

How much electricity do your appliances use?

Some of your biggest users of electricity in your home are also physically big, but not always! Your heating system is probably the biggest energy user, whether it's fueled by propane, natural gas or electricity. Your air conditioner may be second, or your water heater if you have a family's worth of laundry and bathing.

After those uses, energy use drops off pretty quickly for individual appliances or tools, but most of us have a lot of those smaller loads! Their use will vary a lot depending on how many hours a month they are turned on – think TVs left on all day and evening versus a couple of hours of viewing each night.

Also, many appliances use a small amount of power even when they're not in use! Instant-on TVs, cable and satellite boxes, and phone chargers are examples of this "phantom power use," and they can add up to a few dollars a month pretty easily.

To help you understand where your electric energy is used, RECC offers the free booklet titled "Your Family is Unique," that lists many common appliances, lighting and electronics devices. It gives a typical wattage rating for each item, which is how much power they draw when in use.

You also need an estimate of how many hours per day or per month that device runs to calculate how much electrical energy it uses, and what it costs to run. The booklet gives you an estimate, but you might want to adjust for your own usage habits. And don't forget that you probably have more than one TV or other entertainment devices!

You can ask for a free copy of "Your Family is Unique," or view it on our website at www.recc.coop. A few general estimates are shown below to get you started!



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You can request the "Your Family is Unique" booklet by calling our office at 217-438-6197