HOW TO READ YOUR ELECTRIC METER

ELECTRICITY IS MEASURED IN KILOWATT-HOURS. FOR EXAMPLE, A 100-WATT LIGHT BULB BURNING FOR 10 HOURS USES ONE KILOWATT-HOUR. THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF ELECTRIC METERS THAT MEASURE HOW MANY KILOWATT-HOURS YOU USE EACH MONTH—DIGITAL AND DIAL. FIND OUT HOW TO READ BOTH OF THEM WITH THE INFORMATION BELOW. IF YOU'RE HAVING DIFFICULTIES ESTABLISHING YOUR READING, SIMPLY CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POWER COMPANY FOR ASSISTANCE.

THE DIAL METER

ON A DIAL METER, THERE ARE FIVE DIALS. THEY'RE NUMBERED 0 THROUGH 9, WITH THE 0 AT THE TOP. NOTICE THAT NUMBERS GO AROUND THE FACE CLOCKWISE ON SOME OF THE DIALS, BUT COUNTERCLOCKWISE ON EVERY OTHER DIAL.

THE HANDS OF THE DIALS MOVE IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS THE COUNTING ORDER OF THE NUMBERS. TO READ THE METER, WRITE DOWN THE NUMBER THAT EACH HAND HAS JUST PASSED. START WITH THE DIAL ON THE FAR LEFT, AND PROCEED TO THE RIGHT.

THE READING IS 66,649.

IF A HAND IS DIRECTLY ON A NUMBER, LOOK AT THE DIAL TO ITS IMMEDIATE RIGHT. IF THAT HAND HAS PASSED ZERO, WRITE DOWN THE NUMBER THAT THE LEFT HAND IS POINTING TO.

THE READING HERE IS 70.

IF THE HAND ON THE RIGHT HAS NOT PASSED ZERO, WRITE DOWN THE LAST NUMBER THAT THE LEFT HAND HAS PASSED.

THE READING HERE IS 69.

THE DIGITAL METER

READING A DIGITAL METER IS SIMILAR TO READING THE NUMBERS ON YOUR VEHICLE'S ODOMETER. EVERY TIME THE NUMBER INCREASES, YOU'VE USED ANOTHER KILOWATT-HOUR.

THE READING IS 46,372

HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR ELECTRICITY USE

IN ORDER TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH ELECTRICITY YOU'RE USING, YOU NEED TO SUBTRACT YOUR PREVIOUS READING FROM THE CURRENT READING. TO CONVERT THIS TO DOLLARS AND CENTS, SIMPLY MULTIPLY YOUR USAGE (KWH) BY YOUR KWH COSTS. YOU CAN DETERMINE YOUR KWH COSTS BY LOOKING AT YOUR ELECTRIC BILL OR BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL POWER COMPANY.

USAGE COMPARISON CHART

YOU CAN USE THE TABLE BELOW TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR ELECTRICITY USAGE.

DATE	kWh	COST