

- Use task lighting to focus the light just where you need it.
- Consider three-way lamps to keep lighting levels low when brighter light is not needed.

**Home Entertainment & Communications**

- Enable power management features on your home computer and monitor.
- Consider buying a laptop the next time you upgrade your computer; they use much less energy than the desktop variety.
- Save energy and space with an Energy Star®-qualified multi-function device that combines several capabilities (print, fax, copy, scan).
- Use caulk or spray foam to seal any holes where pipes or TV/cable wires enter or exit your home.
- Many electronic appliances use power even when they are switched off. Avoid these “phantom loads” by unplugging televisions, office equipment and other high-tech electronic devices if you’re going to be away for an extended period of time.

**Appliances**

- Vacuum the coils on your refrigerator and freezer units at least every three months.
- Check the freezer to make sure nothing is blocking the cold air vents.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator, not in the microwave.
- Avoid using your oven on hot summer days.
- Wait to run your dishwasher until it’s full, and skip the drying cycle.

- Wash full loads of laundry in cold water whenever possible. Always rinse in cold water.
- Make it a habit to clean the dryer lint trap each time you start a load.
- Consider attaching a small diverter to your dryer vent to send warm, moist air into your home in the winter. In summer, flip the lever and the dryer will vent to the outside again.
- Consider recycling that second refrigerator in the basement or garage.
- Don’t over-dry your clothes. Use your dryer’s moisture sensor to automatically turn the machine off when clothes are done.

**Miscellaneous**

- Close your fireplace flue damper tightly when not in use.
- Plant trees to shade your home, but keep them away from power lines. Their shade will help reduce your cooling costs in the summer.
- Plant shrubs and bushes near your home to create dead air spaces that will help insulate the exterior walls in summer and winter.
- Plant thick, low-lying trees and shrubbery on the north and northeast sides of your home to help protect against the winter chill.
- Take advantage of any energy efficiency tax credits for which you qualify.

Visit [www.ameren.com](http://www.ameren.com)  
 or [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov) for more energy solutions for the home.



# The Energy-Efficient Home

**Smart Choices  
 to Save Kilowatts and Cash**



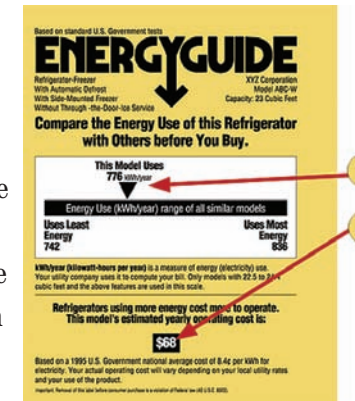
**Be an ENERGY STAR!**

When shopping for appliances or electronics, put ENERGY STAR® products at the top of your list. ENERGY STAR® products use less energy while offering the same levels of performance and quality. With the help of the ENERGY STAR® rating system, Americans saved \$12 billion on their utility bills in 2005!

**Want to learn more?  
 Go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).**

**Shopping Tip:**

Energy-savvy shoppers look for the bright yellow Energy Guide label on appliances like refrigerators, furnaces or air conditioners. The Energy Guide shows an appliance’s estimated annual energy use (1). The lower the estimated kWh/year, the less the appliance costs to operate (2). Compare models against each other and remember – even a lower-priced appliance may cost you more to operate in the long run if it’s not energy efficient.





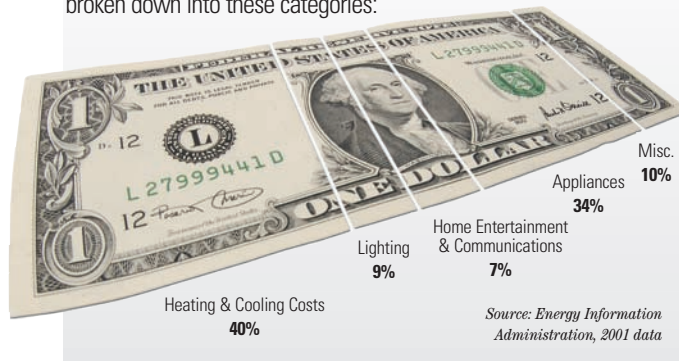
Americans enjoy the most reliable electricity in the world. It's easy to take electricity for granted, even as it powers our everyday lives. But with a little extra effort to use this valuable resource wisely, you can give the environment — and your budget — a boost.

Our nation's demand for electricity is at an all-time high, according to the Edison Electric Institute. The price of that electricity is on the rise, too. In light of growing demand and climbing costs, enhancing your home's energy efficiency is more than worth the effort.

This guide will help you improve your home's energy efficiency and make the most of your energy dollar. Learn which appliances in your home use the most energy, and follow up with some tried-and-true tactics to save power and money. Significant savings are well within your reach, without sacrificing comfort.

**Where your energy dollar goes**

The home of a typical Ameren customer uses about 876 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month. That usage can generally be broken down into these categories:



**A GUIDE TO ELECTRIC APPLIANCE OPERATING COSTS**

*Appliance or Equipment Estimated Electric Use (kWh\* per Month)*

**Heating, Cooling & Comfort**

Furnace, Heat Pump (reflects winter heating season) . . . . .	2,988
Central Air Conditioner (reflects summer cooling season) . . . . .	1,260
Water Heater . . . . .	400
Dehumidifier . . . . .	75
Ceiling Fan . . . . .	20

**Lighting**

Landscape Lighting . . . . .	120
Four Table Lamps . . . . .	20
Lighted Vanity Mirror . . . . .	20
Track Lighting . . . . .	9
Night Light . . . . .	8.5

**Home Entertainment/Communications**

Large Television . . . . .	180
Small Television . . . . .	63
Computer/Printer . . . . .	40
Cordless Phone . . . . .	8.5
Cell Phone Charger . . . . .	8
DVD Player . . . . .	5
Phone Answering Machine . . . . .	4.3
Radio/Alarm Clock . . . . .	1.5

**Appliances**

Freezer . . . . .	150
Oven . . . . .	120
Dryer . . . . .	72
Refrigerator . . . . .	50
Microwave . . . . .	36
Washer . . . . .	20
Stove . . . . .	15
Dishwasher . . . . .	8.6

*Appliance or Equipment Estimated Electric Use (kWh\* per Month)*

**Miscellaneous**

Aquarium . . . . .	80
Hot Tub . . . . .	60
Hair Dryer . . . . .	10
Power Tool Charger . . . . .	8.7
Wall Clock . . . . .	7
Steam Iron . . . . .	6.6
Garage Door Opener . . . . .	5
Electric Toothbrush . . . . .	.08

\*A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is a unit of measure representing 1,000 watts of electricity used in one hour. Ten 100-watt light bulbs burning for one hour would use one kWh of electricity.  
Note: Actual electricity usage varies depending on many factors, such as size of family and home, weather, age and efficiency of appliances, and personal preferences.

**Calculating Your Costs**

The equation below can be used to determine the cost of operating specific appliances or equipment, or to estimate your total monthly electric costs.

**kWh per month X 10.6¢/kWh\* = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Cost of Electric Use)**

\*Price per kWh based on estimated blended residential rate for Ameren Illinois utilities – AmerenCILCO, AmerenCIPS, and AmerenIP.

**Tips to Save Energy and Money**

**Heating, Cooling & Comfort**

- Set the thermostat as high as comfort allows in the summer. For every degree you raise the thermostat setting on your air conditioner, your energy use will be reduced by 3 to 5 percent. The recommended energy efficient summer temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- You can save 2 to 3 percent on your heating costs for each degree you lower your thermostat in the winter.
- Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping.
- Weather strip your exterior doors.

- Use ceiling fans efficiently. In the summer, set the blades to run clockwise to send warm air up. In the winter, set ceiling fans to run counter-clockwise so the warm air is pushed down to the outside walls.
  - Make sure the central air conditioning unit outside your home stays clean and free of debris.
  - Clean or change your furnace filter monthly for optimum performance.
  - Set your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. Take advantage of the "vacation" or "standby" setting on many newer models that keeps water warm at a lower temperature when you are gone for an extended period of time.
  - Periodically drain water heaters, following instructions in your owner's manual, to remove mineral deposits that may have accumulated.
  - Consider using pipe insulators to minimize heat loss from your water pipes.
  - Consider covering single-pane windows with plastic during cold weather.
  - On hot, sunny days, close the drapes or blinds.
  - Seal gaps around windows and doors with caulk.
  - Only heat and cool the rooms you need – close vents and doors of unused rooms.
- Lighting**
- Use compact fluorescent bulbs. They are four times more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer!
  - Use ENERGY STAR®-qualified fixtures and bulbs.
  - Turn off the lights in any room you're not using.
  - Install timers, photo cells, or occupancy sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on.