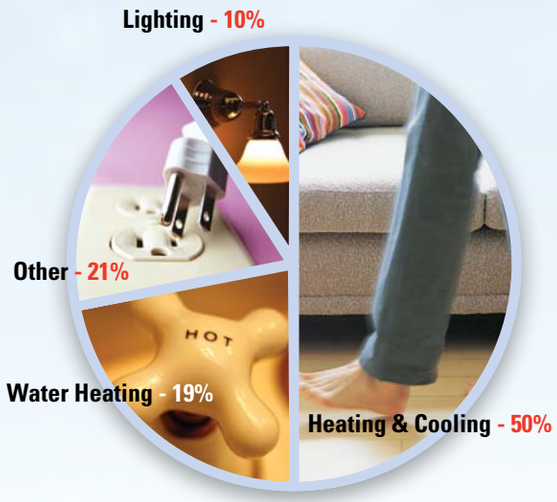

Where do I use electricity?

The average family spends about $100 per month* on electricity. Knowing where your energy dollars go can help you plan your usage and reduce your power bill.

For just a few dollars a day,

electricity provides many of the conveniences you enjoy every day. Making informed decisions about how you use electricity can help you significantly lower your electric bill. It also helps Georgia Power meet your need for energy better without having to build additional power generating plants.

How is electricity usage measured?

Electricity is measured by kilowatt-hour (kWh), which is how your bill is calculated. For example, if you used ten 100-watt bulbs (1,000 watts) for one hour, you would use one kilowatt-hour.

Ten 100-watt bulbs = 1,000 watts
1,000 watts = 1 kilowatt
1 kilowatt burning for 1 hour = 1 kilowatt-hour (kWh)
1 kilowatt-hour = watching a standard TV for almost 4 hours

HEATING AND COOLING

Heating and cooling makes up the majority of your monthly bill (approximately **50 percent** of your average power bill). One way to manage your heating and cooling costs is to set your thermostat at 78°F or higher in the summer and 68°F or lower in the winter. Each degree increase on your thermostat in the winter and decrease in the summer increases your cost for heating and cooling by 3 percent to 4 percent!

If your heating and cooling system is 12 to 15 years old, consider replacing it with a higher SEER and/or ENERGY STAR® qualified system. Newer equipment is typically more energy efficient, which saves you money.

Average costs during heating and cooling months.*

Heating and Cooling	Est. Cost Per Month*
ENERGY STAR qualified** – 14 SEER package *(w/electric water heater)*	$194.96
Electric Heat Pump – 13 SEER *(w/electric water heater)*	$196.25
Dual-Fuel Heat Pump *(w/gas water heater)*	$209.16
A/C w/Natural Gas Furnace*** *(w/gas water heater)*	$287.70

***See back of brochure for information about ENERGY STAR.*
**** Gas costs based on rolling 12-month average fixed rates (as of February 2012) of three largest gas marketers (excludes AGL base charges) filed with the Georgia PSC.*

Easy ways to save:

- Make sure furniture and curtains do not block heating and air conditioning vents.
- Change your filters monthly during the heating and cooling season. If you have pleated filters, change them at least every three months.
- Using a ceiling or area fan in the summer will make the air feel up to six degrees cooler. However, use fans only if you are in the room. Running the fan doesn't actually lower the temperature; it just makes you feel cooler.
- Avoid frequently changing your temperature settings. If you will be gone for several days, set the thermostat up or down six to seven degrees but do not turn your heating or cooling system off completely. Install an ENERGY STAR programmable thermostat to help manage the thermostat settings in your home.

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EarthCents is Georgia Power's portfolio of energy efficiency programs that help our customers save money, use energy efficiently and help the environment.

Current Residential Energy Efficiency Programs
Home Energy Improvement
Lighting and Appliance
New Home
Refrigerator Recycling
Water Heating

To learn about available rebates and incentives, visit **georgiapower.com/earthcents.**

Georgia Power provides many useful online tools to help you save money and energy, including a free Online Energy Checkup.

Visit georgiapower.com

To speak with a representative or to schedule a free In-home Audit, call Georgia Power – The Energy Expert® at **1-800-524-2421.**

ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy designed to educate the public on ways to save money and protect the environment through energy efficiency products and practices.

Visit the ENERGY STAR website at **energystar.gov.**

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Energy Usage

Cost-Comparison Guide

WATER HEATING

After your heating and cooling system, your water heater is the next largest user of electricity (approximately **19 percent** of your average power bill). Every time you turn the water on, consider whether you can use cold water instead of hot water.

Average water heating cost:

Bathing (per use)	Est. Cost Per Month*
Tub Bath (with 4"- 5" water)	$ .15
Shower (lasting 4 minutes)	$ .20
Dishwashing (per month)	
By machine (30 uses)	$ 12.86
By hand (3 times/day)	$ 20.45
Clothes Washing (per load)	
Cold wash, cold rinse	$ .22
Warm wash, cold rinse	$ .35
Hot wash, warm rinse	$ .98

Easy ways to save:

- Set the thermostat on your water heater at 120°F. If you have an electric water heater, wrap it with a water heater jacket (check your manufacturer's warranty before installing).
- Most of the energy used by a dishwasher goes to heating water, so run your dishwasher when it is full. Use your dishwasher's air-dry option rather than using the heat-dry feature.
- Wash only full loads of laundry. Wash in warm or cold water, and rinse in cold.
- Choose ENERGY STAR qualified products to save money and energy.

LIGHTING

Lighting represents almost **10 percent** of your average monthly power bill. Make it a habit to turn lights off when you don't need them to save money and energy. Leaving lights on when no one is in the room may be costing you more than you think.

Average costs to light your home:

Lighting	Est. Cost Per Month*
Bedrooms (3) – 450 watts, 6 hrs./day	$10.42
Living Room – 450 watts, 4 hrs./day	$ 6.93
Outdoor – 100 watts, 10 hrs./day	$ 3.86
Kitchen – 160 watts, 3 hrs./day	$ 1.85
Dining Room – 180 watts, 2 hrs./day	$ 1.39
Bathroom – 180 watts, 2 hrs./day	$ 1.39

The total watts used in an average room is calculated by adding the wattage of all the bulbs in the room.

Example: Living Room: 6 bulbs, 75 watts each = 450 watts

Easy ways to save:

- Change the most-used lights in your home to ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) – they use 75 percent less energy than standard lighting and last up to 10 times longer.
- ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs also generate 75 percent less heat. This means your air conditioning can work less, which lowers your electricity bill.
- Remember to turn lights off when you leave the room.
- Use smaller lamps over work areas such as desktops so work can be done without lighting the whole room.

APPLIANCES

Individually, appliances may not make as much of an impact on your electric bill as your heating and cooling system, but collectively they can still be a significant part of your electricity costs. When buying an appliance, remember that it has two costs: what you pay to take it home and what you pay for the energy and water it uses.

Average cost to run common household appliances:

Refrigeration	Est. Cost Per Month*
Refrigerator	
Two door, frost-free	$19.29
Side-by-side, frost-free	$23.15
ENERGY STAR Two-door, frost-free	$ 5.39
ENERGY STAR Two-door, frost-free, side-by-side	$ 7.16
Freezer	
Chest, manual defrost	$ 7.21
Upright, frost-free	$19.46

Cooking	Est. Cost Per Month*
Electric Range (1hr./day)	$ 6.19
Microwave Oven	$ 1.93

Various Appliances	Est. Cost Per Month*
Room A/C	$32.00
Clothes Dryer (7 loads/week)	$11.02
Flat Screen HDTV – 42 inch (6 hrs./day)	$ 8.10
Color Television (6 hrs./day)	$ 4.77
Computer (3 hrs./day)	$ 1.61
VCR/DVD/DVR	$ 1.07
Stereo (1 hr./day)	$ .90
Ceiling Fan	$ .64
Hand Iron	$ .64
Hair Dryer (blow-dry)	$ .51
Vacuum Cleaner	$ .49
Toaster	$ .42
Wii, PS2 (2 hrs./day)	$ .35
Coffee Maker	$ .12

*For more information about ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, visit **energystar.gov.***

Easy ways to save:

- Set your refrigerator thermostat to between 35°F and 38°F, and your freezer to 0°F.
- When cooking, use the microwave or stove top instead of the oven when possible. Match pots and pans to burner size to minimize heat loss, and use lids on pots to keep in heat.
- Customers may qualify for appliance rebates through our EarthCents® Lighting and Appliance Program. For more information on current promotions and a list of participating retailers, visit **georgiapower.com/appliancerebates.**
- Recycle your old, inefficient second refrigerator or freezer through responsible recycling with the EarthCents Refrigerator Recycling Program. Georgia Power customers can receive $35 and free removal of their working old refrigerator or freezer. To schedule a free pickup and to learn if you qualify, call **1-866-446-9250** or visit **georgiapower.com/refrigerator.**

***** *Estimated energy costs are based on an average-size home in Georgia (2,000 sq. ft./family of three) utilizing Georgia Power's EZSimRes energy simulation program. The building envelopes are in accordance with the Georgia Energy Prescriptive Packages as specified for the Atlanta climate zone. Estimated costs include base load, heating, cooling, water heating and appliances. Electric costs are based on 2012 Georgia Power residential R-17 and FCR – Schedule 21 including In-City Franchise Fee calculations.*