

# Practical **Ways** To **Manage Your** **Electricity Bill**





*Electricity is a valuable resource to everyone in our community. Without it, we are simply left in the dark. That is why helping our customers use electricity safely and efficiently is so important.*

*We strive to provide electricity at a fair price, balanced with our responsibility to deliver reliable service. You can help by applying energy conservation practices in your home and business.*

*In this booklet, you'll find helpful information for managing your energy use and lowering your electricity bills, including:*

- *Tracking your energy use*
- *Energy saving tips*
- *Energy assistance*
- *Convenient payment options*



**Visit Energy Efficiency at**  
**[www.idahopower.com/energyefficiency](http://www.idahopower.com/energyefficiency)**

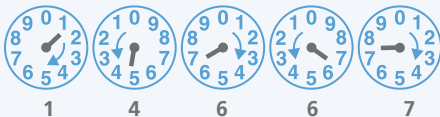
# Tracking Your Energy Use

Your energy use is measured by a meter in kilowatt-hours (kWh). Idaho Power reads the meter each month. The meter read date is listed on your electricity bill.

An electric meter is either a dial-type or a digital smart meter. Both types of meters record usage continually, much like an odometer on a car. To compute how much energy you have used, subtract your previous reading from your current reading. For example, if the meter reading was 19,421 when you last read your meter and it now reads 20,141, your usage during that time period was 720 kWhs.

## Dial-Type Electric Meter

Below is a sample of a five-dial electric meter. The pointer in each dial moves from a smaller number to a larger one. Some pointers move clockwise, others counter-clockwise. When a pointer is between two numbers, the smaller number is recorded.



**These dials display a reading of 14667.**

## Digital Smart Meter



Digital meters display your total consumption reading when "kWh" appears below the number as shown. Learn more about smart meters at [www.idahopower.com/meterexchange](http://www.idahopower.com/meterexchange).

# Energy Saving Ideas

## Winter Tips

1. Regularly **clean or replace the air filter** in your furnace.

2. **Turn down the thermostat** at night and when the house is empty, or install a programmable thermostat.

3. During the day, **let the sun heat your home** by opening curtains and blinds. Be sure to close them again in the evening.

4. **Maintain your furnace or heat pump regularly** to keep things running smoothly and efficiently.

5. **Weatherstrip and caulk** your doors, windows and penetrations into the attic or crawl space that allow warm air to escape.



6. **Increase insulation** in the attic, walls and crawl space, if applicable.

7. To protect your pipes and keep it warmer under the floor, make sure your **crawl space vents are closed**.

8. Keep your **fireplace damper closed** when the fireplace is not in use.

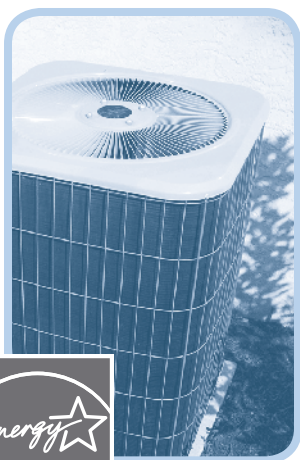
9. **Install window film or storm windows** if you have single-pane windows.

10. **Use a timer or motion sensor for outdoor lights** so they are on only when needed.



## Summer Tips

1. Use a **ceiling, box or oscillating fan**. The moving air cools you, creating less reliance on air conditioning.
2. **Close the blinds** before the sun gets a chance to heat up the house. Open windows at night to cool down the house.
3. During the heat of the day, **keep windows and outside doors closed**.
4. **Replace the furnace filter** and clean the outside coil on your air conditioner.
5. **Don't drastically turn down the temperature** on your thermostat. Your house won't cool down any faster.
6. To keep it operating smoothly, **schedule a tune-up for your air conditioner or heat pump**.
7. **Weatherstrip and caulk** your doors and windows if you can see light or feel air coming through them.
8. When **replacing an old air conditioner**, look for a more efficient one (SEER 14 or higher), preferably an ENERGY STAR® qualified model.
9. **Hang your laundry** to dry. As a bonus, your clothes will smell better than ever.
10. **Cook with a microwave or a barbeque** instead of the stove or oven. It will heat up your food but not your kitchen.



# Energy Saving Ideas



## Year-round Tips

1. Choose **compact fluorescent lights** (CFLs) when replacing light bulbs.
2. Always opt for **ENERGY STAR® qualified bulbs** and fixtures.
3. **Turn off lights** that aren't in use, even energy efficient lights.
4. **Lower the temperature on your water heater** to 120°F (unless your dishwasher requires a higher temperature).
5. For an older hot water heater, **consider a water heater blanket**. Check your manual prior to installation.
6. **Fix leaky faucets** as soon as possible. A hot water leak is an energy drain.

7. **Wash only full loads** of laundry and dishes and use water- and energy-saving settings - and cold water - whenever possible.



8. **Replace the refrigerator door gasket** if you can slip an envelope between the door and the frame.
9. **Unplug your second refrigerator** and put all your food in one.
10. **Use power management settings on your computer**. Turn off your computer and monitor at the end of your work session.



## Typical Monthly Electric Appliance Use

**Electric heating and cooling equipment typically uses more energy than the appliances listed below.**

### *Larger appliances*

500 kWh	<u>Water Heater (family of 4)*</u>
132 kWh	<u>Refrigerator/Freezer (auto defrost)</u>
90 kWh	<u>Household Lighting</u>
90 kWh	<u>Clothes Dryer (5 loads/wk)</u>
84 kWh	<u>Clothes Washer (5 loads/wk) hot water*</u>
72 kWh	<u>Range Oven</u>
44 kWh	<u>Dishwasher (3 loads/wk) heat dry*</u>

### *Smaller appliances*

36 kWh	<u>Color Television (6 hrs per day)</u>
23 kWh	<u>Fish Tank (10 gal. with filter &amp; light)</u>
15 kWh	<u>Microwave Oven</u>
11 kWh	<u>Computer, CPU &amp; Monitor</u>
9 kWh	<u>Hair Dryer</u>
3 kWh	<u>Vacuum</u>
2 kWh	<u>Stereo</u>

**Estimate your kilowatt-hour use:  $wattage/1,000 \times hours = kWh$**

Please Note: These charts show typical monthly appliance energy use. Your use may vary because of family size, lifestyle, amount of use and the wattage rating of your appliances.

\*Electric water heater



## More Energy Saving Ideas

[www.idahopower.com/energyefficiency](http://www.idahopower.com/energyefficiency)

Check out our ENERGY Tools in our efficiency tips.

[www.EnergyStar.gov](http://www.EnergyStar.gov)

Hints for buying and operating efficient products, as well as tips for building and purchasing homes.

[www.EERE.Energy.gov/consumer](http://www.EERE.Energy.gov/consumer)

General and technical information on energy efficiency for consumers.

[www.ACEEE.org](http://www.ACEEE.org)

Publisher of the *Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings*.

## Energy Efficiency Programs

Idaho power actively seeks cost-effective ways to encourage wise and efficient use of electricity. To learn more about our programs and incentives, go to [www.idahopower.com/energyefficiency](http://www.idahopower.com/energyefficiency).

## Account Manager

Sign up as an Account Manager on [www.idahopower.com](http://www.idahopower.com) to get details on your usage, billings and payments, set up Budget Pay, update account information and more. To register as an Account Manager, you will need your Idaho Power account number and last payment amount. Once you have this information, click "Register Now" in the Account Manager box. It's quick, easy and convenient!

# Energy Assistance

## Help With Winter Heating Bills

Energy Assistance is a federally funded program for qualified households. It provides a one-time benefit per program year to assist with heating costs. The program operates annually from November through April. Program eligibility is based on household size and income. To find out if you qualify, contact your local Community Action Partnership (CAP) Agency.

### *Idaho Agencies*

- Western Idaho Community Action Agency, Payette  
**(208) 642-4436**
- El-Ada (Ada, Elmore Owyhee) Community Action Agency, Boise  
**(208) 322-1242**
- South Central Community Action Partnership, Twin Falls  
**(208) 736-0676**
- Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency, Pocatello  
**(208) 233-7348**
- Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership, Lemhi County  
**(208) 756-3999**

- Idaho Care Line  
**Dial 2-1-1 or  
(800) 926-2588**

### *Oregon Agencies*

- Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Baker City  
**(541) 523-6591 or  
(800) 823-6591**
- Harney County Senior & Community Services Center, Burns  
**(541) 573-6024**
- Malheur Council On Aging & Community Services, Ontario  
**(541) 889-7106**

## Weatherization Assistance for Qualified Customers

Idaho Power provides financial assistance to Idaho and Oregon CAP agencies to help cover the cost for weatherization of electrically heated homes for qualified customers. To find out if you qualify, contact the CAP agency nearest you.

# Payment Methods

The most common method is to mail your bill payment to Idaho Power. For your convenience, we offer a variety of other payment options to choose from.

## PreferredPay™

Your monthly Idaho Power bill amount is automatically deducted from your checking account on the due date printed on your bill. You'll continue to receive a printed statement in the mail each month.

## E-bill Service

Your Idaho Power statement is electronically delivered to your computer rather than your mailbox. This safe and reliable payment method is provided free through MyCheckFree.com.

## Drop Box

You may use one of the many convenient drop boxes located at Idaho Power offices listed by city in the "Service and Billing" area of [www.idahopower.com](http://www.idahopower.com). Be sure to enclose your payment stub and your check or money order in the pre-addressed envelope provided.

## Check By Phone

Provide a check number and amount to NCO Financial, an independent payment service. Your payment will be deducted from the checking account you specify. You may either fill out an online form at [www.idahopower.com](http://www.idahopower.com) or call NCO Financial at 1-800-829-5415. NCO Financial charges a nominal fee.

## Credit or Debit Card

To use a credit or debit card to pay your bill, call NCO Financial at 1-800-829-5415 between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. weekdays and from 6 to 11 a.m. on Saturday (Mountain Time). NCO Financial charges a nominal fee based upon the amount of your payment.



## Other Payment Information

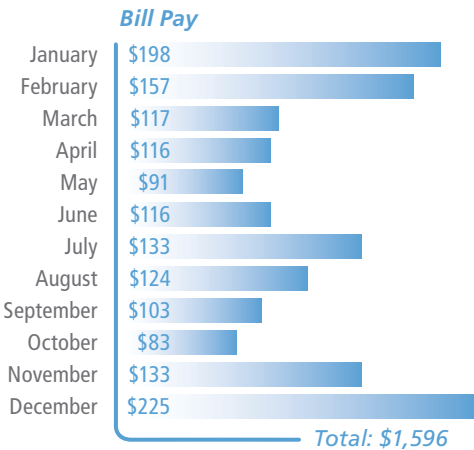
For more detailed information on these payment methods, visit "Service and Billing" at [www.idahopower.com](http://www.idahopower.com). This area of our Web site also provides access to:

- NCO Financial so you can make payments with a credit or debit card or by check online,
- an application for PreferredPay, and
- a link to CheckFree to sign up for e-bill service.

If you prefer, you may call our Customer Service Center at (208) 388-2323 in the Treasure Valley, or (800) 488-6151 to request an application or sign up for payment methods.

## Budget Pay

Budget Pay spreads your energy charges evenly throughout the year. Your monthly bill is averaged based on a 12-month billing history. This payment option is available to all current residential customers with no past-due amounts owed. See example below:





An IDACORP Company

[www.idahopower.com](http://www.idahopower.com)

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