

ELECTRIC METER

The electric meter is a key part of this process. It moves the electricity into your home and counts how much electricity you use. It's the tool your electric utility relies on to calculate your electricity usage — and then bill you for it.

A standard electric meter is like a clock, powered by the electricity that moves through it. As the electricity enters your home, a small set of gears inside the meter begin to move. The number of rotations those gears make is recorded by the dials on the face of the meter. The more electricity your home is using, the faster those gears rotate.

ELECTRIC METER READING LESSON:



Reading: 4
Clockwise



Reading: 9
Counterclockwise



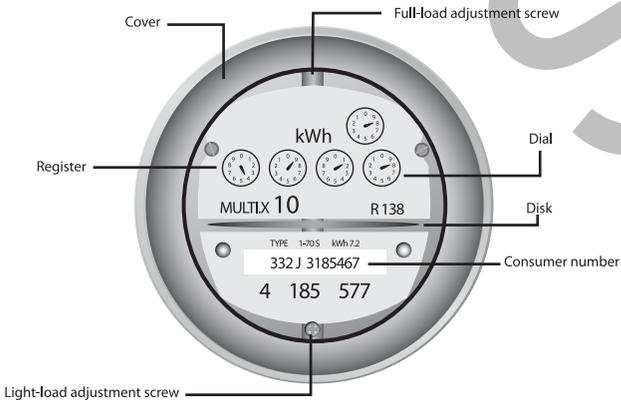
Reading: 1
Clockwise



Reading: 8
Counterclockwise

(The meter above reads 4918. According to your most recent bill, it previously read 4218.)

The Current Reading (4918) minus the Previous Reading (4218) equals 700. So, in this example, you have used 700 kilowatt hours of power since your last electric meter reading.



For more information

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy www.aceee.org

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy www.eere.energy.gov

Energy Star, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.energystar.gov

This brochure is a product of Project Energy Savers www.projectenergysavers.org

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KNOW YOUR ENERGY BILL



ELECTRICITY IN YOUR HOME

Your energy bill doesn't come with a tidy receipt listing how much energy each appliance in your home uses. It summarizes your total energy use, from the fridge to the air conditioner. But there is an easy place to start: understanding where most homes use the most energy.

More than one-third of your energy bill is spent on simply heating and cooling your home. That's more than you spend to heat water, power lights, and run all of your electronics – combined. But smaller items add up, too. You spend 7% of your total energy bill just running your refrigerator. Stoves, ovens and computers also add to the bill.



These costs add up, but your savings can add up, too – if you reduce your energy use in both big and small ways.

BASIC FACTS

GETTING STARTED

Your home usually needs several different types of energy. You pay for each of them.

When you know how to read your electric bill, you can monitor your usage - and check for errors

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is the basic unit of electric energy for which a customer is billed. It is the multiplication product of power (kW) by time used (h).

Your energy bill details how many kWh of energy you've used since your last bill. Here we break down a typical bill in detail.

A HOME ENERGY AUDIT

You can pinpoint where your home uses the most energy by doing a simple home energy audit. The energy audit determines which parts of your home use the most energy - these are the areas where you should begin your efforts. You can contact your local utility company or your state's energy program to see if they provide a low-cost or no-cost energy audit.

HOW TO READ YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

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Name: Harry Smith

Account number: 75-5255-0952-0905-5

Your account number: 75-5255-0952-0905-5

Service delivered to: 35 Main Street

Your electric rate: Residential

Next meter reading date: Friday, Jan 3, 2009

Avoid estimate bills - please give us access to read your meter.

Your billing summary as of Nov 5, 2008

Your previous charges and payments

Total charges from your last bill	\$43.33
Payments through Nov 3, thank you	\$43.33
Remaining balance	None

Your new charges - details start on page 2

Billing period: Nov 05, 2008 to Dec 04, 2008	
Electricity charges - for 30 days	\$82.69

Total new charges	\$82.69
Total amount due	\$82.69

Payment is due upon receipt of this bill. To avoid a late payment charge of 1.5%, please pay the total amount due by Dec 29, 2008.

BALANCE:

Your current amount due is listed. Any past balances on your account are also shown.

BILLING PERIOD:

This is the time frame for which you are being charged. Common billing periods are monthly, every two months or quarterly.

SERVICE AND DELIVERY CHARGES:

These charges are the same every month. You'll also see here any taxes that apply in your area.

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Name: PROJECT ENERGY SAVERS LLC

Account number: 05-5555-0555-0005-5

Your electricity charges

These charges are for the electricity you used (supply) and getting that electricity to you (delivery). Rates are based on a 30-day period. When your billing period is more or less than 30 days, we prorate your bill accordingly.

Electricity you used during this 30-day billing period from Nov 05, 2008 to Dec 04, 2008	
Rate: EL2 Small Non-residential	Meter# 6192440
We measure your electricity by how many kilowatt hours (kWh) you use. One kWh will light a 100-watt bulb for 10 hours.	
Dec 04, 08 actual reading	67031
Nov 05, 08 actual reading	- 66857
Your electricity use	174 kWh

► Your electricity charges

Supply 174 kWh @ 23.7586¢/kWh	\$41.34
Charge for the electricity supplied to you by Con Edison.	
Merchant function charge	\$0.81
Charge associated with procuring electricity, credit and collection related activities and uncollected accounts.	
GRT & other tax surcharges	\$1.01
Taxes on Con Edison gross receipts from sales of utility services and other tax surcharges.	
Total supply charges	\$43.16

Your total electricity supply cost for this bill is 24.8¢ per kWh. You can compare this price with those offered by energy services companies (ESCOs). For a list of ESCOs, visit www.PowerYourWay.com or call 1-800-780-2884.

► Your delivery charges

Basic service charge	\$16.02
Charge for basic system infrastructure and customer related services, including customer accounting, meter reading and meter maintenance. A billing and payment processing charge of \$0.94, which may be avoided by switching to an energy service company (ESCO), is also included.	
Delivery 174 kWh @ 9.1437¢/kWh	\$15.91
Charge for maintaining the system through Con Edison.	

METER READING:

Your company takes a meter reading every billing period to find the number of kWh you've used since the last billing period. This is your energy usage. Sometimes it's an estimate based on average usage for your area; to avoid this, ensure the utility has access to your home's meter to get an actual reading. This is the number you have control of - you can easily reduce it with energy-efficient habits.