



# PowerCost Monitor usage sheet

The PowerCost Monitor is a wireless device with two main parts. A sensor unit is installed around the BC Hydro meter outside your home. A wireless handheld unit is then used to measure the energy consumption inside your home. With a range of up to 100ft from the sensor unit, you can place it just about anywhere – in the kitchen, on your nightstand or conveniently placed on the wall in your hallway. Anytime of day, you can look at your PowerCost Monitor to see:

- How much electricity your home is using in real time
- How much money you are spending on electricity as you consume it
- The highest amount you spent on your energy usage in a 24 hr period

## Why are we doing this?

Measuring your electricity usage allows you to make simple changes that will help save energy and money, quickly and easily. Join the City of North Vancouver in fighting climate change. By using household appliances responsibly, we can reduce our carbon footprint and achieve a more sustainable community.

For more information about the City's Climate Action initiatives, visit [www.cnv.org/ClimateAction](http://www.cnv.org/ClimateAction)

## How to use the PowerCost Monitor device:

- Install the PowerCost Monitor sensor unit according to the Installation Guide provided.
- Set up the PowerCost Monitor display unit.
- Set the billing mode. BC Hydro uses a two-step rate structure to encourage conservation. You can check the current BC Hydro rates on your hydro bill. The 2009 rates are 5.91 cents/kWh for the first 1,350 kWh (threshold) used in an average two-month billing period and 8.27 cents/kWh for any additional electricity used above the threshold. Therefore, the electricity costs would be entered as:  
**Step 1:** \$0.059 for usage up to 1,350 kWh  
**Step 2:** \$0.082 for usage above 1,350 kWh
- Consult the User Guide for instructions on how to read the energy consumption of each appliance.
- Press the **APPL** button to see how much electricity is consumed by a single appliance. Turn off the appliance you want to measure. Press the APPL button, then turn on the appliance. The consumption will be displayed on the screen of the handheld device.

(see Installation Guide and User Guide for more detailed information)  
For more details on rates and incentives visit [www.bchydro.com](http://www.bchydro.com)

# Some things you can do with the PowerCost Monitor:

1. Check the consumption levels of your favourite appliances. Are you surprised?
2. Conduct an experiment. Turn your TV off and measure the consumption level. Now turn your TV on and measure the consumption level. Note the difference. This can be done for every appliance in your home. In some cases, if phantom loads are high, there might not be much difference between the “On” and “Off” modes (see phantom load activity below).
3. Check the phantom loads of your appliances (see purple insert: Stand-by Power: When “Off” Means “On”). Up to 10% of your energy bill is spent when electric devices are off! Even when these items are off, they still use electricity to power “off” lights, clocks and allow the appliance to receive remote control “on” signals. You can stop phantom loads by plugging your devices into a power bar and switching the power bar off.
4. Calculate the real cost of using an incandescent light bulb versus a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). Check the consumption of a table lamp with an incandescent bulb. Now swap out the incandescent bulb for a CFL and check the consumption. Compare the two. How much energy and money did you save with the CFL?



The PowerCost Monitor

## This bag includes:

- 1 PowerCost Monitor sensor unit
- 1 PowerCost Monitor wireless display unit
- 1 PowerCost Monitor installation guide
- 1 PowerCost Monitor user guide
- 1 PowerCost Monitor usage sheet
- 1 Stand-by Power: When “Off” means “On” fact sheet