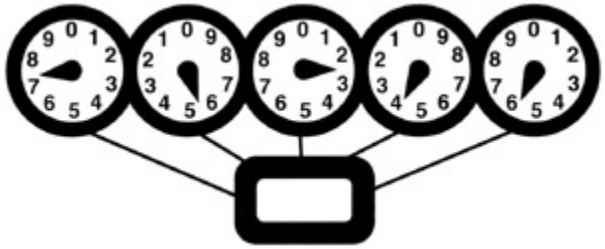
How To Read Your
Electric Meter

Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours. As sort of a quick reference, a 100 watt light bulb burning for 10 hours uses one kilowatt-hour. Electric meters keep track of how many kilowatt-hours you've used. On the face of the meter are four or five round dials. Each dial has ten numbers and a pointer like the hand of a clock. The pointers turn only when electricity is being used, and they turn so slowly that you can hardly see them move. Let's try reading a meter.

Notice that the numbers on the dials do not all run in the same direction; some dials run clockwise, and others run counterclockwise. To determine your correct meter reading, simply read the dials in order from right to left. As you read each dial, write down the number.



When the needle is between two numbers, always read the smaller of the two numbers. On the right hand dial, read the number that the pointer has just passed and write the number here _5.

Read the last number passed on the second dial and write it to the left of the first number ____5.

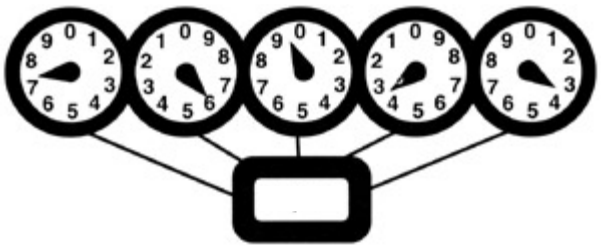
Read the last number passed on the third dial ____and write 45.

Read the last number passed on the fourth dial and write it down _____245.

Read the last number passed on the fifth dial and write down _____5245.

When you put all the numbers together, you should have the reading: 75245 kWh.

Let's Try Another



_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

When a pointer rests directly on a number, as in the fourth dial from the right of this example, be sure to check the next dial to the right. If that pointer has not passed zero, as shown here, the number on the previous dial has not yet been reached. Therefore, the fourth dial from the right above should be read as five, not six.

Did you get a reading of 75933 kWh?

Reading these meter dials has given us the way to find out how much electricity we used in the time between the two readings ... and also the basis for how much we will have to pay for the kWh we used.

75933	**kWh present reading**
- 75245	**kWh previous reading (from your bill)**
688	**kWh used**

So, if these readings were taken for two consecutive months, you would be billed for 688 kWh of electricity. In this instance, it would be 688 kWh X $0.17*. Your bill would be approximately $116.96.

* This is an approximate rate and includes both delivery and supply

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