Understanding how you use energy will help you manage that use. By comparing energy use from one day to the next, over one complete billing period, you can identify trends or behaviors that may cause you to use more energy one day, and less the next.

Here’s how:

For the next 30 days:

- Use the Electric Usage Log (right) to read and record your daily electric kWh use.
- Write down the number that is displayed on your meter.
- Take that reading at the same time each day.
- Each day, subtract yesterday’s reading from today’s reading to determine how many kWh were used over the last 24 hours.
- Follow that same process for 30 days.

More than likely, each day’s energy use will be similar. If you find that one day’s reading is substantially higher than the previous readings, think back over the last 24-hour period and ask yourself:

- Have there been any changes in my home in that last 24-hour period?
- Did I do anything differently (from an electric energy use perspective) that might explain the higher usage?

Below are a few examples of things that may contribute to higher usage from one day to the next:

- Excessive hot water use (extra showers)
- Increased loads of laundry (washing/drying)
- Electric pump usage
- Changes in the number of appliances or appliance usage (additional TVs, refrigerators, freezers, etc.)
- Increased run time of heating/cooling equipment due to extreme weather conditions OR an adjustment to the thermostat

By identifying electric usage on a daily basis, it’s easier to remember anything you may have done differently. Once you understand how you use energy, it’s much easier to manage it and even reduce your overall energy use.