

Understand and Control Your Electricity Usage

For your convenience, here is a guide to help you better understand your energy usage.

1. How is my usage measured? What is a kilowatt-hour (kWh)?

- Electricity is measured in “kilowatt-hours” (kWh). A kilowatt-hour packs about as much energy as a half-cup of gasoline.
- If you turn on a 100 watt light bulb for 10 hours, you use 1 kilowatt-hour of electricity, which adds as little as 8¢ or 9¢ or less to your electric bill.

2. How do I read my meter?

- Stand directly in front of your electric meter. Look for the dials like those below. You may have four or five dials.
- Read the dials from right to left.
- When the dial you are reading is between two numbers, write down the lower number. When the dial you are reading appears to be pointing directly at a number, look at the dial to its right. If the dial to the right is between 0 and 2, go back to the dial you are reading and write down the number at which the dial is pointing. Otherwise, write down the lower number.

d) Following this sample, copy the numbers from each dial of **your** meter here.

Read the dials right to left.
 This sample indicates a meter reading of 53607.

3. How much energy have I used so far this month?

- Enter **your** meter reading here, using the above guidelines. _____
- Enter the present/current reading from the **front of your** bill. - _____
- Subtract b from a. *This is the amount of energy used since your meter was last read.* = _____

This will NOT match the usage on your bill. Your meter is read on different days each month and your bill may include more or fewer days in the billing period.

4. How can I control my usage?

You can control your usage by following these energy saving tips.

Your energy bill is determined by how much energy you use in your home. You can control your usage by adjusting how much you use various appliances.

An average homeowner in the South spends an energy dollar like this:

| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| 55¢ | Heating, Air Conditioning |
| 20¢ | Water Heating |
| 8¢ | Freezer, Refrigerator |
| 8¢ | Lights, TV |
| 5¢ | Cooking |
| 4¢ | Clothes Dryer, Dishwasher |
| \$1.00 | Total |

- In the summer, set your thermostat to 78 degrees. In the winter, set your thermostat to 68 degrees. Every degree lower than 78 in the summer and every degree higher than 68 in the winter increases your bill by about 3% (3 cents per dollar).
- Clean or change AC/Furnace air filters monthly.
- Wrap your water heater. A water heater jacket will pay for itself in a few months.
- Fix leaky hot water faucets. A drip can waste hundreds of gallons of hot water a year

For more energy saving tips, visit www.energysaving.com.