



SOLAR DECATHLON 2009

Making Smart Choices to Manage Your Energy Bill



Donna Mann

Process Manager, Plan & Manage Customer Satisfaction

Alita Corbett

Customer & Community Relation Manager



Overview

- About electricity prices
- Understanding your bill
- Actions you can take – ways to save
- Learn more online with My Account
- Energy Assistance



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Electricity Prices – why so high?

- Fuel costs
 - Generating mix, including renewables
- Deregulation
- Operating costs
- Usage
 - Bigger homes
 - More electronics
 - Work at home
 - Weather



Where to begin?

- Look at how you use energy
- Look for ways to save
- Sign up for budget billing plan
- Learn more online with My Account



Start with your electric bill

- Check the monthly usage chart on your bill or go online to My Account to see how much energy your home typically uses
- Compare usage from the current month last year with usage this year
- If kwh usage has changed, look for reasons why (weather, billing cycle days, additional equipment or appliances, additional people)
- If no change in usage, check for price changes



Ways to save – manage your thermostat

- Turning down (or up) your thermostat is one of the most effective ways to cut your power usage
- Invest in a programmable thermostat
 - If you have a heat pump, use a programmable thermostat made for heat pumps to avoid activating costly supplemental resistance heaters
- Check your thermostat's location and surroundings

If your health permits, a slightly cooler home in winter or warmer home in summer will save money on your energy bill.



Ways to save – stop air leaks

- Losing warm or cool air means your furnace or a/c has to run more often
- Replace worn weatherstripping and caulk around doors and windows
- Install foam inserts in rooms with outlet and switch boxes along exterior walls
- Inspect your attic and walls and add insulation if necessary



Ways to save – switch to CFLs



Soft white



Bright white



Daylight

- Compact fluorescent bulbs use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and are available in a range of colors to meet your specific needs. LED lights save even more.



Sign up for budget billing

- Most utilities offer a version of an average payment plan, often called budget billing, that lets you spread monthly payments evenly over the year
- Makes your monthly bills predictable, avoiding extreme hot or cold weather-influenced spikes in usage
- Expect one or two adjustments during the year
- Requires one year of service at your address



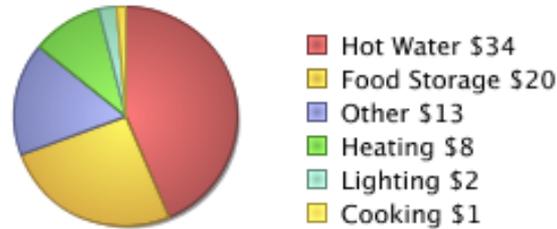
Learn more with online energy tools

- Many utility companies offer an online service to manage energy bills
- Pepco's My Account online application is free, easy and will show you:
 - How to do an easy in-home energy audit
 - How your home uses energy
 - Steps you can take to save energy
 - How your current bill compares to the previous month or year
 - How your home's energy use compares to others similar in size
 - How to analyze your billing history



*My Account –
an online
interactive tool
that provides
information and
advice*

Electricity Costs 3/11/2009 to 4/9/2009



Electricity

Control my costs!

Hot Water is your highest energy expense. Click **Find ways to save** to get specific recommendations for reducing your energy costs.

How does my home compare?

7311 17TH AV



Electricity Costs 3/11/2009 to 4/9/2009



Electricity

Congratulations! Your home used less energy than most of the similar homes in your area.

How does my home use energy?

How can I control my costs?

How does my home compare?



Previous Balance and Total Current Charges.

Bill Highlights
7311 17TH AV

- ⬇ Your energy charges were \$ 50.57 lower for this bill.

- ⬇ Your electric usage decreased for this bill.

- A previous balance of \$ 26.73 is included in this bill.

- ⬇ The weather decreased your bill by \$5 - \$8.

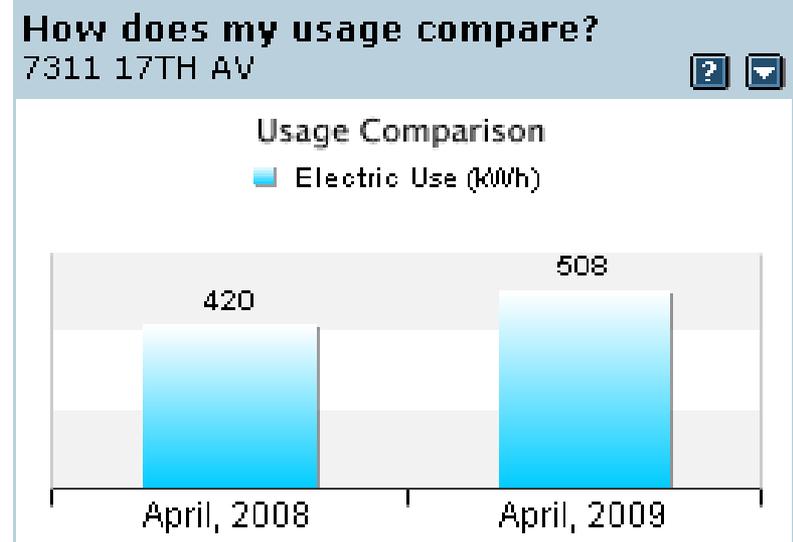
- ⬇ A shorter billing period decreased your Electric usage for this bill compared to the previous bill.

- ⬇ Your electric rate decreased your bill \$ 0.87 this month.

Bill Analysis

Still have questions about this bill? Find out more about why your bill has changed.

How does my bill compare to last year?



Why is my bill different than before?



Tools to help you improve your home

This section is filled with tools for finding the most efficient improvement projects for your home.

Lighting Improvements

Find out how to improve your home by using efficient lighting products.

[Go To Lighting Module](#)



Lighting Calculator

Find out how much you can save with energy-efficient light bulbs.

Cooling Improvements

Get detailed ways to improve your cooling system and save energy.

[Go To Cooling Module](#)



Cooling System Calculator

Estimate the cost of a new central A/C system and find out how much you can save.



Room A/C Calculator

Find the right size room air conditioner for any room in your home.

Heating Improvements

Get detailed ways to improve your heating system and save energy.

[Go To Heating Module](#)



Heating System Calculator

Estimate the cost of replacing your heating system and find out how much you can save.



Thermo Calc

Find out how much you can save by simply adjusting your thermostat.



Heating Comparison Calculator

Estimate the cost of running your heating system compared to various energy-efficient options.

Appliance Improvements

Compare your appliances with new energy-efficient models. Find out how much you can save.



Appliance Calc

Calculate how much it costs to run your appliances.



Fridge Calc

Calculate what you will save by replacing your old refrigerator with an energy-efficient model.



Washer Calc

Calculate what you will save by replacing your old washer with an energy-efficient model.



Dryer Calc

Calculate how much it costs to run your dryer. Learn what you will save by replacing your old dryer with an energy-efficient model.



Water Heater Calculator

Find out how much you can save by replacing your water heater.



What can I change to improve my energy bill?

How much will I save if I replace my furnace?



- My Bill
 - My Home**
 - Find Ways to Save
 - Calculate Improvements
 - Learn About Energy
-
- Home Profile
 - My Appliances**
 - My Energy Bills
 - My Report

Appliances in My Home

Please tell us about the appliances you have in your home. Answer all of the questions on this page and then click the Next button to go to the appliance results page.



Wood Stove

- Yes No

How many?

<Choose one> ▼



Fireplace

- Yes No

How many?

<Choose one> ▼

Fireplace Fuel

- Gas
 Wood
 Propane



Portable Space Heater

- Yes No

How many?

<Choose one> ▼

Portable Space Heater Fuel

- Electric
 Propane



Halogen Pole Lamps (Torchiere)

- Yes No

How many?

<Choose one> ▼

Bulb wattage?

- 300 Watt 500 Watt

Ceiling Fan

How many?



- My Bill
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Appliances in my home

Your appliance house contains all of the appliances you selected on the previous page. To find out how much it costs to run your appliances, just use your mouse. Point at an item to see the annual energy cost and usage. Click Next to see a graph of your energy use.

Point at the appliances with your mouse to see how much energy they use.



- [← Previous](#)
- [Back to Appliance Questions](#)
- [Go to Appliance Graph](#)
- [Next →](#)



[My Bill](#)

[My Home](#)

[Find Ways to Save](#)

[Calculate Improvements](#)

[Learn About Energy](#)

[Home Profile](#)

My Appliances

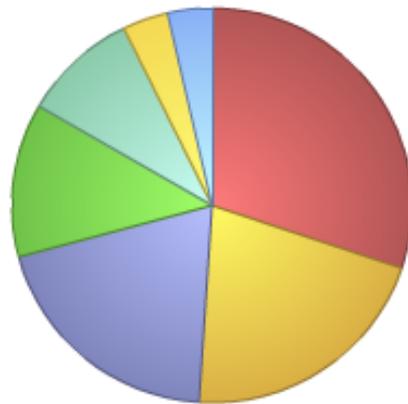
[My Energy Bills](#)

[My Report](#)

Appliances in my home

The annual cost of energy for appliances like yours is given in the graph on this page. After reviewing your results, click Next to continue.

Annual Appliance Usage



Click on a slice of the chart to view how your appliances use energy

- Heating \$697
- Other \$458
- Hot Water \$216
- Food Storage \$83
- Cooling \$483
- Lighting \$291
- Cooking \$85

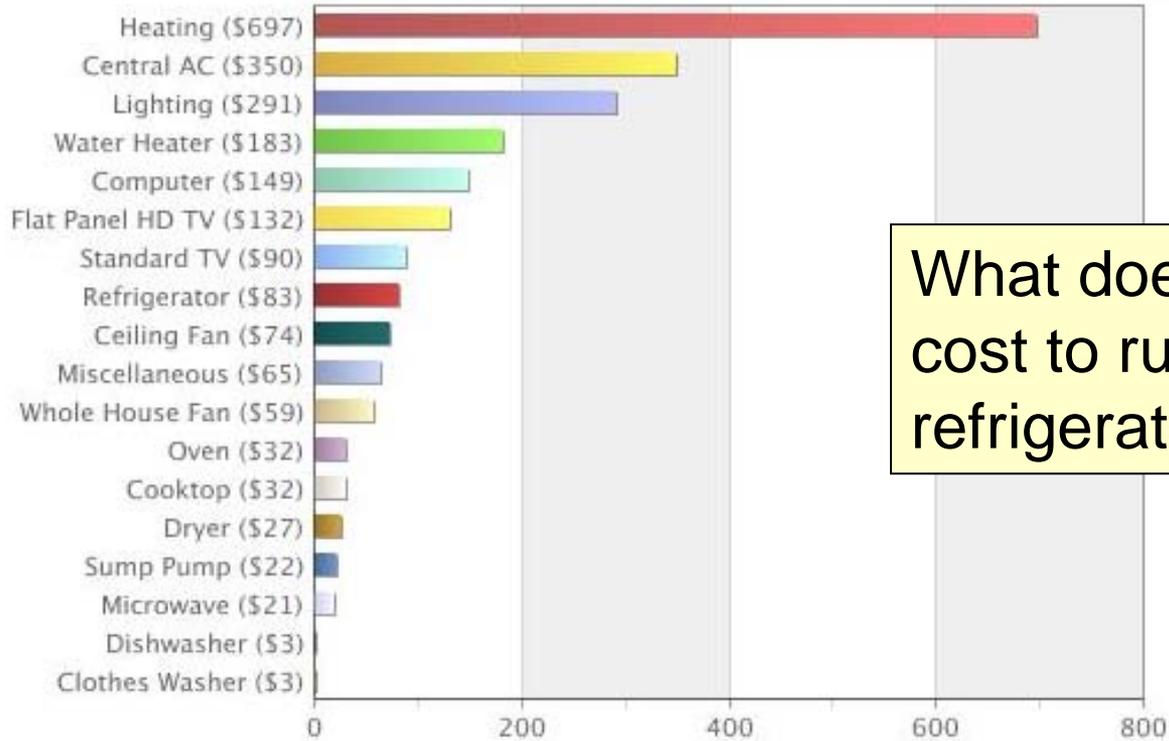
Total Electricity Gas



Appliance Energy Use

The typical annual energy costs of appliances like yours in your area are shown in the following chart. The actual cost to operate these appliances in your home will differ from the numbers given on this chart.

Annual cost of energy use by appliances



What does it cost to run my refrigerator?



Energy efficiency programs

- CFL light bulb discounts
- Appliance rebates for DC customers (available soon in MD)
- Energy Wise Rewards program for MD customers
- Programs for commercial/business customers in DC and MD



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SOLAR DECATHLON

2009

Alita Corbett

Customer & Community Relations Manager



Energy Programs

- Energy assistance programs
 - LIHEAP
 - Discount programs
 - EUSP
- Budget billing
- Payment arrangements