



# Electric Bill Made Easy

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) developed this fact sheet to help you better understand your electric bill.

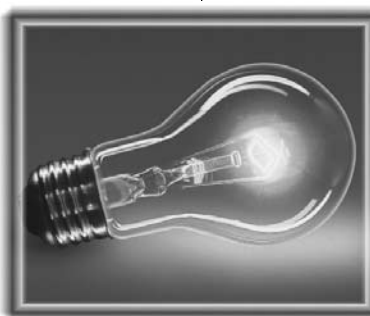
## Usage and meter reading

### Electric usage

The amount of electricity you use is measured in kilowatt hours (KwH).

### Types of meter readings

Your electric company may read your meter or estimate how much electricity you use each billing cycle, which can be between 25 and 35 days. An actual meter reading shows the exact amount of electricity you have used. An estimated reading is determined by looking at the usage for the same month during past years. You can request an actual meter read if your bill has been estimated for more than two consecutive months or if the meter is malfunctioning. You are entitled to two free meter readings per year. A fee will be assessed for more than two actual reads.



## Fees and charges

There are four charges that appear on bills and they are added together to determine what you owe.

These charges are:

- ▶ Transmission Service Charge – A charge for moving high-voltage electricity from the power plant to your electric company.
- ▶ Distribution Service Charge – A kilowatt-based volumetric charge for sending electricity to your home, including use of local wires and other equipment (may include a customer charge).
- ▶ Generation Service Charge – A charge for the production of electricity.

## Required items on bills

Electric companies are required to list certain information on your bill. Each company must include:

- A** Customer's name, address (service and billing) and account number
- B** Payments or credits on your account
- C-G** List of each service and related charges
- H** Rate per kilowatt hour and price to compare
- I** Billing information, including a beginning and ending meter reading date
- J** Whether your usage has been determined by an actual or estimated meter reading
- K** The 12-month usage history for the account
- L** Energy use pattern for current month and previous 12 months
- M** Explanation of codes and abbreviations on the bill
- N** How to contact the electric company
- O** The start and ending date of the billing cycle
- P** Amount billed for the current period and due date
- Q** Unpaid amount due and late payment fees

## Why should you read your bill?

You should read your bill each month to know what charges appear on the bill and your normal electric usage. Also, the company may place important notices and other updates on the bill. Customers with a supplier may see additional charges as part of the same or on a separate bill.

## Where can you get help?

For help, call the OCC toll free at 1-877-PICKOCC (1-877-742-5622) or visit [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org).

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.

**For additional information from the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel:**

**Call: 1-877-PICKOCC (1-877-742-5622) toll free or (614) 466-8574**

**Write: 10 West Broad Street, 18th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485**

**E-mail: [occ@occ.state.oh.us](mailto:occ@occ.state.oh.us) • Internet Address: [www.pickocc.org](http://www.pickocc.org)**

# Sample Electric Bill

Electric Company Name  
Company Address  
1-800-###-####

SERVICE AT:  
CONSUMER NAME  
Consumer address

**Customer Account Number**  
000000000000

**Due Date**  
Feb 19, 2005

**Pay This Amount**  
\$43.26

**Amount due after Feb 19, 2005**  
\$52.75

**PREVIOUS CHARGES:**

	Account Balance	Amount Due
Total Amount Due at Last Billing	\$ 55.01	
Payment 1/18/01 - Thank You	55.01 CR	
Previous Balance	\$ .00	\$ .00

**CURRENT CHARGES:**

Customer Charge	\$ 4.75	
Delivery Charge	\$ 12.80	
Transition Charge	\$ .31	
Transmission Charge	\$ 2.31	
Generation Related Component	\$ 23.09	
<b>Total Current Charges</b>	<b>\$ 43.26</b>	<b>\$ 43.26</b>

**Price to Compare**

In order to save you money, a new supplier must offer you a price lower than ## cents per kWh for the same usage that appears on this bill.

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**USAGE INFORMATION:**

Meter Number	Service Period From	To	Meter Reading Prev CD	Pres CD	Multiplier	Metered Usage
11111111	01/01/01	01/31/01	43333 A	43818 A	1.0000	485 KWH

CD - Read Code: A = Actual Reading E = Estimated Reading

Month	Usage	Month	Usage	Month	Usage
Feb 00		May 00		Nov 00	522
Mar 00		Jun 00		Dec 00	368
Apr 00		Jul 00	831	Jan 01	609
Average Monthly Usage: 595 KWH			Total Usage (Past 12 Months): 4762 KWH		

**Your Energy Use Pattern**

Average KWH per day	Average KWH per day	This Year	Last Year
	Meter Reading	22.2	18.0
	Average Temperature	(Actual)	(Actual)
		0°	0°

