

Does your garage or 'man cave' have a vintage or entertainment refrigerator?



A Minnesota cooperative conducted an experiment comparing a 2011 ENERGY STAR refrigerator to a 1970s refrigerator. After a couple of months of operation, the 1970s refrigerator consumed 228 kilowatt hours (kWh) at a cost of \$25.08 while the new ENERGY STAR model used 76 kWh at a cost of \$8.36 (at 11 cents per kWh).

Your electric cooperative offers rebates on ENERGY STAR appliances, including refrigerators. Contact us or check out our web page for ideas on where you might earn a reward for saving electricity!

Portable Electric Heaters: The Facts

Slick sales pitches with free steak dinners usually promise something too good to be true. The energy experts at your local electric cooperative want to provide you with the facts.



The fact is, ALL electric space heaters produce ONE unit of heat for every ONE unit of electricity consumed; in other words, they are all 100% energy efficient.

Can using a space heater cut your home heating bill? If you use a typical 1,500 watt space heater eight hours a day for a month you will spend approximately \$39.60 for this additional electricity. Most of us are not planning to turn off the furnace heating the rest of the house, so the space heater becomes an additional expense and doesn't qualify for the discounted dual fuel rate.

You can calculate this yourself, using 11 cents as the electricity price:

$$\text{watts}/1000 \times \$0.11 \times \text{hours of operation} = \text{cost.}$$

Space heaters may have their place in warming part of a house, but they simply cannot replace energy efficient central heating or weatherization improvements to the home. You will do much better to consider heating your home with affordable, discounted dual fuel electricity. A geothermal heat pump can produce more than four units of heat for every unit of electricity consumed, making it over 400% efficient.

What else can we do?



We always turn off the lights, but want to conserve more.

Why isn't my electricity bill as low as it used to be?

Have you noticed how many new technologies we have adopted in recent years?

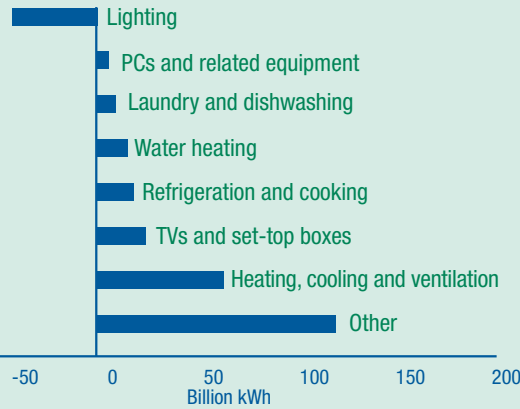
Many lifestyle choices add terrific value to our quality of life and use electricity. Perhaps your family has made decisions to bring some of these lifestyle items into your home to enhance your time spent together.

If you spend recreational time riding horses, you may determine that a heated livestock waterer would be a convenient method to help care for your horses.

Your family may enjoy spending time together in a backyard pool, which uses an electric pool pump, or in a hot tub, which uses a heater. Many of us develop traditions celebrating the holidays with indoor and outdoor decorative lighting. Gaming consoles and larger televisions enhance home entertainment options for families to enjoy together on a regular basis.

Remember to consider these changes and additions as you evaluate energy use in your home.

Energy Consumption Increasing for Various Devices



(Source: U.S. Department of Energy's Annual Energy Outlook 2011)

America's energy use is still growing at 0.7 percent per year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. After accounting for our decline in electricity use from more efficient lighting and ENERGY STAR appliances, our consumption is projected to increase through 2035 due to new products and lifestyle choices that use electricity.

Dehumidifier

The energy efficiency of a dehumidifier is measured by its energy factor, in liters of water removed per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of energy consumed or L/kWh. A higher energy factor means a more efficient dehumidifier.



**\$220/
lifetime**

Livestock heater



Older livestock fountains can use twice as much electricity as current models.

2x

Refrigerator

Vintage 'man cave' refrigerators cost more per year to operate.

- 1980 or older may cost about \$150 more per year.
- 1981-1993 may average about \$50 more per year.



**\$150/
year**

Holiday decorative lighting



Save up to 90% by replacing those old Christmas lights with energy efficient LED lighting. Save even more by placing your holiday lights on timers.

**Save
90%**

Hot tub

Operating a hot tub costs an average of \$1 per day.



**\$1/
day**

Swimming pool pump

Cut the time your pool pump runs in half and save 50%. Running a one horse power pump four fewer hours per day can save almost \$15 per month.



**\$15/
month**

Smart power strip



Save energy by unplugging gaming systems or plug them into "smart" power strips. A smart power strip controls the flow of electricity to specific unused devices such as DVD players, game consoles, and stereo systems, while allowing TVs and satellite boxes to remain operational.

Source: EnergyStar.gov