

# Activity P5

Find information in the media and social networks about the economic cost ( cost of the kw ) and saving possibilities

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# ELECTRICITY PRICES IN EUROPE

- Electricity costs are on a continuous upward trend in Europe. These average values vary significantly across the European Union, ranging from 9.6 cents /kWh in Bulgaria to 30.5 cents in Denmark and Germany.
- In 2017, the average residential consumer's electricity price was 20.4 cents per kilowatt per hour [cents/kWh], an increase of 23% over the average price of 16.6 cents | kWh 10 years ago. The highest rise in cost has been found in Greece [76%], Lithuania [58%] and Portugal [50%]. The largest decreases in electricity prices for households were recorded in Hungary [-28%], Malta [-17%] and the Netherlands [-13%].

## European countries with the highest electricity prices

- In Europe, residential consumer prices for electricity have long exceeded the industrial prices, and the gap has even become bigger in recent years. The highest residential electricity prices are paid in Denmark [30.5 cents] and Germany for many years in a row now. The price per kilowatt hour is more than three times higher than in Bulgaria [9.6 cents]. Belgium [28.0 cents] and Ireland [23.1 cents] are competing for the 3rd and 4th place.
- The energy prices in the EU depend on a range of factors, including taxation, network charges or environmental protection costs. Taxes and levies make the biggest difference. Residential electricity rates are taxed at an average of 37%. These values vary greatly from one country to another, with rates as high as 67% in Denmark and 55% in Germany.

# Energy savings

- Everyone wants to **save** money on their energy bill. Many facilities have mandates to save energy. Improving energy efficiency offers huge advantages to businesses—reducing the costs of energy and operations—and increasing sustainability.



# Introduction

- Saving money on your energy bill is simple—either use less energy or pay less for the energy that you use. As ridiculous as this sounds, this oversimplification is exactly the point. Energy savings is hard work and a clear understanding of the energy you use and how you pay for it is critical to saving money. The focus of this paper is on electrical energy, although similar conclusions can be made for other sources of energy.

# Understanding your electric bill

- Generally speaking, your electric bill has four major components: • **Energy** (measured in kWh) • **Demand** (measured in kW) • **Penalties or other charges** (PF, etc.) • **Taxes** : Our intention is not to help you save money on the tax portion of your bill, but by identifying savings in the other three parts, you may also save on taxes.

# Ways to conserve energy

- Install a programmable or smart thermostat  
A programmable or smart thermostat can be set to automatically turn off or reduce heating and cooling during the times when you are asleep or away. When you install a programmable thermostat, you eliminate wasteful energy use from heating and cooling without upgrading your HVAC system or sacrificing any comfort . On average, a programmable thermostat can save you \$180 per year. Programmable thermostats come in different models that can be set to fit your weekly schedule.

- Purchase energy efficient appliances

On average, appliances are responsible for roughly 13% of your total household energy use. When purchasing an appliance, you should pay attention to two numbers: the initial purchase price and the annual operating cost.

Although energy efficient appliances usually have higher purchase prices, their operating costs are 9-25% lower than conventional models . When purchasing an energy efficient appliance, you should look for appliances with the ENERGY STAR label, which is a federal guarantee that the appliance will consume less energy during use and when on standby than standard non-energy efficient models.

- Replace your light bulbs

Traditional incandescent light bulbs consume an excessive amount of electricity and must be replaced more often than their energy efficient alternatives. Halogen incandescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), and light-emitting diode bulbs (LEDs) use anywhere from 25-80% less electricity and last three to 25 times longer than traditional bulbs . Although energy efficient bulbs are more expensive off the shelf, their efficient energy use and longer service lives mean that they cost less in the long run. Energy efficient bulbs are the clear winners in terms of their environmental and financial benefits.

- Why conserve energy in the first place?

Energy conservation is important and beneficial for many reasons. You can save money, increase your property value, and protect the environment all through simple energy-saving measures. These are great benefits you can gain from saving energy no matter your exact motivation for conservation in the first place. By simply taking a small step towards living a more energy-conscious lifestyle, you can begin to enjoy all of the perks of being energy efficient.

