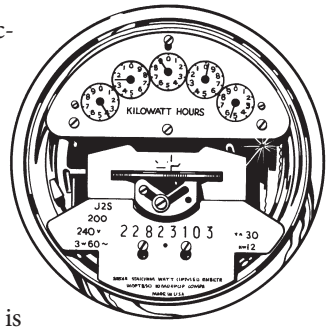
Watts New
A Newsletter for Customers of Klickitat PUD

Tracking Electrical Usage

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out your electric bill, but it does take a little detective work

How much do you know about electricity and the factors that influence the amount of power you use? If you are like most people, you probably don't give it a thought—at least not until your bill arrives.



Tracking down household electrical use is a little like detective work. Start by making a list of the household appliances you commonly use and their typical operating costs.

Read your meter each day at the same time for three to five days to see how many kilowatt-hours you use per day. One kWh is equal to the amount of electricity a 100-watt lightbulb needs to operate continuously for 10 hours.

Make a note of daily household activities—things like whether people were home, and the number of showers taken and loads of laundry or dishes done.

Actual use will vary. In the Northwest and Alaska, most consumers use more electricity when it is colder, for heating. In the Southwest, more electricity is used when it is hotter, for cooling.

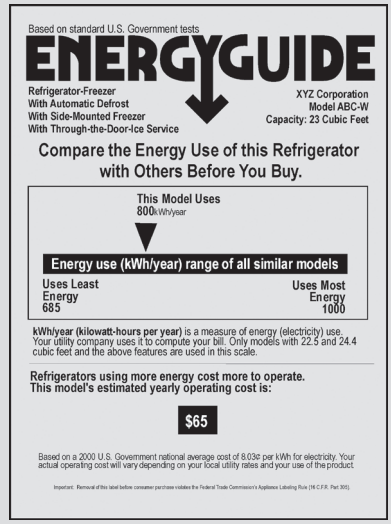
Since major appliances such as the furnace, water heater, refrigerator and freezer make up nearly three-quarters of most residential usage, keeping them in good working order will help save you money on your electric bill. ■

Cost of Using Appliances

Figures represent average usage at a rate of 9 cents per kilowatt-hour

Clothes dryer*	33¢ an hour
Clothes washer**	5¢ a load
Coffee maker	$2.43 a month
Computer (hard drive and monitor)	2¢ an hour
Dishwasher	$2.70 a month
Fan (800 to 1,500 watts)	7¢ to 14¢ an hour
Freezer (15 cu. ft.)*	$9 a month
Freezer (frost-free 15 cu. ft.)*	$13.23 a month
Heater (portable)	14¢ an hour
Microwave oven	$1.35 a month
Oven range*	$9 a month
Radio	1¢ an hour
Refrigerator/freezer (21 cu. ft.)*	$6 to $20 a month
Slow cooker	72¢ a month
Television	$4 a month
VCR	½ cent an hour
Water heater*	$43.20 a month
Water pump	$5.40 a month
Yard light (mercury vapor)	$6.48 a month

* Denotes a thermostatically controlled appliance
** Not including hot water


Based on standard U.S. Government tests

ENERGYGUIDE

Refrigerator-Freezer
With Automatic Defrost
With Side-Mounted Freezer
With Through-the-Door-Ice Service

XYZ Corporation
Model ABC-W
Capacity: 23 Cubic Feet

Compare the Energy Use of this Refrigerator with Others Before You Buy.

This Model Uses
800kWh/year

Energy use (kWh/year) range of all similar models

Uses Least Energy 685 — Uses Most Energy 1000

kWh/year (kilowatt-hours per year) is a measure of energy (electricity) use. Your utility company uses it to compute your bill. Only models with 22.5 and 24.4 cubic feet and the above features are used in this scale.

Refrigerators using more energy cost more to operate.
This model's estimated yearly operating cost is:

$65

Based on a 2000 U.S. Government national average cost of 8.03¢ per kWh for electricity. Your actual operating cost will vary depending on your local utility rates and your use of the product.

Important: Removal of this label before consumer purchase violates the Federal Trade Commission's Appliance Labeling Rule (16 C.F.R. Part 305).

EnergyGuide labels are required on all major appliances. If you are considering buying a new appliance, they can help you compare models and determine annual operating costs.

Factors Responsible for Variations in Your Bill

Conditions Affecting Use

- Seasons of the year
- Light and weather
- Five-weekend months
- Longer billing periods
- Defective house wiring
- Bill estimation

New Home

- Larger or smaller than former home
- Colder or windier location
- Less insulation
- Larger water heater and/or heating equipment
- Fewer draperies
- More appliances
- Less efficient equipment

Changes in Living Conditions

- Family size and age (new babies)
- Visitors
- Holiday activities
- Sickness
- Repairs or renovations
- Vacations
- Spring cleaning

Appliances

- Installation of new appliances
- Exposure of water heater and pipes to cold air
- Overheating the house
- Leaking hot water faucets
- Poor maintenance
- Defective appliances