Understanding Electricity Usage & Costs

Understanding how you use electricity in your home is the first step in making smarter, more informed decisions regarding your energy consumption. This fact sheet can help you learn what it costs to run some common electrical devices and where you might have opportunities to save money.

By using the formula below, you can calculate a device's kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage and approximate cost. Wattage can usually be found on the bottom or back of the device. If it is not, you can multiply the amperage, which is required to be listed on the device, by the voltage, which is typically 120. Larger appliances, such as clothes dryers, use 240 volts.

$$\frac{\text{Appliance wattage} \times \text{hours in use}}{1{,}000} \times \underset{(0.1386)}{13.86 \text{ cents}} = \text{Average cost}$$

Electronic Devices	Approximate Wattage	Avg. Hrs. Used/Mo.	Avg. kWh Used/Mo.	Average Cost/Mo.
Kitchen				
Coffee maker	1,050	5	5.3	$0.73
Dishwasher	1,800	13.75	24.8	$3.44
Microwave oven	925	15	13.9	$1.93
Refrigerator (16 cubic feet)	725	288	208.8	$28.94
Laundry				
Clothes dryer	3,400	14.75	50.2	$6.96
Clothes washer	425	18	7.7	$1.07
Iron	1,400	5	7	$0.97
Lighting				
Compact fluorescent bulb (CFL)	25	30	0.8	$0.11
LED light bulb (equivalent to 100w incandescent)	13	30	0.4	$0.06
Incandescent bulb	100	30	3	$0.42
Heating & Cooling				
Whole-house fan	495	360	178.2	$24.70
Ceiling fan	120	360	43.2	$5.99
Dehumidifier	785	360	282.6	$39.17
Furnace fan	750	720	540	$74.84
Portable space heater	1,125	77.75	87.5	$12.13
Water heater, 40 gal.	5,000	75	375	$51.98
Window fan	150	360	54	$7.48
Home Electronics				
Desktop computer	120	60	7.2	$1.00
Monitor	150	60	9	$1.25
Laptop	50	60	3	$0.42
Television, standard 28"	120	180	21.6	$2.99
Television, LCD 42"	120	180	21.6	$2.00
Television, LED 42"	80	180	14.4	$2.99
Gaming Systems				
PS4™	137	30	4.1	$0.57
Wii U™	34	30	1	$0.14
Xbox One™	112	30	3.4	$0.47
Miscellaneous				
Clock radio	10	720	7.2	$1.00
Electric blanket (double)	100	90	9	$1.25
Vacuum cleaner	1,220	2	2.4	$0.33
Well pump	675	14	9.5	$1.32

Here are a few common household electronic devices. The costs shown on this sample fact sheet are based on an average total price of 13.86 cents per kWh. The costs for electricity in your home may vary depending on usage patterns, actual electric rate, the wattage of appliances and the amount of time they are in use.

For a better understanding of your usage and how you can help reduce your electricity consumption, visit *www.energysavenj.com* and click on the Home Energy Analyzer.

Important Notes: These estimates are based on average size and use of each device. Operating costs may vary considerably due to the type, size, frequency and duration of use, as well as differences in family living habits. Older products often use far more energy than new, energy-efficient models.

The wattages listed on this chart came from several sources, including the U.S. Department of Energy's website: *www.energy.gov*.

The price per kWh is subject to change.

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COMM8112-05-16-GS-DP

Produced by FirstEnergy's Communications and Marketing Department