



The Cost Of Electricity

A Publication Of The Missouri Public Service Commission

Through the combined efforts of all parties involved in proceedings before the Public Service Commission, Missouri customers have benefitted from low electric rates. Missouri's electric rates for residential, commercial and industrial customers continue to be below the national average.

Did you Know?

▶ Appliances (including refrigerators and lights) use the largest amount of electricity in the average U.S. household -- approximately two-thirds of the power consumed by residential users.

▶ Heating water uses a large amount of power. For example, when you take a shower or run a load of clothes in the washer, the electric water heater might run for an hour reheating the water in the tank. On average, the water heater is on for about three hours a day.

Source: US Energy Information Administration

What Is A Kilowatt-Hour?

We pay for electricity in kilowatt-hours (kWhs). Your electric bill indicates the exact number of kilowatt-hours you used as determined by a reading of your electric meter. The dollar amount of your bill is based on this number of kilowatt-hours.

$$\frac{\text{Watts X Hours used}}{1,000} = \text{kWhs}$$

One kilowatt-hour is the equivalent of using 1,000 watts for one hour or using a 100-watt light bulb for 10 hours.

NOTE: In Missouri, residential customers pay an average of 7.47 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Residential Customer Comparison

State Name	Avg. Rate (cents/kWh)	State Rank
Hawaii	23.36	50
Iowa	9.59	31
U.S. Average	10.40	
Illinois	8.51	18
Kansas	8.18	13
Arkansas	8.67	20
Missouri	7.47	7
Idaho	6.12	1

Source: US Energy Information Administration - 12 months ending December 2006 - Table 5.6.B, *Electric Power Monthly*, March 2007. State Rank: 1-50 from the least costly electric rates (cents/kWh) to the most costly.

Some Examples (Based on Typical Consumption)

Hair dryer (1,200 watts) - 8.5 cents per hour

Heat pump or central air (15,000 watts) - \$1.12 per hour

Water heater or clothes dryer (4,000 watts) - 30 cents per hour

Refrigerator (1,000 watts) - 7.5 cents per hour

Space heater (1,500 watts) - 12 cents per hour

NOTE: Figures are based on 7.47 cents/kWh rate.

For more information

Created in 1913, the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates investor-owned telecommunications, water and sewer, natural gas, electric and steam utilities. The PSC works to ensure that Missouri citizens receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services. If you have an inquiry, billing question or service-related problem that your utility provider cannot answer, please call the PSC at 1-800-392-4211 or visit our website at www.psc.mo.gov