflow** — Invoices that pass your audit requirements are approved automatically and exceptions are managed online for quick approval based on your organization's policies.



Payment

U.S. Bank Utility Payment can make electronic or check disbursement to any utility provider. Because we comply with banking standards, you are ensured maximum security. Your organization will:

- **Ensure on-time payments** — Reduce concerns about late fees and service interruptions.
- **Have consistent approval and payment processes** — Allows you to manage and control payments across your organization — all according to corporate policy.
- **Automate cost allocation** — Accurately tracks expenses at the invoice or line-item level.
- **Get complete remittance information** — Enable providers to accurately post your payments.
- **Obtain comprehensive accounting and finance data** — All payment information is provided and can be linked directly to your financial systems for accurate, on-time accruals and expense tracking.
- **Receive flexible, simplified payment options** — You can “pay on due date” or anywhere along the billing cycle to effectively manage your cash flow.

Finance

In addition to exceptional payment and processing capabilities, U.S. Bank Utility Payment provides options to participate in trade credit financing. Our financing options are built into the system and managed through U.S. Bank's relationships with financial institutions around the globe.

- **Extend payment terms** — Pay based on each provider's payment terms and/or extend your terms by paying U.S. Bank later.
- **Improve fiscal performance** — U.S. Bank Utility Payment improves your ability to optimize working capital. It offers complete visibility into spending and provider payments to help enhance your cash flow.

About U.S. Bank Utility Payment

Formally known as Power Track Payables, U.S. Bank Utility Payment places an emphasis on innovation and quality. Through U.S. Bank Utility Payment, we provide trusted commercial payment solutions for accounts payable, receivables and global trade payments.

Global companies seeking to eliminate expenses while increasing fiscal control and business intelligence rely on U.S. Bank to make millions of electronic business-to-business payments each year in currencies around the world. Efficient invoice delivery and receipt, pre-payment audits, automated approvals, electronic settlement and integrated financing make U.S. Bank Utility Payment the leading choice in commercial payment solutions.

U.S. Bank Utility Payment uses an Internet-based, integrated invoice processing, payment and financing solution—the Syncada® from Visa network—that meets the complex challenge of managing and optimizing global operations.



Capture expense and usage data for use in green initiatives



Organizations the world over have implemented or are planning to implement green initiatives, often managed from the top of the enterprise. Much of the impetus comes from a realization that customers and employees want businesses to be good environmental stewards. It makes good business sense.

In addition, volatile energy markets have led to unpredictable and higher energy costs. Regulatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) is currently required in many states and will be almost certainly required on a national scale soon. Trading in carbon credits, already a reality in Europe, seems imminent for North America as well.

All organizations, especially those with multiple locations, need an efficient, effective, and controlled utility payment process – one that not only makes timely payments, but also captures crucial expense and usage data for internal analysis and impending regulatory reporting. This becomes especially challenging when dealing with a multitude of utility providers, each with their own billing systems, formats and charges.

Contact U.S. Bank for more information

From purchasing cards to access tools to complete electronic procure-to-pay systems, U.S. Bank offers utility organizations the solutions they need to cut costs and operate more efficiently. For more information, please contact us at 866-274-5898 or visit usbpayment.com.

All of **us** serving you®



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