

Light reading



Conservation News

July/August 2018

TOP FOUR WAYS TO STAY COOL THIS SUMMER

We love summertime in Seattle, but the occasional heatwave does have us searching for ways to cool off. Here are a few tips from the U.S. Department of Energy* on how to keep cool and conserve energy without breaking the bank!



If the temperature cools off at night, open your windows and turn off your cooling system. Early mornings are also a good time to allow cool air into the house.



Plan meals that require minimal cooking, or try to use a microwave or cook outside on a grill.



Use fans when you are in the room to create a wind chill effect on your skin.



Run the dishwasher and laundry at night when it's cooler, and only run full loads. Consider air drying dishes and clothes.

*Source: energy.gov/energysaver/articles/stay-cool-and-save-money-all-summer-long

COOKIN' WITH KILOWATTS

City Light wants you to put an energy-efficient spin on your most creative, tasty recipe. Our Cookin' with Kilowatts Contest challenges you to create or use a recipe that you would typically make in an electric oven or on an electric stovetop using a cooking method that uses less electricity. For rules, prizes, contest information, and to submit your recipe, go to Energysolutions.seattle.gov/CWK.

The winning recipes will receive prizes including gift cards from Sea Wolf Bakers. They will also be featured in the fourth edition of the Cookin' with Kilowatts Cookbook. Everyone who enters will receive a small gift of appreciation.

Cooking efficiently saves energy and money, but there's no need to save on taste! As you see in the chart, a crockpot uses less than half the energy of an oven!

APPLIANCE	TEMP	TIME	ENERGY	COST
Electric Oven	350 F	1 Hr	2.0 kWh	25¢
Toaster Oven	425 F	50 Min	.95 kWh	12¢
Crock Pot	200 F	7 Hrs	.7 kWh	9¢
Microwave	High	15 Min	.36 kWh	5¢
Solar Oven	Hot	Varies	Sun	Free
Rice Cooker	Regular	30 Min	.7 kWh	4¢
Instant Pot	High	15 Min	.36 kWh	5¢



IMPROVE YOUR HOME. KEEP COOL.

PLANT A TREE.

As we make our way through another Seattle summer, now might be the time to think about planting a tree to cool your home in future summers. Strategically sited trees can help cool your home and improve its energy efficiency.

Trees have many benefits. They reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality, increase property values and can promote human health. A deciduous tree—one that drops its leaves in the winter—planted on the west side of your home can shade your home in the summer and allow for the sun’s rays to warm it in the winter. The tree’s shading and cooling benefits increase as it grows larger. An energy efficient home with two 25-ft tall trees shading its west side is not only cooler and more comfortable in the summer but, according to a report by the USDA Forest Service*, may reduce summer cooling costs by 36 percent.

Remember for tree shading in our area, west is best. Consult City Light’s tree book for guidelines on planting near utility equipment and power lines.

**Source: “Western Washington and Oregon Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs and Strategic Planting,” Center for Urban Forest Research, USDA Forest Service*



SAFETY TIP FROM THE FIELD

“Before you start your yard work this year, call before you dig. Dial 8-1-1 to have a crew locate underground utilities. Best of all? It’s free!”

**-Michael Clark,
Denny Substation
Program Manager**



AT WORK in your neighborhood

Seattle City Light crews are in these neighborhoods, working to provide reliable service:

- Arroyo/South Arbor Heights: Installing underground conduits, vaults and streetlights to replace aging infrastructure;
- Pioneer Square: Improving electrical reliability by installing underground conduits in Occidental Alley;
- Laurelhurst (at and near Webster Point): Improving reliability by installing new electrical cable;
- Roy Street Loop (SE of Lake Union): Improving reliability by connecting customers with the underground network system.

This is a partial list. For details go to seattle.gov/light/atwork and click on an orange cone to learn about individual projects.

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IT ALL

ADD \$ UP

Know what your energy use is costing you

How does your energy use affect your bill? Well, it's like grocery shopping. You decide what's in your cart. Each item may be just a few dollars, but put them all in your cart and IT ALL ADDS UP!



energysolutions.seattle.gov/IAAU-LR



Seattle City Light

BI-MONTHLY ELECTRICITY USE

Hairdryer	\$ 9.55
Toaster	\$ 4.02
TV	\$ 1.39
Game Console	\$ 7.22
Air Conditioner	\$ 40.00
Coffee Maker	\$ 14.60

Total \$76.78

IT ALL **ADD \$ UP**

On average, using these common household items will add up to \$77.00 on a bi-monthly bill.

An air conditioner is nice to have during the hot summer days, but adds up to an average of \$40.00 on your bi-monthly bill.

If you know what your energy use is costing, you can decide what to use. Calculate how much you're spending on each item in your home and find energy saving tips at: energysolutions.seattle.gov/IAAU-LR

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