



How to Read Your Electric Meter

By keeping track of electric meter reads over a given period of time, you can identify when high energy use occurs, which can assist in determining where the greatest opportunity for energy savings lies. Becoming aware of overall energy use involves keeping track of the readings on the electric meter.

Follow the steps below to determine your electric usage:

Step 1 – Locate your electric meter.

Electric meters are usually mounted on the side of your home or building about five (5) feet above ground level. The electric meter is generally round with a clear covering, and is typically mounted near the main fuse box or panel of circuit breakers. If there are several meters on the wall, yours will be labeled with the "Meter Number" that matches what is clearly marked on your utility bill.

Step 2 – Read the electric meter.

NOTE: Your electric meter will either have a digital read-out that can be read directly off the display, or will have a mechanical display with four (4) or five (5) clock-like dials on the meter face.

Reading the Digital Meter - The digital meter displays electricity usage that can be read directly off the digital display, with usage measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

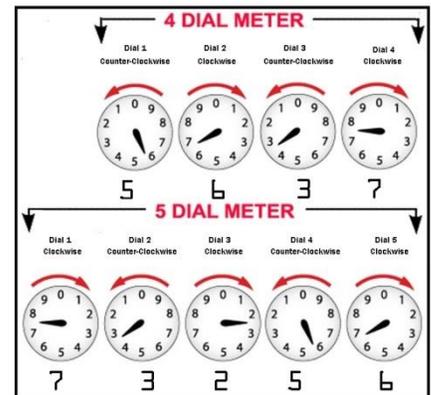
Reading the Mechanical Meter – The mechanical meter will either have four (4) or five (5) clock-like dials. A pointer on each dial indicates a digit, 0 through 9. When all the indicated digits are read from left to right, they comprise the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) used.

Here's how to read your electricity usage:

Starting with the dial on the left and proceeding to the right, record the numbers indicated by the pointers.

- If a pointer is between two numbers, record the LOWER number.
• If a pointer is directly on a number, check if the pointer on the dial to the right has moved past zero. If it has NOT passed zero, record the lower number from the original dial.

The 4- or 5-digit number (depending on the number of dials on your meter) you've just recorded is your new meter reading. In the illustration to the right, the four dial reads 5637 kWh and the five dial reads 73256 kWh.



For either meter type: To calculate the amount of electricity consumed, record the read of the meter at the beginning of the time period being measured. At the end of the time period being measured, record the read on the meter again. The difference between the two reads is the amount of electricity consumed.

Once you have determined the energy used, multiply the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) by the cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Visit the REU Schedule of Rates page of our website www.reupower.com to find the current cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Making notes of any high-energy consumption activity that occurred during the time frame measured (i.e. laundry or cooking, air conditioning/heating, hot water usage, etc.) will give you an idea of what causes your energy use and how much those items are costing. Repeat these steps as often as you like in order to track your energy usage.

If you have any questions about reading your electric meter, please contact City of Redding Utility Customer Service at (530) 339-7200