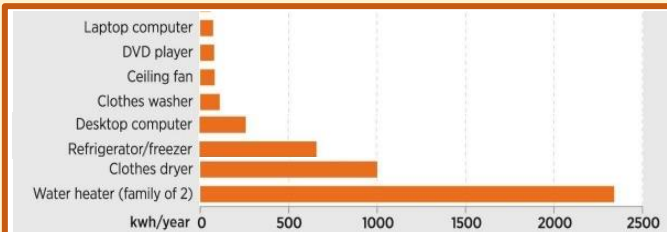


# In March

## Be energy smart

### TIPS for electrifying our homes:

Know how much energy your appliances use to set priorities.




**Water heaters** use about 20% of a home's energy, so upgrading has a high impact. Install an **EnergyStar**® heat pump water heater and **save 30%** of the *installed cost* with up to a \$2000 federal tax credit.

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/home-energy-tax-credits>

Set your **refrigerator** to 35°F to 38°F, your freezer to 0°F. And don't block the air flow!

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/refrigerator-freezer-use-and-temperature-tips>

**Ready to replace your refrigerator?** Compare **EnergyStar**® scores.



**Want to know *exactly* how much energy your appliances or electronics are using?**

Borrow a watt meter from the Kirkwood branch of the Monroe County Public Library's "Library of Things" on the second floor. See the next page for instructions.

## TASK OF THE MONTH

### Save energy on electronics:

Use surge protector strips to shut off electronics when not in use.



### Save energy on lighting:

LEDs are better for the environment than CFLs.\*

But LED features & quality vary:

#### Color temperature (in Kelvin)

- Warmer (2700K) for living areas.
- Whiter (3000K) for work areas.

#### Accurate Color Rendering Index (CRI)

- Look for CRIs in the 80s to 90s for better quality of light.

#### Reading the labels

- Brightness is listed with incandescent equivalents.
- Dimmable options are available.
- Compare efficiency ratings.

\*LEDs use less energy and last longer than CFLs, so there is less waste. And they do not contain toxic mercury like CFLs do.

### Joining Citizens Climate Lobby

(CCL) provides a great way to connect with local members and receive weekly briefings with suggested actions.

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>



## Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change



# Using the TrickleStar wattmeter to measure electricity used (& its cost)

<p><b>This wattmeter can measure the amount of electricity used by typical appliances &amp; electrical items such as:</b>                  A refrigerator, dehumidifier, freezer, microwave oven, window air-conditioner, computer, router, modem, DVD, VCR, TV, cable-TV box, satellite receiver box, stereo system, aquarium, room fan, electric blanket, or lamp.</p>	
1.)	Choose an electrical item to measure its electricity usage.
2.)	Locate the wall outlet (receptacle) and plug for that electrical item.
3.)	Safely unplug the item or appliance from the wall outlet (also called a receptacle).
4.)	<p>Plug the wattmeter into the available wall outlet.</p> <p>The green <b>PROTECTED</b> light should be lit, see 1st Photo.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The display head has a cord and can be removed (slides off) so it can still be read even if the appliance blocks the outlet when running (such a refrigerator), see 2nd Photo.</i></p>
5.)	<p>Plug the cord for the appliance being measured, into the wattmeter receptacle (see <b>Red Arrow</b> in 1st Photo).</p>
6.)	<p>Read the wattmeter display. It should have the word "ENERGY", with no other words across the top. If the words "Energy Count" are ON or flashing along the top, press the <b>ENERGY COUNT</b> button on &amp; off, until it stops flashing, then press the <b>ENERGY</b> button to get a measure of the electricity the appliance is using (in Watts) at that instant.</p> <p><i>NOTE: This value can go up or down. With a refrigerator, it could change if the door is opened, with a TV, when changing the channel.</i></p>
7.)	<p>The electricity must be measured over some time to get an <i>energy usage</i> value, so leave the wattmeter &amp; appliance plugged in, for it to take measurements for about 6 to 24 hours (or longer). Longer times will give more accurate measurements, especially with items like refrigerators that are turning on &amp; off all day and night).</p>
8.)	<p>Press the <b>ENERGY</b> button once to display a DAY's <i>estimated</i> amount of ENERGY in kilowatt hours (kWh). Press it a second time to display a MONTH's ENERGY estimate. Press it a third time to display a YEAR's estimate. Press it again to return to displaying the electricity being used at that instant (in Watts).</p>
9.)	<p>Similar to step 8.), press the <b>COST</b> button once to display the <i>estimated</i> COST per Hour (/Hr). Press it again to display a DAY's estimated COST. Press it again to display a MONTH's estimate. Press it again to display a YEAR's estimate. Press it again to return to displaying the COST per HOUR estimate.</p>



*This 3rd Photo shows how much electricity the item is using at this moment (in Watts).*

