

EXPERT SPEAK

Electricity price itself varies by multiple factors such as your monthly consumption, time of day of consumption, consumption slab, your location, month of year or season of consumption, your nature of premises, etc. The average rate of electricity in India today is Rs. 6 per unit.

However, every month, our electricity bill is impacted by a multitude of other factors that we are sometimes not even conscious of. The fact is that during the summer months our electricity bills increase by multiple times, and it further increases for people who are dependent on inverters which consume more energy to charge or in case where people have power back-ups, which cost almost Rs. 14-20 per unit.

Here are some ideas to slice electricity bills by becoming a smart consumer who uses electricity smartly and not blindly.

Know your energy consumption

Knowing about your energy consumption and energy spend is the first step towards becoming a smart consumer. Knowledge is power, and knowledge of energy consumption equals the power of energy saving through monitoring and control. Today, technology can help us cross

this bridge, there are various Apps which help you to control your power consumption. But the basic and the golden rule is 'Switch off, when not in use'.

Shift to energy-efficient fans

There are many electrical and consumer durable products that we use today, but you would be astonished to know that fans consume more energy than air-conditioners in the country. Regular induction motor fans are power guzzlers which consume about 70-75 Watts as against 35 Watts consumed by super-efficient ceiling fans, or fans built on BLDC technology, resulting in an increase of up to 50% in power consumption costs.



Rakesh Khanna, CEO, Orient Electric

The demand for BLDC based fans is on the rise as they cut power consumption by more than 50% and they are even more efficient than the super-efficient 5-star fans. Just imagine if all fans in India are replaced by BLDC fans, the power consumption can drop by 14000MW in a year. Today fans also come with timer controls which helps to time and switch off fans early in the morning when you really don't need them.

Opt for LED lighting

LED is one of today's most energy-efficient and rapidly-developing lighting technologies. It uses 80%

SWITCH TO SMART CHOICES

You can reduce your electricity bill by more than 50% using energy efficient appliances

less energy and lasts much longer than conventional lighting like CFL. It has no mercury and is seen as a 'green' light. With performance improvement and dropping prices, LEDs are now available almost at the same price as that of CFL's. There are many government schemes which are helping consumers to opt for LED lighting.

Use air-coolers

Air cooler running cost is Rs. 2 per hour, whereas an air-conditioner costs Rs. 10 per hour. In the northern, central, western and large parts of eastern India, where most of the summer is dry, air-coolers are the best option. Air coolers give healthy moist air which is even good for our lungs. Today you have multiple choices in coolers, which are slim and fit

inside small spaces, are less on noise, have humidity controls and can even run on inverters.

Star rating

It is important to note that most of the electrical products now come with BEE star rating, one should therefore opt for star rated products which helps in cutting down power consumption. Regular cleaning and maintenance of equipment and appliances also further reduces consumption.

Another effective way of reducing power consumption is to use timers or balance the use of cooling appliances, like combining or complementing the use of air-conditioner with that of a cooler or a fan.

Using the right paint in the house can keep you house naturally cool. Use paints with a higher Solar Reflective Index (SRI) which has the ability to reflect the heat causing IR ray.

Solar energy

Besides direct power supply from the utility grid, many of us use diesel generator backup, which is usually costlier than the grid, and results in air and noise pollution. Another source of energy picking up fast is solar energy. One form of solar energy is the photovoltaic panel (PV), which again can be used directly during day time, and through battery storage after sunset. The initial capex (capital expenditure) for a solar setup is high but opex (operating expense) is negligible.



Thinkstock

