

REAL people
taking REAL action
to protect our environment
since 1989



Box 1061
Smiths Falls, ON
K7A 5A5
www.REALaction.ca

Rideau Environmental Action League

November 24, 2014

Energy Usage Meter Available to Borrow

If you are concerned high electricity bills, you should take a look at the electricity used by your household appliances. The Kill a Watt Meter, an appliance energy usage meter, will help you determine how much it costs you to run a given appliance, and determine if there are phantom loads – appliances using electricity when they appear to be off. Kill a Watt Meters are available to borrow at a number of local libraries as well as the REAL Deal store by the Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL).

The meter is very simple to use. Simply plug the three prong device into 120 VAC, three-prong (grounded) electrical outlet, and then plug your appliance into the meter. An LCD shows the AC volts, AC amps, watts, volt-amps, frequency, power factor, kilowatt-hours (up to 9,999 KWH) and elapsed time (up to 9,999 hours.) You can easily test appliances like fans, computers, heaters, stereos and lamps. For appliances that cycle on and off, like fridges, freezers, pumps and water coolers, it is best to keep the Kill a Watt plugged in for up to 24 hours to get an accurate reading.

This device will not allow you to measure the electrical consumption of appliances that are directly wired, such as stoves, dishwashers, driers, water pumps, furnaces, electric hot water heaters or some lighting fixtures.

Once you have determined the killawatt hours consumed, you can find the energy costs of that appliance and compare it to typical models or energy efficient models using listings provided online by Natural Resources Canada and Hydro One. You may find a certain appliance is an energy guzzler and could be used more sparingly or even replaced with a more energy efficient model.

The meters come with some additional tips from REAL that will help borrowers to get the information they need. These instructions are also available on REAL's website www.REALaction.ca under the energy tab. Various YouTube videos from other organizations may be helpful, as well.

Residents can borrow a Kill a Watt meter free of charge from certain area libraries. Smiths Falls, Perth, Almonte and South Elmsley have had meters for several years, and Carleton Place and Pakenham have just received their's from REAL. A Kill a Watt meter is also available from the REAL Deal Store in Smiths Falls. It is advisable to call ahead as each location has only one meter.

The Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL) is making the meters available to residents to encourage the sensible use of our province's energy resources. More about REAL's environmental activities can be found at www.REALaction.ca.

- 30 -

Barb Hicks

dhicks11@cogeco.ca

(613) 283-9966