



## MISCELLANEOUS ENERGY DEVICES

ELECTRIC DEVICES	LEVEL OF USE	MONTHLY COST	ENERGY SAVING TIPS
Dehumidifier	8 hrs./day	\$22.80/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Try to identify and eliminate sources of moisture in your home in order to reduce use of the dehumidifier</li> <li>Run with windows closed</li> </ul>
Freezer (frost free; 10-15 years old)	24 hrs./day	\$23.80/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the time you open the doors</li> <li>Consider purchasing an ENERGY STAR® unit which uses one-third the amount of electricity</li> </ul>
Waterbed heater	10 hrs./day	\$21.49/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insulate your waterbed, keeping it covered with a comforter or other blankets</li> <li>Use a timer to run the heater only when needed</li> </ul>
10 regular light bulbs (100 watts each)	4 hrs./day	\$22.80/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn off lights when you don't need them</li> <li>Replace light bulbs you use the most with compact fluorescent bulbs</li> <li>CFLs use only one-quarter the amount of electricity</li> </ul>
Fish tank (with light and filter; 50 gallons)	7 hrs./day	\$9.40/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the light only when you need to maintain the water temperature</li> </ul>
Hot tub (500 gallons)	24 hrs./day	\$31.40/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When not in use, turn temperature down and use an insulated tight-fitting cover</li> </ul>



## WINTER SEASON

ELECTRIC DEVICES	LEVEL OF USE	MONTHLY COST	ENERGY SAVING TIPS
Portable Heater (1,500 watts)	8 hrs./day	\$68.40/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only use when necessary and in occupied rooms</li> </ul>
Electric blanket (King size bed)	8 hrs./day	\$7.70/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider using the electric blanket only to warm up the bed</li> <li>Turn it off when you settle in</li> </ul>
Furnace	24 hrs./day	50-60% of winter energy costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insulate your attic</li> <li>Insulate heating ducts and save 10-30% of heating costs</li> <li>Seal cracks around windows and doors</li> <li>Lower your thermostat at night and when you are not home</li> <li>Install a programmable thermostat</li> </ul>



**Insulate** attics, foundations, heating ducts and hot water pipes



**Caulk** around windows and doors



**Open your shades** during the day and close at night



## SUMMER SEASON

ELECTRIC DEVICES	LEVEL OF USE	MONTHLY COST	ENERGY SAVING TIPS
Room air conditioner (12,000 BTU)	6 hrs./day	\$41.00/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use only when necessary</li> <li>Turn it down or off when you are not home</li> </ul>
Central air conditioner		\$123.10/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a programmable thermostat</li> <li>Keep windows shut</li> <li>Use a fan to circulate the air better</li> </ul>
Circulating fan	6 hrs./day	\$2.90/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use fans to help move the air around and bring in cooler air at night</li> <li>Fans use much less energy than air conditioners</li> </ul>
Swimming pool pump (1 horsepower)	8 hrs./day	\$36.50/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check that the pump filter is clean and the pump is well lubricated</li> <li>Turn off when not needed</li> <li>Use a programmable timer</li> </ul>

For more do-it-yourself tips and energy efficiency programs with financial incentives, visit [www.AskPSC.com](http://www.AskPSC.com) or call **1-888-Ask-PSC1**.



Department of Public Service

## HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICITY USE AND ENERGY SAVING TIPS



A New York State Department of Public Service Consumer Guide



Department of Public Service



## HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICITY USE AND ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Look around. What appliances are on? Do you know how much they are costing you? Knowing how much your main electric devices cost to run will help you lower your utility bills and become more energy efficient.

This brochure includes a list of common household electric devices and appliances, their estimated operating costs based on level of usage, and some energy saving tips. The operating costs of your appliances and electric devices may differ from those listed here depending on their size, age and frequency of use.

The estimated monthly cost is based on a certain level of use. If your level of use is different from the amount shown, you should recalculate your cost based on your usage. For example, if your personal computer is on for 10 hours a day, instead of the five hours shown in the chart, the amount of electricity it consumes would be twice as much. Therefore, your monthly personal computer cost would be \$16.00, instead of \$8.00.

Use the information in the chart to estimate your savings if you reduce your energy use. For example, if you normally run your dishwasher each day, the monthly cost would be \$5.70. If you were able to reduce the number of times you use your dishwasher to once every other day, you could cut your cost in half and save \$2.85.

The cost figures are based on 19 cents per kilowatt hour, the New York State average. A kilowatt hour is the standard unit of electricity measured by a meter. For example, a 100-watt light bulb used for 10 hours consumes one kilowatt hour of electricity.

### KITCHEN

ELECTRIC DEVICES	LEVEL OF USE	MONTHLY COST	ENERGY SAVING TIPS
Refrigerator (18 cubic feet; 10-15 years old)	24 hrs./day	\$32.10/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit opening the doors</li> <li>Set the refrigerator at 38-40° and the freezer at 0-5°</li> <li>Consider purchasing an Energy Star® unit which will use one-third the amount of electricity</li> </ul>
Oven	30 min./day	\$20.10/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider using a toaster or microwave oven, which use about one-tenth the amount of electricity of a conventional oven</li> </ul>
Stove top burner (large burner)	30 min./day	\$7.30/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smaller burners use one-half the amount of electricity</li> <li>Cook with lids on your pans</li> </ul>
Dishwasher (washing and drying cycles)	1 load a day	\$5.70/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Run dishwasher only when full</li> <li>Use air dry (instead of heat dry) to use one-half the amount of electricity</li> </ul>
Microwave (1,400 watts)	30 min./day	\$4.00/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a microwave oven for cooking when possible</li> <li>Microwaves use about one-tenth the amount of electricity as an oven</li> </ul>
Coffee maker	30 min./day	\$1.70/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn off coffee maker when not brewing or warming coffee</li> </ul>

### HOME ENTERTAINMENT AND OFFICE

ELECTRIC DEVICES	LEVEL OF USE	MONTHLY COST	ENERGY SAVING TIPS
Large Screen TV	6 hrs./day	\$9.40/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn the TV off when you are not watching it</li> </ul>
Standard Size TV	6 hrs./day	\$6.80/mo.	
Cable box	24 hrs./day	\$4.80/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider unplugging extra cable boxes that are not in use so they do not draw power</li> <li>Ask your cable provider for an ENERGY STAR device</li> </ul>
Personal computer (with monitor and printer)	5 hrs./day	\$8.00/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you are not using your computer, turn it off, including the monitor and printer</li> </ul>



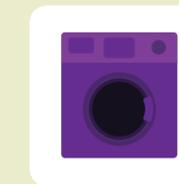
Install a **programmable thermostat**



Take advantage of **rebates and discounts** on energy efficiency improvements



Use **ENERGY STAR®** appliances and devices



Use your **washer and clothes dryer** at nighttime or off-peak hours



**Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)** use 75% less electricity than incandescent bulbs



Turn off **lights** in rooms not in use

### LAUNDRY AND BATHROOM

ELECTRIC DEVICES	LEVEL OF USE	MONTHLY COST	ENERGY SAVING TIPS
Water heater electric (52 gallons)	24 hrs./day	\$77.00/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insulate hot water heater and hot water pipes</li> <li>Lower water temperature to 120° (140° if you have a dishwasher)</li> <li>Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads</li> </ul>
Clothes dryer	1 load/day	\$17.80/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a clothesline when possible</li> </ul>
Clothes washer	1 load/day	\$5.90/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use cold water when you can</li> </ul>
Hair dryer	15 min./day	\$2.30/mo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dry your hair only when you need to</li> <li>Consider air drying in warmer weather</li> </ul>