Q&A -1

We purchase a portable air conditioner because the heat wave. How do you save energy use AC

Properly maintaining your air conditioner is key to keeping it running efficiently. The most important thing is to routinely replace or clean its filters. Keeping the filter clean can lower an A/C unit's energy consumption by 5% to 15%.

Next, checking the evaporator coil every year and clean it if necessary.

Lastly, inspect the seal between the air conditioner and the window/door frame to ensure the seal is well installed without any gap.

Source: US Department of Energy

Q&A -2

How much cheaper is it to use appliances during off hours and when are these hours?

Most BC Hydro's residential customers are charged under the **Residential Conservation Rate**. Customers are charged one rate for electricity up to a certain threshold in each billing period, and a higher rate for all electricity use beyond that threshold. This "stepped" rate is designed to encourage conservation.

Step 1
$9.59 cents per kWh for first 1,350 in an average two month billing period (22.1918 kWh per day).

Step 2
$14.22 cents per kWh over the 1,350 Step 1 threshold.

Source: BC Hydro

Q&A -3

How much electricity, comparatively speaking, is being drawn when things are plugged in but turned off? What difference does it make that all my electronics are on stand-by or sleep mode?

Also known as “leaking electricity,” “vampire power” and “phantom loads,” standby power amounts to at 5 to 10 percent of the electricity used in the average Canadian home.

Although the standby power consumption of some devices can be as little as 0.5 watts (W), others use more than 30 watts of electricity.

0.0005 kWh x 24 hours per day x 365 days per year = 4.38 kWh
4.38 kWh x $0.0959/kWh = about $0.42

For every 0.5 watts that your appliances leak in an hour, that is currently costing you about 42 cents.

For example, the average LCD television consumes up to 5 watts while on standby mode and between 24 to 50 watts while you are watching. In a year, it would cost you about $4.2 on standby.

Source: Nature Resources of Canada