



Know Your Energy Bill

(and what to do about it)

Electricity bills can be confusing—but understanding them helps you manage your electricity use.

"Power" & "Energy"

Power = Instantaneous use

- Measured in Watts (W) or kilowatts (kW)
- Appliance rating: the higher the kW, the more power it draws
- Example: A 2kW heater draws 2,000 watts when in use

Energy = Power × Time

- Measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh)
- This is what you're charged for on your bill
- Example:
 - Kettle: $2\text{kW} \times 1 \text{ minute} = \sim 1.3\text{c}$
 - Bar Heater: $2\text{kW} \times 2 \text{ hours} = 4\text{kWh} = \sim \1.60

High power appliances used for long periods of time consume lots of electrical energy, costing you \$\$

Big Energy Using Appliances

Appliance	Power Use (kW)	Time Used (hr)	Energy (kWh)	Approx Cost
Pool Pump	2.4kW	3 hours	7.2kWh	\$2.88
Hot Water System	3kW	4 hours	12kWh	\$4.80
Clothes Dryer	2.4kW	2 hours	4.8kWh	\$1.92
Fan Heater (x3 rooms)	6kW	6 hours	36kWh	\$14.40
Modern Fridge	1.5 kWh /day	24 hours	1.5 kWh	\$0.40–\$0.80

Tariffs & Supply Charges

Supply Charge

- Daily fixed fee (pays for poles, wires, admin)
- ~\$2.00/day → \$720/year
- Can't be avoided unless off-grid

Tariffs (Usage Charges)

Fixed Rate Tariff

- ~40c/kWh, same rate all day

Controlled Load Tariff (e.g. off-peak hot water)

- ~20c/kWh, limited hours

Time-of-Use (TOU) Tariff

- Peak (e.g. 2–8pm): ~45c/kWh
- Shoulder: ~40c/kWh
- Off-Peak (overnight): ~30c/kWh
- Tip: TOU can save money—but only if you manage usage times carefully

Feed-in Tariff (Solar)

- Paid for excess electricity you send back to the grid
- Low rate: ~5c/kWh
- Example: $5\text{kW system} \times 8\text{hrs} = 40\text{kWh} \rightarrow \$2/\text{day}$

Indicative pricing as at July 2025 – likely to increase in the future

How to Read Your Electricity Bill

Things to look for

- NMI (National Meter Identifier) – Unique to your property
- Meter/ Register Readings – Show usage but labels and names can vary. Eg.
 - E1: General use
 - E2: Controlled load (e.g. hot water)
 - B: Solar feed-in
- Cost per kWh: "tariff", "rate", "cost"
- Period of bill (90 days, 30 days, 1 month)
- Split periods (eg. before & after 1 July) with different rates

Analyse Your Bill

- Average household (2.5 people): 15–20kWh/day
- Questions to ask:
 - What's your daily usage?
 - What tariffs are you on?
 - What's your supply charge?
 - How many days does the bill cover?
 - Do the charges make sense given your usage?
 - What is one thing you could consider doing?