

6 Questions Asked by Smart Energy Consumers



THE ENERGY BILL

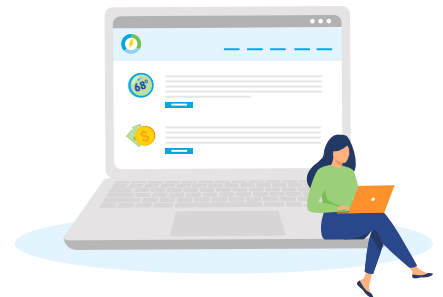
1. Why is my energy bill different each month?

There are a few factors that can cause your energy costs to be higher or lower than usual, and your latest energy bill can help identify the cause. On the bill, you'll see your energy rate, any new fees that apply, and kilowatt-hours (kWh) – the main unit for measuring how much energy you used for the month. Your bill may let you compare your usage to the previous month and the same month last year. These numbers can help you determine if weather, a malfunctioning appliance, the party you had last month or just higher daily usage are leading to a higher bill. To learn more, check out our [Decoding your Power Bill](#) resource.



2. Where can I find more information about my bill?

Your energy company's website might have additional resources to better track and compare your energy usage. You may see that weather or what time you use the most energy play a role in your statement. If your energy company offers other rate plan options, switching may help you save. Think about how your household uses energy, and see if there is a plan that better fits your energy lifestyle. These resources on [energy rate plans](#) will help you learn more about what might be available to you and assist in narrowing your options to what could work best for your situation.



3. What can I do to lower my energy bill now?

Take advantage of some low- to no-cost energy-saving options around your home, like adjusting your thermostat or replacing old light bulbs with energy-efficient LEDs. If you are on a time-of-use rate plan, make sure you don't use large appliances during those peak pricing hours. Your energy company may even offer free energy audits, which help identify energy-saving opportunities around your home, or a free energy-savings kit filled with the items and information needed to weatherize and optimize your home for efficiency.



To discover additional questions that you can ask to become a smarter energy consumer on heat pumps, electrification and more, visit [WhatIsSmartEnergy.org](https://www.whatisSmartEnergy.org)



4. When will I start to see savings?

Depending on how many light bulbs you replace, switching to LEDs could result in big savings by your next billing cycle. LEDs use up to 90% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that an average household could see savings of about \$225 per year if they switched all lights to LEDs. Though they have a pricier upfront cost, new ENERGY STAR®-certified appliances and smart thermostats can offer immediate savings after installation. Check to see if your energy company also offers rebates and appliance recycling options to save even more.



5. How can I take advantage of other saving opportunities?

If you have considered purchasing an electric vehicle and charger, or adding rooftop solar with battery storage, your energy company can offer tailored suggestions for how to best install these options in your home. Also, check with a tax professional to see if you are eligible for any state or federal rebates and credits for home energy improvements or electrification projects.



6. Who else can I talk to about energy-saving options?

Consider having a certified technician inspect your HVAC system and water heater to ensure they are running properly. Read manufacturer's instructions for large appliances to find simple maintenance tasks – like regularly changing your HVAC's air filter or draining sediment from your water heater tank – that can help reduce your energy load. A qualified energy auditor can help you determine if it's time to replace old, drafty windows or add more insulation, and they can often recommend next steps to weatherize your home.



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