

Kill A Watt™ Power Meter Project

Sponsored by the Melrose Energy Commission through a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

The Melrose Energy Commission thanks you for your interest in learning about your household's electricity consumption and easy ways to save energy.

The following information will help you get started.

1. **Decide which appliances you want to test.** Some suggestions:

- Computer monitor and processor
(especially if you keep it on all the time)
- Xbox or other game unit
- Television set
- Refrigerator
(pay particular attention to an old, energy-guzzling unit in your basement or garage)
- Cable television box
(which displays the time even when the television is turned off)

2. **Figure out your cost of electricity per kilowatt-hour.** The current residential rate in Melrose is approximately **17 cents per kWh**. You can confirm this by dividing the total cost of your most recent electric bill by the number of kWh listed on the bill.

3. **Read the Quick Start instructions** on the attached sheet. We recommend you read the entire set of instructions, especially the safety information.

4. **If possible, keep the meter connected for 24 hours** to accurately measure power loads that may fluctuate over time in, for example, refrigerators and computers.

5. **Record your findings.** Here's a standard format with an example.

Appliance	kWh per day	Cost per day	Cost per year (24/7)	Average usage per day (%)	Number of units	Household's cost per year	CO ₂ emissions per year*
27" TV set	1.8	\$0.31	\$116	25%	3	\$87	783 lbs.

* Multiply annual kWh by 1.53 to calculate number of pounds of CO₂ emissions produced by the electricity generation needed to run the appliance (source: 2004 EPA report)

6. Call the Melrose Energy Commission at 781-662-2616 or send an e-mail to melroseenergy@yahoo.com if you have any questions or need further information.

7. Read about ways to reduce your energy consumption and carbon footprint; and **begin today!**