

What is a kilowatt hour?

The electricity you use is measured by an electric meter in kilowatt hours. A watt is a unit of electric power and 1,000 watts is equal to one kilowatt. A kilowatt hour (kWh) is 1,000 watts of electricity used for one hour.

Appliances affect electrical usage

The number and types of appliances you operate and the way they are used affect the amount of electricity consumed each month. To find out how a new appliance may affect your electric bill, check the wattage of the appliance. A chart of average wattages and estimated kilowatt hours used per month by common appliances is listed inside this booklet.

To get a more accurate estimate of the energy usage of an appliance, find the exact wattage. This is usually listed on a metal plate or imprinted on the appliance. If wattage is not listed, Volts x Amps = Watts.

After you determine the appliance's wattage, use the cost guide on page six to figure cost of operation for one month. A low-wattage appliance that runs continuously may use more total energy each month than a high-wattage unit used occasionally. Don't judge kWh usage only by the wattage rating of the appliance.

Your electric bill is a personal statement about your lifestyle. No two families' bills are alike because it's what you use that affects your bill, and your bill is seldom the same from billing cycle to billing cycle. Meter reading periods for a monthly bill may vary between 28 and 33 days because of weekends and holidays. That could affect a bill by more than 15 percent.

Lights and appliances are used differently from month to month. Weather can play a big part in determining your usage from month to month or even day to day. In summer, most families wear more washable clothing, so laundry equipment gets more use. Refrigerators and freezers work harder in summer, too. Older, less efficient room air conditioners can also be a factor in increased hot weather energy use.

In winter, colder water means the water heater must work harder. Furnace motors and controls work long and hard, too. Fireplaces without tightly fitting dampers and glass fire doors can actually increase energy use by drawing heated air up and out the chimney.

Many other factors can influence the amount of a monthly electric bill. An infant or small child in the

family means more hot water for laundry and possibly higher indoor air temperatures. Hobby equipment used by family members can add to total energy use.

Teenagers in the home often result in higher electric bills. There may be a desire for more electronic equipment depending on the families' interests. Do both husband and wife work, or is the home occupied all day?

Even when you're on vacation, many of the appliances in your home — refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, clocks, telephone answering machines, and the like — keep right on going. When guests stay in your home, you can usually expect some increase in energy use. These and many other factors are reflected in your total electric use.

To see how your lifestyle translates into kilowatt hours or dollars and cents, fill out the Home Use Chart on page four. To determine kilowatt hour use per month (kWh/month), use the chart of listed appliances or the Cost of Operation Guide.

Cost/month can be determined by multiplying kWh/month by your average electric rate. You can find your average rate by looking at your last electric bill or by requesting a copy of your rate schedule from your utility company. Rate schedules are also available on the company's website, www.lge-ku.com.

Common Appliances

Typical Wattages and kWh/Month

Space Conditioning		
Appliance	Typical Wattage	kWh/Month
A/C window unit, 1 ton, 12 SEER	1,000	240 ¹
A/C central unit, 3 ton, 12 SEER	3,000	720 ¹
Electric resistance heating	10,000	1,800 ²
Furnace blower (1/2 hp)	440	105 ²
Portable heater	1,500	1.5/hour
Whole-house attic fan (30")	1,000	96 ¹
Ceiling fan (lights off)	70	9 ³
Box fan (20")	180	22 ³
Humidifier (winter)	175	42 ¹
Dehumidifier (summer), 25-pint cap.	300	108 ⁴

1) Running 8 hours per day.
2) Running 6 hours per day.
3) Running 4 hours per day.
4) Running 12 hours per day.

Kitchen		
Appliance	Typical Wattage	kWh/Month
Refrigerator/freezer (22 cu.ft., frost free, 2006 model)	350	60
Refrigerator/freezer (22 cu.ft., frost free, 1990 model)	550	110
Range top	1,500/2,500 ¹	34 ²
Oven	3,500	52 ³
Microwave oven	1,500	11 ⁴
Disposal (3/4 hp)	650	2 ⁵
Dishwasher	400	6 ⁶
Freezer	350	50
Coffee maker (auto drip)	300	9 ⁷
Toaster oven	1,500	6 ⁴
Toaster	1,100	2 ⁵

1) Small burners rated at 1,500 W, large burners rated at 2,500 W.
2) Used 40 minutes per day.
3) Used 30 minutes per day.
4) Used 15 minutes per day.
5) Used 5 minutes per day.
6) Used 1 hour every other day.
7) Used 1 hour per day.

Laundry		
Appliance	Typical Wattage	kWh/Month
Top-load clothes washer (electric water heating)	1,200	75
Top-load clothes washer (gas water heating)	650	10 ¹
Front-load clothes washer (electric water heating)	1,200	30
Front-load clothes washer (gas water heating)	650	6 ²
Clothes dryer (electric)	5,000	80

1) Gas usage estimated at 2.5 ccf/month.
2) Gas usage estimated at 1.0 ccf/month.

Office		
Appliance	Typical Wattage	kWh/Month
Desktop computer	150	18 ¹
17" LCD monitor	35	4 ¹
17" CRT monitor	75	9 ¹
Laser jet printer	350	35
Ink jet printer	50	5

1) Used 4 hours per day.