The People's Power

How Much Electricity Do You Use?

What is a Kilowatt Hour (kWh)?

The term kilowatt hour is simply an easy way to say 1,000 watts of power used for one hour. One kilowatt hour is a 100-watt light bulb on for ten hours.

Keeping Track of your Energy Usage

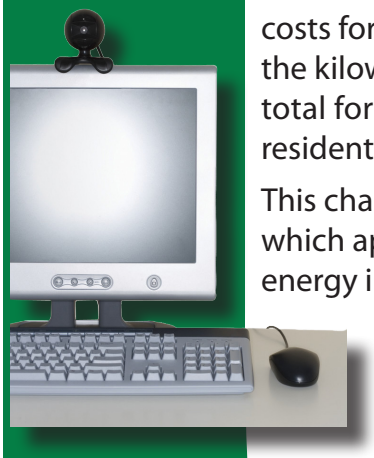
Keep track of your electricity conservation efforts by frequently reading your electric meter. It's easy, and by comparing daily or weekly readings you can identify habits that result in saying electricity and money. Electric meters have a digital display and show the total, or cumulative, energy consumption in kWh. They operate much like the odometer on a car. You compare beginning and ending readings to find out your energy use over a given period of time (one day, one week, one month).

Another way to keep track is to borrow a Kill A Watt meter, either from EPUD or from your local library. This monitor (picture at left) measures the actual electrical consumption of various electrical devices and appliances. It can display projected costs by hour, day, week, month, or year. The knowledge you gain from the Kill A Watt can save you money and help you conserve electricity.

Home Energy Use Chart

The chart on the reverse side shows the typical monthly residential electrical usage and costs for various appliances and equipment found in your home. Use the chart to figure the kilowatt hours and monthly cost for each appliance you use. Add them up to get a total for the month. The operating costs shown are calculated at the current EPUD residential rate of 7.46¢ per kWh.

This chart can help you understand how your electrical usage adds up. You can see which appliances use the most energy. Typically, home heating is the largest user of energy in your home. Water heating is the second largest user.



Please remember that these are only estimates. Many factors such as your family size, lifestyle, weather, the size of your home, and how well your home is weatherized, can affect usage.

Over...

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Appliance Use Cost Calculator

Based on rate of $.0746/kWh of national appliance uses, August 2010

Appliance	Monthly Use in kWh	Monthly Cost
Air Conditioner (central)	481	$35.88
Air Conditioner (room)	117	$8.73
Baseboard Heater (6')	360	$26.86
Clock	1.5	$0.11
Clothes Dryer	93	$6.94
Computer	215	$16.04
Dehumidifier	52	$3.88
Dishwasher	131	$9.77
Electric Blanket	5	$0.37
Fan (attic)	24	$1.79
Fan (circulating)	4	$0.30
Fan (window)	14	$1.04
Freezer (16 CF)	99	$7.39
Freezer (frostfree)	152	$11.34
Frying Pan	8	$0.60
Furnace (ELECTRIC)*	1947	$145.25
Hair Dryer	2	$0.15
*Heat Pump	1221	$91.09
Heater (portable)	15	$34.13
Hot Tub (1.5-KW heater, 1/1/HP)		
fiberglass	560	$41.78
dry wood	920	$68.63
wet wood	1560	$116.38
Humidifier	14	$1.04
Iron	5	$0.37
Lighting	100	$7.46
Microwave Oven	16	$1.19
Radio	7	$0.52
Radio/Record Player	9	$0.67
Range (self-cleaning)	61	$4.55
Range (w/oven)	58	$4.33
Refrigerator/Freezer (12.5 CF)	125	$9.33
Refrigerator/Freezer (frostfree, 17.5 CF)	188	$14.02
Television (19" color)	31	$2.31
**Television (LCD) wattage use range 91-584	213	$15.89
**Television (plasma) wattage use range 188-610	350	$26.11
Toaster	3	$0.22
Vacuum Cleaner	4	$0.30
Washing Machine	9	$0.67
Waterbed Heater (w/thermostat)	148	$11.04
Water Heater (52-gallon)	565	$42.15
Water Pump (1/2-HP, 5 hours/day)	112	$8.36

COST EQUATION:
Divide the watts of an appliance by 1000 to get kilowatts (kW), the electricity your appliance uses. Multiply kW by hours used per day, then by 30 days, then by the EPUD rate of $.0716/kWh, to arrive at the monthly cost.

* Furnace uses 50,000 BTUs/hour, 2080 heating load hours per year

**Cost to operate big-screen TV depends primarily on screen size and type

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