

Coastlines

News and Information for Customers of the Central Lincoln People's Utility District

What Goes Up Can Come Down: Easy Ways to Lower Your Electricity Use



Winter packs a double hit to electricity bills with colder weather and shorter days. Of every \$100 spent on home energy, a typical family pays \$45 for heating.

As Central Lincoln is publicly-owned and not for profit, you will **not** find us pushing you to use more kilowatts. We are committed to helping you conserve. At 6.14 cents a kilowatt hour, our rates are still among the lowest in the country, but those kilowatt hours can add up.

A checklist of easy things you can do to help lower your electricity bill and \$ave money:

Heating

- ☐ Set the thermostat no higher than **68 degrees** when you are home.
- ☐ If you are going to be gone more than an hour, or are heading to bed, **lower the thermostat to 55**. For every one degree you lower your thermostat, you'll save about 3% on heating costs.
- ☐ **Install "heat anticipating" clock thermostats**--they'll turn down your heat at night and turn it up in the morning so your house will be warmed when you wake up.
- ☐ If you have a **furnace or forced-air heating**, make sure to clean or replace air filters every three months during winter and spring. (Many forced-air systems have two or more filters; you may

need to check.) Check for loose ductwork, and consider having ducts tested and sealed.

- ☐ **Baseboard heaters?** Carefully remove covers, and vacuum dust and dirt from the fins behind the covers. Make sure to securely replace the covers.



In our Reedsport office, Diane puts down the window shades at sunset to keep heat in and conserve energy.

- ☐ (fan-forced) **Wall heaters?** Remove grill, wash it in hot soapy water, then dry. Carefully vacuum off only the blower wheel. Use a blow dryer on low or medium to gently blow dust off the element.
- ☐ Close **fireplace damper** or glass doors when not in use (but make certain fire is completely out!)

Windows

- ☐ **Open curtains on south-facing windows** during daylight hours.
- ☐ Close curtains, drapes, and shades at sunset **to help keep in heat**.
- ☐ Check **weather-stripping** on windows and doors.

Water

- ☐ Set your water heater's thermostat **no higher than 120 degrees**. (Turn off the electricity to the heater at the breaker, remove top and bottom cover plates on the side of the heater, adjust both thermostats to 120, replace covers, then turn power back on.)
- ☐ When leaving for an extended period of time, turn off your



Karen checks the thermostat to make sure it isn't set higher than 68 degrees when she's at work at our Reedsport office.



Back by popular demand!

Our annual list of

"What it costs to run your appliances"
Suitable for posting on a refrigerator near you!



What It Costs to Run...?

We are frequently asked how much it costs to run various appliances. There are many differences due to brand, style, age, and condition, but here are some

“ballpark” averages.

(Costs are based on our current residential rates, and hours of use are based on having three people living in one’s home.)



While checking the thermostat in a water heater takes a few steps, Frank in Central Lincoln’s Reedsport office knows the time spent is worth the savings.

- water heater at the electrical panel.
- **Shower** rather than soak--showers use less water than baths.
- When doing **laundry**, wash with warm or cold water instead of hot. Use cold water for rinse cycles.
- Low-flow shower heads **use less than half the water** of ordinary ones.

And...

- **Check electrical outlets** on the inside of all exterior walls. If they don’t have insulating gaskets behind every outlet place, put one in (available at home improvement or hardware stores)
- Make certain to **clean lint filters** every time you dry your laundry.

Thank You

to everyone who signed up for our **Round Up** program to help those in need! Round Up rounds customers’ bills up to the nearest dollar, and the amount raised is given to charities in the Central Lincoln district to help folks having difficulty paying for heat this winter. The program costs donors no more than \$11.88 a year and really helps the needy. To sign up, call your nearest Central Lincoln office (numbers are on the back of your bill), write “Please sign me up for “Round Up” on your payment stub, or email us at webmaster@clpud.org.

APPLIANCE	WATTS	HRS/MO.	COST/HR.	COST/MO.
Air Conditioner (large window unit)	1,440	480	.09	\$42.43
Blender	350	2	2.1¢	\$ 0.04
Clock Radio	4	732	.0002¢	\$ 0.18
Coffee Maker	1,000	10	6.1¢	\$.61
Computer, Desktop	300	30	1.8¢	\$.55
Computer Printer	50	7	0.3¢	\$.02
Dehumidifier	250	126	1.5¢	\$ 1.93
Dishwasher (One load per day)	1,200	30	7.4¢	\$ 2.21
Dryer, Clothes	4,500	30	27.6¢	\$ 8.29
Electric Blanket	150	120	0.9¢	\$ 1.11
Food Dehydrator	600	4	3.7¢	\$.15
Food Processor	375	10	2.3¢	\$.23
Freezer	750	200	4.6¢	\$ 9.21
Furnace (fan only)	200	200	1.2¢	\$ 2.45
Garbage Disposal	445	2.5	2.7¢	\$.07
Hair Dryer	1,000	6	6.1¢	\$.37
Heater, Portable	1,250	30	7.7¢	\$ 2.30
Heater, Baseboard	1,500	180	9.2 ¢	\$16.58
Home Video Game (w/TV)	160	60	1.0¢	\$.59
Hot Tub (Heater)	1,200	200	7.4¢	\$14.74
Lawn Mower, Electric	1,200	4	7.4¢	\$.29
Light Bulb, 100-watt incandescent	100	180	0.6¢	\$ 1.10
Light, Compact Fluorescent (CFL)	35	180	0.2¢	\$.39
Lights, Christmas (64 lights)	480	50	2.9¢	\$ 1.47
Microwave Oven	700	15	4.3¢	\$.64
Oven	2,000	20	12.2¢	\$ 2.46
Range, Small Burner	1,250	20	7.7¢	\$ 1.54
Range, Large Burner	2,100	20	12.9¢	\$ 2.58
Refrigerator Pre-1978	479	300	2.9¢	\$ 8.82
1978-1989	319	300	2.0¢	\$ 5.88
1989-1992	256	300	1.6¢	\$ 4.72
1992 or newer	195	300	1.2¢	\$ 3.59
Sewing Machine	100	10	0.6¢	\$.06
Slow Cooker	100	32	0.6¢	\$.20
Stereo System	500	150	3.0¢	\$ 4.61
TV, Color	150	150	0.9¢	\$ 1.38
TV, Black & White	100	150	0.6¢	\$.92
TV, LCD	260	150	1.5¢	\$ 2.40
TV, Plasma (55"-56")	340	150	2.1¢	\$ 3.13
Toaster	1,000	5	6.1¢	\$.31
Toaster Oven	1,300	8	8.0¢	\$.64
Vacuum Cleaner	420	10	2.6¢	\$.26
Ventilation Fan	250	30	1.5¢	\$.46
Video Game (Nintendo Wii)	18	50	1.1¢	\$.55
Washing Machine	500	30	3.0¢	\$.92
Washing Machine, Horiz. Axis	250	30	1.5¢	\$.46
Water Bed Heater	400	350	2.5¢	\$ 8.60
Water Heater, 52-gallon	4,500	135	28.6¢	\$37.30