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This diary is for you to record what you find during a week with the Electrsave electricity monitor.

Note down readings of your electricity usage each day for a week and record any interesting discoveries you make about your energy use habits.

You may also find it useful to watch how much energy different appliances in your home use.

Record your electricity meter box reading for the beginning and the end of the week below:

Meter reading at beginning of week:	Not recorded but 1802 KWh used between 28Feb-1Sep 185 days
Meter reading at end of week	Av/day 9.74 units day

You may wish to check your meter box reading each day to see if changing your energy use habits has a noticeable effect.

Please note that the Electrsave monitor should not be treated as a replacement for your electricity meter as the readings it displays will not meet the same degree of accuracy as your meter

daily energy use

Use the Electrsave monitor to keep an eye on daily energy use in your home. Record your findings in the table opposite.

By pressing 'MODE' you can switch between different measures of the energy you are using:

1. cost in pence per hour - use this in the table

Shows how much the current level of power consumption in your home is costing you. This is based on the value you entered from your electricity bill. As power consumption rises, so will your electricity bill!

2. power consumption in kw

Shows the amount of power you are currently using. So this will rise when your demand for electricity increases, for example if you boil the kettle or turn on a light.

3. greenhouse gas emissions

These gases (such as carbon dioxide) are believed to play a key part in climate change. Since a major source of these gases is the generation of electricity, the Electrsave monitor calculates the effective amount of greenhouse emissions being produced by your current level of electricity use.

reducing the amount of energy we use can help combat climate change and save money at the same time!

give your readings in pence per hour

day	typical reading for the day	any high readings do you know what caused the increase in electricity use?	when everything turned off for the night
0650	3.4-11.0	Various appliances on & off (Toaster, Hair Dryer)	
Mon. 1922	5.6	Dish Washer on	
2320	3.6	Fridge running	
0640	2.0	Dishwasher on	
Tue. 1910	3.8		
1920	28.0		
0630	2.2	Washing machine on	
0700	10.2	Hairdryer+ other breakfast time equipment	
1800	8.8		
1905	38.2p	Oven on, kettle on and electric hotplate - standard evening use	
2145	6.6		
2300	4.0		
0700	3.4/4.6	Fridge cutting in	
1730	6.6		
2200	4.2		
2230	5.0	Different lights on+TV	
0640	4.2		
0700	12.2	Toaster on	
1650	3.2	Dishwasher running	
Fri. 2130	6.5		
2310	3.4		
0610	1.8	No lights on	
1230	5.6		
1655	1.8	One or two lights on	
Sat. 2200	2.6	Dishwasher still going	
2330	4.4		
0600	3.6		
0715	1.2		
0740	1.6		
Sun. 1230	£1.20	Oven + other appliances	
2300	5.0		

where the electricity goes...

Can you tell which appliances use the most electricity in your home? Note down the extra cost of powering these appliances - the difference between the reading on the display before and after the appliance is in use.

appliance	rise in cost (pence/hour)
Not easy but probably the dishwasher	
--- too many appliances; lights confuse issues	

what is the cost of your electricity, as you set it on the electric save monitor?

8.73 pence per kwh

This is the lower rate of my 2 part tariff and would be the one affected by any changes to reducing consumption.

at the end of the week...

maximum and minimum energy use

Having monitored your electricity use over a week, you may have noticed times at which the most and the least electricity is being used. Can you give the highest and lowest readings you saw?

highest reading	38.2 pence per hour
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lowest reading	1.8 pence per hour
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The highest reading should show just how much it can cost to power your home when a lot of appliances are in use.

The lowest reading indicates a 'base load' - the electricity still used in your home even when most appliances are switched off. Appliances left on standby can use 25% of the energy they use when on - turn them off to save energy, money and to reduce the possibility of electrical fires.



the alarm

If you used the alarm function, what value did you set it to and did your household often exceed this?

alarm limit Not used

pence per hour

How often was this value exceeded, setting off the alarm? Please tick the most appropriate box.

often

occasionally

never



what you thought of the family challenge

Please tick the most appropriate box to answer the following questions.

1. How interesting did you find monitoring your electricity use for a week?

not at all interesting	1	2	3	4	5	very interesting
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

2. How easy was the Electrisave monitor to install?

very difficult	1	2	3	4	5	very easy
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. Do you think that your energy use habits may change as a result of the Family Challenge?

yes no unsure

Will try to reduce unnecessary use

finally, were there any particular findings that you thought were interesting or surprising?

Positive 1 It brought out sharply what we were using at busy times. This did show us to be aware not to leave things on unnecessarily.

2 It would be more helpful if the meter were able to:

a. Monitor individual appliances (it would need a conversion device to detect the current).

b. Record the energy used over a period of say one week for an individual equipment (or a set of equipments).

We would then be able to make sensible decisions to reduce electricity consumption without being denied the usefulness of our modern appliances eq Washing machine uses 'x' units/week for 'y' washes eq can we cut down on the number of time we wash clothes.

thank you very much for your participation in the family challenge!

Please return to Dr Jackie Lawrence, Environmental management team, Warwickshire County Council, PO Box 48, Warwick, CV34 4SX. Tel: 01926 796824