

# How to calculate your energy costs



Calculating your energy costs means that you need to sit down with your utility bill and calculate the monthly energy consumption of an individual appliance. Weigh it against the total that you currently pay for energy in a month.

As a benchmark for comparison, the average household energy consumption is 1100kWh per month. Your tariff can be found on your monthly utility bill or on your prepaid electricity slip.

Working out the energy consumption of individual appliances is not difficult, all you need is the wattage of the appliance which you want to track.

The wattage is usually printed on the actual appliance or on its packaging. The wattage then needs to be multiplied by the number of hours that the appliance is switched on for in a given month. The result is the amount of energy that appliance uses in a month. Subtract this number from the total of your utility bill to find the portion of your monthly energy that the specific appliance uses.

## Example:

A 200W TV is used for only 60 hours per month.

The total electricity used is  $200 \times 60 = 12\,000\text{W}$  or 12kWh

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