

To measure a device's electricity use, follow these easy steps:

### **For devices with constant power demand**

(lamps, computers, computer accessories, TV's, TV accessories, game stations, space heaters w/o thermostats, heat tape on pipes & gutters, holiday lights, chargers, fans, etc)

1. Plug the meter into an outlet.
2. Plug your device into the meter. Tip: You may want to use an extension cord to make it easier to see the meter.
3. Press the "FUNCTION" button until the "W or Watt" mode appears and record the wattage displayed.
4. Use the following formula to calculate the annual cost to run this device:

$$\underline{\quad} \text{ Watts} * \underline{\quad} \text{ hrs/day} * \underline{365} \text{ days/yr} \div \underline{1,000} \text{ watts/kW} * \underline{\$.16} \text{ /kWh} = \underline{\quad} \text{ \$/yr}$$

**Tip:** Try testing devices both when they're turned on and when they're turned off. This will show you which have a "phantom load" that consume power all year long. (Note: It cost \$1.40/yr for every continuous watt so a HD-DVR with a 30watt phantom load costs \$42/yr – even if it's never turned on.)

### **For devices that cycle**

(refrigerators, freezers, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, window air conditioners, fish tank heaters, space heaters with thermostats, clothes washers, sump pumps, etc)

1. Plug the meter into an outlet.
2. Plug your device into the meter. You may want to use an extension cord to make it easier to see the meter.
3. Let the device cycle for a representative amount of time, the longer the better (e.g. a day for a fridge or dehumidifier)
4. Press the "FUNCTION" button until the "KWh" mode icon shows and record this number.
5. Press the "FUNCTION" button again until "clock" is displayed and record this number. This is the time monitored (MM:SS)
6. Convert the time to hours (e.g. 2 hours and 30 minutes = 2.5 hours)
7. Calculate annual cost using this formula:

$$\underline{\quad} \text{ KWH} \div \underline{\quad} \text{ hours tested} * \underline{24} \text{ hours/day} * \underline{365} \text{ days/yr} * \underline{\$.16} \text{ /kWh} = \underline{\$ \quad} \text{ /yr}$$

**Tip:** If you are interested to see what your electricity rate, which is the delivery rate plus the standard offer rate, please visit the following website:  
[https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/electricity/delivery\\_rates.shtml](https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/electricity/delivery_rates.shtml)

## Once you've measured, how do you save?

- Upgrade your lighting - Switch to CFLs which use 75% less power than incandescents. Some will pay for themselves in as little as one week.
- Avoid Phantom Loads
  1. Unplug items with phantom load when not in use.
  2. If unplugging phantom load devices isn't convenient, consider plugging them into a power strip and switching it off when not in use.
  3. If it's not convenient to use a regular power strip, try a Smart power strip for entertainment centers and computers. They won't avoid the phantom load of the TV or computer, but they'll automatically stop the phantom load to the accessories (DVR, DVD, VCR, printer, display, speaker, etc).
- Buy ENERGY-STAR-rated appliances

For more tips on saving energy, visit [efficiencymaine.com](http://efficiencymaine.com)