



From the energy expert: Learn to log your energy use

My bill seems to be getting more and more expensive each month. Is there anything I can do to see what is using so much electricity in my house? How can I reduce it?

Southern Pine Electric Power Association reads your meter on or around the same day each month to determine your monthly kilowatt-hour (kwh) use. This not only determines your monthly bill, but also gives a daily average of energy consumption (1,700 kwh ÷ 30 days = 56.6 kwh per day).

You can break down your use even further and get the daily reading of your of energy consumption. You have the ability to gauge your use hourly, in 12-hour or 24-hour increments. Simply read your electric meter and maintain an energy log. This will help you to understand your energy consumption and pinpoint the culprit behind your higher-than-usual electric bill.

Take a reading of your meter in the

morning before you leave for work and write it in your energy log. When you get home from work, take another reading and log it, too. Subtract the morning's reading from the evening's reading and you have the kwh used in your home while you were at work. For example:

7 a.m. reading: 23,567

7 p.m. reading: 23,624

The difference = 57 kwh used in a 12-hour time period

If you find this number to be too high, write down the energy activities during that time frame and see what activities you can minimize or omit to reduce energy consumption. If nothing comes to mind, experiment:

- Adjust your thermostat setting on your heating and cooling unit so it doesn't run as much while you are at work (set it 2-4 degrees higher in the summer and 2-4

degrees lower in the winter).
 • Put a timer on your water heater so it only runs when you are home (one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening) or simply lower the thermostat settings on the water heater (to a setting of 120 degrees).

When you've modified the operation time of your appliances, take a reading of your meter before leaving for work and again when you return home. Compare the differences in your daily use to see how much you have reduced your use by merely adjusting a few thermostats.

- Then, let the true experimenting begin!
 • Use only cold water when washing clothes.
 • Use the "cool dry" feature on your dishwasher.



Penny McAlpin
 Manager of Marketing and Member Services

- Replace a few incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- Turn off the TV and leave the radio on for Fido during the day.

We do realize that many of our members are home during the day or may work different hours. The concept still applies, regardless of your lifestyle or schedule. Just remember that by reading your electric meter daily you can control your use. You will

be amazed by how many ways you can reduce your energy consumption and your monthly electric bills.

Southern Pine Electric Power Association is a not-for-profit electric cooperative. When you, our member, can reduce your energy consumption, then Southern Pine's consumption is reduced as well.

Brutal heat makes appliances use more energy

Summer temperatures have air conditioners humming, fans spinning and pool pumps churning. We've experienced triple-digit temperatures during August, and costs to cool your home rise much higher as the outside temperature goes up. The higher than normal temperatures along with the lack of rain and the high humidity may have caused your electric bill to be higher.

Costs of all types of fuel have reached an all-time high. But electricity is still today's best bargain. An average Southern Pine customer spends less than \$4.50 per day for all the conveniences that electricity affords.

The important thing to remember is that you and your family can control your energy use and reduce energy cost by increasing your energy management awareness. Controlling the thermostat is one of the easiest and most economical ways to control energy use. We encourage you to read your meter often, so you can keep track of your use.

The following suggestions can be done at little or no cost to you.

- Reports indicate that you can save 1 to 3 percent per degree

for each degree the air-conditioning thermostat is set above 72 degrees. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and at 85 degrees when you are out of town.

- Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because the air movement will make you feel cooler.
- Change the air filter(s) on your heating/cooling system regularly—monthly is recommended. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer, increasing energy use.

Electricity is still today's best bargain, although the cost of fuel to generate electricity continues to be volatile.



Don Jordan
 General Manager

Powerful tips for paying your bill

- If you pay your Southern Pine bill in cash, please include your bill stub to ensure your account will be credited properly.
- If you do not have the bill stub or the account number, include the name as it appears on the account.
- If you use a night-deposit box at any Southern Pine office, please be sure to include your bill stub.
- If paying by money order, your name, address and account number should be printed plainly on the money order.
- If the phone number or address is incorrect on your monthly bill, please let your Southern Pine office know.

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks 2007-2008 Hunting Season

MOURNING DOVE

North Zone

Sept. 1-23 ; Oct. 6-27; Dec. 22 - Jan. 15, 2008

South Zone

Sept. 22-Oct. 14; Nov. 10-Dec. 1; Dec. 22-Jan. 15, 2008

DEER

Zone 1

Archery: Oct. 1-Nov. 16
 Youth Gun*: Nov. 10-16
 Gun (with dogs): Nov. 17-30
 Primitive Weapon: Dec. 1-14; Jan. 18-31, 2008
 Gun (no dogs): Dec. 15-16; Dec. 17-23

Zone 2

Archery: Oct. 15-Nov. 16
 Youth Gun*: Nov. 10-16
 Gun (with dogs): Nov. 17-30; Dec. 24-Jan. 17, 2008
 Primitive Weapon: Dec. 1-14; Jan. 18-Feb. 15, 2008
 Gun (no dogs): Dec. 15-16, 17-23

SQUIRREL

Zone 1

Sept. 29-Feb. 28, 2008
 Youth Squirrel* - Sept. 22-28

Zone 2

Oct. 13-Feb. 28, 2008
 Youth Squirrel* - Oct. 6-12

Zone 3

Oct. 27-Feb. 28, 2008
 Youth Squirrel* - Oct. 20-26



RABBIT

Oct. 13-Feb. 28, 2008

BOBWHITE QUAIL

Nov. 22 - Mar. 1, 2008

This is a partial listing of hunting seasons. Bag limits, zone areas and other restrictions apply.

For complete information, contact the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks district office that serves your area or visit them on the Web at www.mdwfp.com.

*Youth eligible to participate in this special hunt are those 15 years of age or younger.

Each youth must be in the immediate vicinity and under the direct supervision of an adult 21 years of age or older. Furthermore, if the child is under the age of 12, the supervising adult must be a licensed or exempt hunter.

Mark your calendar

There are lots of fun and educational activities heading our way this fall in south and central Mississippi. Here are a few of them:

New Hebron Pulpwood Festival

Saturday, Sept. 8, New Hebron

The festivities will begin at 8 a.m. with a flea market. Children's activities and a musical showcase of stars follow at 10 a.m. Other events will include a quilt expo, arts and crafts and food. The Concert Under the Stars, featuring The Isaacs, kicks off at 7 p.m.; admission to the concert for ages 9 and above is \$15 at the gate, \$10 in advance. All activities will take place on Main Street. For details, call (601) 694-2532 or go to www.lawrencecounty.org.

32nd Annual Crazy Day Celebration

Saturday, Sept. 15, Magee

Crazy Day is a popular festival featuring arts and crafts, food, entertainment, a 5K run and a golf tournament. For details, call the Magee Chamber of Commerce at (601) 849-2517. Vendors can find applications online at www.mageechamber.com.

Mississippi Women in Agriculture

Sept. 25-27, Jackson

Oct. 23-25, Starkville

Nov. 7-9, Hattiesburg

Mississippi State University Extension Service offers three seminars for women interested in pursuing an agricultural business or improving their present enterprise. Preregistration is required. For details, call (662) 325-3080 or visit www.msucare.com/womeninag.

Raleigh Heritage Festival

Saturday, Sept. 29, Raleigh

The setting for this 11th annual festival is the historic Smith County Courthouse, in downtown Raleigh. Events will include arts and crafts, children's activities, antique car show, old machines and tractor displays, an auction, farmers' market and more. The festival opens at 9 a.m. and admission is free. For details, call (601) 782-4527 or (601) 782-4339.

Wing Dang Doodle Festival

Saturday, Sept. 29, Forest

The fourth annual Wing Dang Doodle Festival will celebrate chicken and blues music—two things important to folks in Forest. Scheduled are a chicken cook-off, arts and crafts show, talent show, car and motorcycle show, live entertainment, demonstrating artists, dog show, pet parade and children's activities. Keith "Chickin' Daddy" Hunter will headline entertainment. For details, call the Forest Area Chamber of Commerce at (601) 469-4332.

Longleaf Trace Birthday Challenge

Saturday, Nov. 3, Prentiss

This sixth annual event gives participants the opportunity to run their age on the Longleaf Trace, from the Prentiss Park Gateway to Hattiesburg. Events will include opening ceremonies and a mass start at 9 a.m. Entertainment and lunch will begin at 10 a.m. For details, call the Jefferson Davis County Chamber of Commerce at (601) 792-5196 or visit www.forestmschamber.com.



Southern Pine members attend Co-op Couples Conference

Four young couples, all members of Southern Pine Electric Power Association, joined couples from Mississippi and Louisiana at the 2007 Co-op Couples Conference, held in July at Lake Tiak O'Khata, in Louisville. Conference participants learned more about the cooperatives that serve them and how to get more from their cooperative membership. From left are Brandon and Leah Kirkland, of Bay Springs; Mark and Candice Wolken, of Mendenhall; Jonathan and Brooke Jones, of Pinola; and Jody and Heather Dolan, of Louin. The Wolkens, who participated in last year's conference, returned this year as a host couple. The Dolans were elected to serve as a host couple for the 2008 conference.