

## Calculate Usage And Determine Your Energy Costs:

**Step 1.** Use an average cost per kilowatt-hour of 9 cents in your calculations.

**Step 2.** Determine how many kWh are required to operate an appliance:

$$\text{kWh used} = \frac{\text{wattage}^* \times \text{hours used (or fraction of an hour)}}{1000 \text{ watts}}$$

**Example:**  $\frac{1500 \text{ watts} \times 214 \text{ hours}}{1000 \text{ watts}} = 321 \text{ kWh used}$

\*Wattage should be printed on the serial plate of the appliance. If it is not listed, multiply:  
 $\text{RUNNING LOAD AMPS (RLA)} \times \text{VOLTS} = \text{WATTAGE}$

**Step 3.** Find the cost of operating the appliance:

$$\text{Cost} = \text{kWh used} \times \text{cost per kWh}$$

**Example:**  $321 \text{ kWh used} \times 9 \text{ cents per kWh} = \$28.89$

## How To Calculate Operating Costs For Appliances With Thermostats

Some appliances contain a thermostat that turns the appliance on and off during use. If the appliance has an indicator light, record the intervals of time the light is on.

See Detailed Chart Inside.

## Automated Meter Reading System

Automated meter reading (AMR) allows remote readings of any meter in Palmetto Electric Cooperative's system. This allows better tracking, quicker power restoration and improved service. With AMR, devices inside a co-op substation communicate with the meters and relay that information to headquarters. The AMR meter has a display that you can easily read.

## Palmetto Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer information on the following programs and services:

### Energy Efficiency and Savings

H2O Select® *Water Heater Program*  
EC Home Improvement® *Loan Program*  
Touchstone Energy Home® *Energy Efficiency Program*

### Safety, Security and the Environment

Illuma Knight® *Security Lighting*  
Surge Guard® *Surge Protection*  
GOFER® *Give Oil For Energy Recovery*  
Green Power *Renewable Energy Program*  
Palmetto Security Systems

### Payment Arrangements

Bank Draft  
Levelized Billing  
E-Payment

### Other Services

CHAMP™ *Appliance Repair Program*

*Call your local Palmetto Electric Cooperative office for additional information on any of these programs. You can also find information on our website: [www.palmetto.coop](http://www.palmetto.coop)*

Hampton: 803-943-2211      Hilton Head: 843-681-5551  
New River: 843-208-5551      Ridgeland: 843-726-5551  
Toll Free: 1-800-922-5551

*The Touchstone Energy® symbol is your assurance that we're a community-minded cooperative providing high standards of service to customers large and small.*



P.O. Box 820  
Ridgeland, South Carolina 29936



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# Meter Monitor

*Find out where your energy dollars go.*

**Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

# You can save money by understanding how you use electricity

## Where Do Your Energy Dollars Go?

The energy experts at Palmetto Electric Cooperative offer this brochure to help you use electricity more efficiently. One way to become a more energy efficient consumer is to learn how to read your meter and calculate the cost of operating your household appliances. We work to use innovative technologies to provide reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost. And when it comes to conserving energy - knowledge is power!

## How To Read A Meter

Electricity usage is measured in kilowatt-hours. To find out how many kilowatt-hours you've used in a given time period, you should regularly check your electric meter. Your electric meter is digital and easy to read.

Take a few minutes each day to record the reading from your electric meter on the meter monitor chart. Start at the first of the month and try to read your meter around the same time each day.

By subtracting the previous day's reading from the current day's reading, you will know how many kilowatt-hours you've used in the past 24 hours. For example:

46,397	TODAY'S READING
- 46,347	YESTERDAY'S READING
<hr/>	
50	KILOWATT-HOURS USED

	1,500	\$0.135	30	45	\$ 4.05
<b>ELECTRIC FIREPLACE</b>					
<b>FANS</b>					
ATTIC VENT (SUMMER)	375	\$0.034	360	135	\$ 12.15
CEILING FAN ON ALL DAY	88	\$0.008	730	64	\$ 5.78
CEILING FAN 8 HOURS DAY	88	\$0.008	240	21	\$ 1.90
CENTRAL A/C 3-TON SET ON AUTO	500	\$0.045	350	175	\$ 15.75
<i>TO SAVE ENERGY, DO NOT SET ON CONTINUOUS</i>					
WINDOW FAN 4 HRS/DAY	200	\$0.018	120	24	\$ 2.16
FISH POND PUMP 24HRS/DAY	300	\$0.027	730	219	\$ 19.71
FOOD PROCESSOR	370	\$0.033	2	0.7	\$ 0.07
FREEZER 18 CU FT FROST-FREE	400	\$0.036	400	160	\$ 14.40
HAIR DRYER 10 MIN/DAY	1,500	\$0.135	5	8	\$ 0.68
HAND MIXER	120	\$0.011	4	0.5	\$ 0.04
HEATING PAD	65	\$0.006	30	2.0	\$ 0.18
HEDGE TRIMMER	300	\$0.027	1	0.3	\$ 0.03
IRON 3 HR/WEEK	1,000	\$0.090	12	12	\$ 1.08
LAWN MOWER	1,200	\$0.108	4	4.8	\$ 0.43
<b>LIGHTING</b>					
AVG. FAMILY OF 4 2000 WATTS	2,000	\$0.180	120	240	\$ 21.60
INCANDESCENT 100 WATT 4HR/DAY	100	\$0.009	120	12	\$ 1.08
FLUORESCENT 25 WATT 4 HR/DAY	25	\$0.002	120	3.0	\$ 0.27
LOW VOLTAGE 10 UNIT ALL NIGHT	200	\$0.018	330	66	\$ 5.94
YARD FLOOD 300 WATT ALL NIGHT	300	\$0.027	330	99	\$ 8.91
YARD HIGH PRESSURE SODIUM	75	\$0.007	330	25	\$ 2.23
PORCH LIGHT 1 HR/DAY	100	\$0.009	30	3.0	\$ 0.27
MICROWAVE OVEN 30 MIN/DAY	1,000	\$0.090	15	15	\$ 1.35
OUTDOOR GRILL	1,500	\$0.135	10	15	\$ 1.35
OVEN (SELF CLEANING) 4 HR/WEEK	3,200	\$0.288	16	51	\$ 4.61
POOL PUMP 1 HP 24 HR/DAY	1,100	\$0.099	720	792	\$ 71.28
POOL PUMP 1 HP 8 HR/DAY	1,100	\$0.099	240	264	\$ 23.76
RADIO 1 HR/DAY	75	\$0.007	30	2.3	\$ 0.20
RANGE COOK TOP LARGE UNIT 1 HR/DAY	3,200	\$0.288	30	96	\$ 8.64
RANGE COOK TOP SMALL UNIT 1 HR/DAY	1,300	\$0.117	30	39	\$ 3.51
REFRIGERATOR 20 CU FT FROST FREE	650	\$0.059	400	260	\$ 23.40
SHAVER (RECHARGEABLE)	40	\$0.004	10	0.4	\$ 0.04
SLOW COOKER (HIGH) 1 MEAL/WK	150	\$0.014	16	2.4	\$ 0.22
SLOW COOKER (LOW) 1 MEAL/WK	75	\$0.007	16	1.2	\$ 0.11
SPACE HEATER PER HOUR	1,500	\$0.135	1	1.5	\$ 0.14
STEREO/SOUND SYSTEM 3 HR/DAY	100	\$0.009	90	9	\$ 0.81
TELEVISION 6 HR/DAY	250	\$0.023	180	45	\$ 4.05
TOASTER 5 MIN PER DAY	1,100	\$0.099	2.5	3	\$ 0.25
VCR/DVD PLAYER OR GAME SYSTEM 1HR/DAY	25	\$0.002	30	1	\$ 0.07
VACUUM CLEANER 1 1/2 HR/WEEK	650	\$0.059	6	4	\$ 0.35
WASHING MACHINE (4 LOADS/WK)	500	\$0.045	18	9	\$ 0.81
WATER HEATER (TYPICAL FAMILY OF 4)	4,500	\$0.405	70	315	\$ 28.35
WATER WELL PUMP 1 HP	1,080	\$0.097	30	32	\$ 2.92

### FOOTNOTES TO CHART:

- Chart calculations were compiled by South Carolina electric cooperative Energy Experts.
  - Calculations are based on a regional average electricity cost of 9 cents per kWh and are estimated totals only. Use can vary, based on lifestyle, family size, house size, amount of windows and doors, as well as other factors.
  - Wattage varies according to the appliance selected. When buying appliances, look for the Energy Star® label. For thermostat-controlled appliances, the percentage of "on" time is factored into the average monthly cost.
  - The exact cost of heating water is difficult to determine. It is estimated that 1 kWh will heat 5 gallons of water. The average amounts of hot water needed per household task are listed below.
- | Activity                   | Gallons |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Tub bath                   | 10-15   |
| Shower                     | 8-12    |
| Baby bath                  | 5       |
| Meal preparation           | 3       |
| Dishwashing, hand          | 3       |
| Dishwashing, automatic     | 10-15   |
| Clothes washing, automatic | 21      |

## Meter Monitor Chart

Daily Reading	kWh Used Daily	Record of Daily Activities that Affect Your Energy Use
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
Weekly Total		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
Weekly Total		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
Weekly Total		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
Weekly Total		
29		
30		
31		
Extra Days Total		
<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>		

Monthly Total kWh Usage    
 Average Cost Per kWh  = Estimated Bill

### Chart Your Energy Consumption

This chart estimates average wattage and cost of operation for large and small household appliances.

APPLIANCE	AVERAGE WATTAGE	COST PER HOUR	AVERAGE HOURS PER MONTH	kWh PER MONTH	COST PER MONTH
1/4" DRILL	287	\$0.026	0.5	0.1	\$ 0.01
A/C CENTRAL 3 TON: 10 SEER	3,600	\$0.324	350	1260	\$113.40
A/C CENTRAL 3 TON: 14 SEER	2,571	\$0.231	350	900	\$ 81.00
A/C WINDOW 12,000 BTU 9 EER	1,333	\$0.120	250	333	\$ 30.00
BLENDER	720	\$0.065	2.5	1.8	\$ 0.16
BREAD MAKER (1 LOAF)	575	\$0.052	4	2.3	\$ 0.21
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS	450	\$0.041	100	45	\$ 4.05
CIRCULAR SAW	1,150	\$0.104	1	1.2	\$ 0.10
CLOCK	4	\$0.0004	730	2.9	\$ 0.26
CLOTHES DRYER (4 LOADS/WK)	5,000	\$0.450	18	90	\$ 8.10
COFFEE MAKER	1,100	\$0.099	13	14	\$ 1.29
COMPUTER/MONITOR/PRINTER 1 HR/DAY	720	\$0.065	30	22	\$ 1.94
CURLING IRON	50	\$0.005	4	0.2	\$ 0.02
DEEP FAT FRYER	1,500	\$0.135	3.5	5	\$ 0.47
DEHUMIDIFIER	257	\$0.023	240	62	\$ 5.55
DISPOSER (GARBAGE)	700	\$0.063	1	0.7	\$ 0.06
DISHWASHER (NOT INCL.HOT WATER)	1,200	\$0.108	20	24	\$ 2.16
EDGER	480	\$0.043	1	0.5	\$ 0.04
ELECTRIC BLANKET	175	\$0.016	120	21	\$ 1.89

By recording a reading daily, you can determine which days you used the most electricity. Use the meter monitor chart on the next page to calculate your weekly and monthly totals.

When records show that large amounts of electricity have been used, look at your family's activities during those periods. Did you have guests? Did the weather change? Then, you can adjust your activities to use energy more wisely.

### Knowing What It Costs To Operate Appliances Can Help You Save Money

Price is not the only thing to consider when purchasing appliances. Knowing how much it costs to run them can save you money. Included here is a convenient chart that provides estimates of average monthly costs. Actual costs may vary greatly depending on the size of your family and your lifestyle. Remember, the cost of operating an appliance depends on the unit's wattage, the length of time it is operated and the cost of electricity per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

