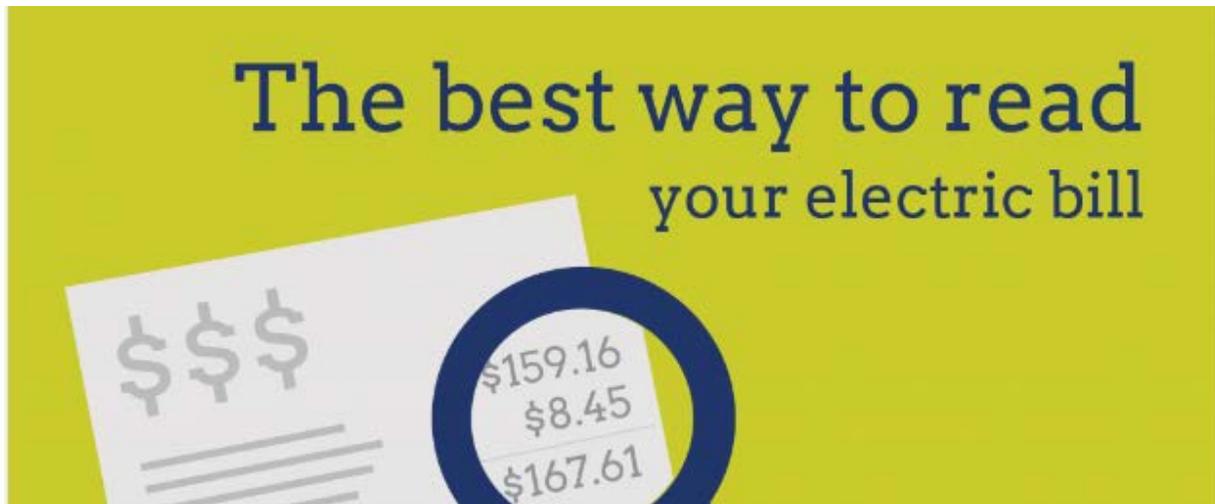


How to Read Your Utility Bill



You probably think you already know how to read your electric bill, but if you're like most Americans, you may actually be making several mistakes as you go through the document. If you're looking for bill help, here are the top five things you need to know about reading your bill correctly

Understand what monthly billing plan you're on

This step is crucial: are you being charged for your monthly usage? Or are you on a budget billing plan? If you're charged monthly for your usage, you'll receive a bill every cycle charging you for the number of kilowatt hours your household used that month at the prevailing rate. If you're on a monthly budget billing plan, your utility takes the number of kilowatt hours you consumed last year, assumes that you'll use around the same this year, and creates a monthly average for you to pay. This allows your utility to spread out the total costs you pay for power over the course of the year. As a result, if you live in a hot part of the country and use electricity to run your air conditioner, in the summer months you'll see a lower bill than your neighbors who are on a monthly usage billing cycle. But on the other hand, in the winter months you should expect a higher bill than your neighbors.

SUSAN SAMPLE	
Account Number:	0000-00-0000
Amount Now Due:	\$142.21
Billing Date:	05/28/2013
Please Pay By:	06/06/13
<hr/>	
Previous Account Balance	\$587.83
Payments Received	150.00 CR
Previous Balance Due	437.83
Fees/Adjustments	0.00
Current Charges	
Electric	\$108.30
Total This Bill	108.30
New Account Balance	Actual account balance \$546.13
<hr/>	
Summary of Amount Now Due:	
Previous Payment Requested	\$142.21
Payments Received	150.00 CR
Previous Balance Due	7.79 CR
Fees/Adjustments	0.00
Monthly Budget Amount	150.00
<hr/>	
Please Pay By June 6	Monthly \$142.21
Pay \$142.92 after June 6	Budget Billing
Make checks payable to : KCP&L	amount due



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Know what bill you're looking at and know your billing system

Depending on where you live in the country, your electricity bill can come bundled in amongst a lot of other municipal bills. Make sure you know what you're looking at! Electricity is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh), while a water bill is measured in gallons.

Gas usage is measured in BTUs, or British Thermal Units. These units of measurement should serve as an easy indicator of where your electricity bill ends, and where your water or gas bill begins.

Your Account Summary

Amount Due on Previous Statement	\$100.74
Payment(s) Received Since Last Statement	-100.74
Previous Unpaid Balance	\$0.00
Current Electric Charges	\$159.16
Current Gas Charges	8.45
Automatic Payment Service (APS) to be Applied 08/03/2015	\$167.61

Know what charges make up your final price

There are several charges that go into your energy bill. Your payment is not only for the electricity you consume, but also for helping the utility maintain the grid and pay the salaries of its workers. Look for charges related to supply, delivery, taxes and fees on your bills to make sure you understand exactly how much you're paying for each line item.

If you live in an area with a deregulated energy market, you may be able to shop around for another supplier that can provide you with the power you need at a more competitive price.

Your Electric Charges Breakdown

Conservation Incentive	\$14.49
Generation	68.22
Transmission	13.92
Distribution	51.86
Electric Public Purpose Programs	9.18
Nuclear Decommissioning	0.67
DWR Bond Charge	3.68
Competition Transition Charges (CTC)	0.47
Energy Cost Recovery Amount	-3.53
Taxes and Other	0.20
Total Electric Charges	\$159.16



How to Read Your Utility Bill

Know how many hours of electricity you use per month

Ensure you're correctly calculating the amount of power you use in a given month. Many bills will break out your daily use, or simply show you how your monthly usage changes over the course of the year. Make sure that you're measuring and assessing your

usage on the same periodicity that you're billed on: for most consumers, this will be monthly. Don't confuse a daily rate with a monthly rate!

Electricity Usage	This Month	Last Year
Total KWH	2,929	2,383
Days	33	30
AVG KWH per Day	89	79
AVG Cost per Day	\$8.97	\$7.95

Sometimes figuring out how many hours you've used in a given month is more complicated than simply dividing your total bill by the rate your utility charges for power. Some utilities charge consumers with a tiered billing structure; your first 500 kilowatt hours may be one price but your 501st hour would be a different price. If your utility uses a tiered billing structure, the number of hours that you use in each tier should be shown on your bill. If you add together the number of hours used in each tier that will sum up to be the total hours used in the entire month.

Details of Electric Charges

06/19/2015 - 07/17/2015 (29 billing days)

Service For: 537 BANYAN CIR
 Service Agreement ID: 5771561707
 Rate Schedule: E1 XB Residential Service

06/19/2015 – 07/17/2015	Your Tier Usage	1	2	3	4
Tier 1 Allowance	292.90 kWh	(29 days x 10.1 kWh/day)			
Tier 1 Usage	292.900000 kWh	@ \$0.16352			\$47.90
Tier 2 Usage	87.870000 kWh	@ \$0.18673			16.41
Tier 3 Usage	205.030000 kWh	@ \$0.27504			56.39
Tier 4 Usage	114.200000 kWh	@ \$0.33504			38.26
Energy Commission Tax					0.20
Total Electric Charges					\$159.16

How to Read Your Utility Bill

5. Calculate your total cost for electricity in a month

When you're trying to understand how much you pay for electricity, it's important to break down your bill to a metric where you can compare your consumption to its cost. The easiest way to do this is to measure your consumption rate in the same way that your utility measures it. This is generally done on a monthly usage basis, unless you're on a budget billing plan (see point #1). You should be able to take your total bill for electricity and divide it by the total number of the kilowatt hours you used in that month. For example, a \$180 dollar bill divided by 1500 KWH equals \$0.12 cents per kilowatt for electricity. This calculation will tell you how expensive your power really is!

Now that you know how to read your electricity bill, you can compare the amount you pay with other energy alternatives in your area. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the majority of Americans pay between 10 and 20 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity. How much do you pay?