

# KILL A WATT™

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that about 10 percent of household electricity used is consumed by idle devices. You can find out how much energy is being used and how much you can save by deactivating or unplugging these unnecessary devices by using the Kill-A-Watt™.

## What is a Kill-A-Watt™?

The Kill-A-Watt™ is a device that measures the amount of electricity various household electric appliances use.

## How does it work?

- The device plugs into any standard wall outlet and then “reads” the energy use of the appliance plugged into it.
- To measure the amount of electricity a certain device uses, plug it into the Kill-A-Watt™. The device will measure kilowatt hours (kWh) used over the period of time.
- The device will measure energy use in watts and translate that into kilowatt hours (kWh) for you. 1000 watts = 1 kilowatt; a 100 watt device running for 10 hours = 1 kWh
- The Kill-a-Watt™ can let you measure your energy use in the same way your electrical companies such as NSTAR bill you (in kilowatt hours (kWh)).

Example - Plug in a lamp with a 60 watt bulb to the device and turn it on. Press the button on the device labeled “watts” and the LCD screen should read 60 watts. To track how much energy is consumed over time, press the “kWh” button and toggle to see energy consumed over a time period. If the light were to remain on for 10 hours, the device would read 0.6 kWh consumed.

- Be sure to record the kilowatts displayed on the device while it is still plugged in. They will disappear when the Kill-A-Watt™ is unplugged.
- Multiply the kWh by the rate charged on your utility bill to find out how much it costs to keep the device running.
- When you have identified the devices and appliances that do not need to be kept plugged in, unplug them after each use. Or, plug them into a power strip with an on-off switch and power that off when devices are not in use.

Example of an idle device: A standard cell phone consumes about 5 watts when charging and 1 watt when not charging (if the power cord remains plugged in). Over a year, that comes out to 1.8 kWh for charging and 8.3 kWh for the power cord.

- Refer to the Kill-A-Watt™ Operation Manual for more detailed operating instructions.
- For further information on energy efficiency visit the Mayor’s Office of Environmental and Energy Services ([www.cityofboston.gov/environmentalandenergy](http://www.cityofboston.gov/environmentalandenergy)) and NSTAR at ([www.nstar.com](http://www.nstar.com))



Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor



# Kill-A-Watt™ Energy Use Checklist

1. Check each device while in use and while idle (energy can be used even when an appliance is in the “off” position).
2. Remember to record the number on the screen before removing the appliance from the device. Once removed, you will lose the information when the device turns off.
3. \*Check your utility bill for the most recent rate of electricity and distribution charges

Electrical Appliance	Amount of Time Plugged in	Amount of Energy Used in kilowatt hours (kWh)	Cost per kWh	Total Cost of Energy Used
<b>Example: 60 watt bulb</b>	<b>10 hours per day</b>	<b>.60</b>	<b>.22</b> (estimate, rates will vary*)	<b>\$.13 per day</b> <b>\$48.18 per year</b>
Lamp with incandescent bulb				
Lamp with compact fluorescent light bulb				
Window air conditioner				
Fan				
Music player/sound system				
MP3 Charger				
Cell phone charger				
Computer, screen and modem				
Printer				
Television				
Cable box				
DVD/VHS Player				
Video game system				
Electric toothbrush				