



**NAVFAC HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERNAL NEWSGRAM**  
(Approved for internal distribution)

**October 25, 2013**

**Newsgram 8: Tools for Managing Your Housing Electricity Bill**

Many military housing residents in the Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) will either have a pleasant surprise or startling shock when they receive their electricity bill in November for October's billing cycle. Effective Oct. 1, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii increased its electricity rate from \$0.26347 per kilowatt hour (kWh) to \$0.58743 per kWh to account for Hawaiian Electric Company's (HECO) rising electricity purchase costs and NAVFAC Hawaii losses over the past six years.

As part of the RECP, residents should understand that an average usage baseline is established each month for similar-type homes within a neighborhood and then a 10 percent buffer zone is established above and below the buffer. If their energy usage is within the buffer zone, they will not pay anything for their electricity. If a resident's usage is over the buffer, they are responsible for paying for the difference between their usage and the upper buffer. Inversely, if they are below the lower buffer, they will receive a credit for the difference.

Several tools are available to help residents manage their bill. The first is the monthly paper bill mailed to each RECP participant. This bill provides residents information on the housing group in which their house is counted, their total electrical consumption for the month in kWh, the total amount of their bill in dollars (\$), and a graphic that compares the resident's usage to group baseline for the month and the upper and lower buffers for the group. On the back of the bill is a table listing energy monthly energy consumption, costs, and payments or credits for the last 12-month period along with a graph showing monthly resident usage compared to the buffer zone. This table and graph are useful for observing trends in energy performance over the last 12-months that may shape energy consumption behavior.

Residents may also take advantage of the Pearl Harbor Resident Utility Portal at [www.yardiutilitiesph.com](http://www.yardiutilitiesph.com). They will need their Resident ID and primary email address on file with the housing office to establish an account and password. The Resident ID may be found on the upper right corner of their paper statement. Once logged into the site, residents can pay their bill, view electronic copies of their paper statements, access Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for RECP, and view utility usage and cost data. The "Current Month" tab in this last section shows them their current actual daily electrical consumption by kWh and

(more)

## **2-2-2-2 Tools for Managing Your Housing Electricity Bill**

cost-to-date and then a projection of what their consumption and costs will be through the end of the month. The same data is also shown for the like-type unit base line for comparison. Residents may use this data to see where they currently stand and predict how much they may owe or get credit for at the end of the month and manage their energy consumption accordingly.

Understanding a house's "base load" is key to managing an energy bill. The best way to think of the base load is to think of what is still plugged in or hard-wired using electricity when a resident is asleep or away from home. Typical major contributors to the base loads include the A/C, water heater and refrigerator. Additional contributors that collectively make a significant difference include appliances with digital displays or standby power, routers, DVRs, printers, computers, alarm clocks, charging devices and lights. Here are a few tips that have proven to give the most bang for the buck in reducing base loads:

1. Set the A/C no lower than 78 degrees and then turn the A/C off and open the windows when the outside temperature is low, such as in the morning or at night. Ceiling fans or oscillating fans during these times are a much more efficient option than running the A/C. Electricity used for air conditioning can account for as much as 40 to 50 percent of the total amount of electricity used by a resident.
2. Use less electricity to make domestic hot water. For homes that have one, make sure the solar hot water timer is correctly set up (<http://vimeo.com/m/29448909> shows how to set up your solar hot water system timer). Schedule certain types of hot water usage, such as running the dishwasher, during the mid-day period when the solar hot water system will have time to recover before late afternoon when the system is no longer generating hot water from the heat of the sun. Additionally, most energy-efficient washing machines are just as effective using cold water as hot.
3. Use less electricity for plug loads such as extra freezers, entertainment systems and computer systems. Collect plug loads onto "smart" power strips that completely shut off devices when the system is not in use. As part of Forest City's Energy Smart Initiative with Hawaii Energy, Hawaii Energy has made one Smart Power Strip available to each family. Additional strips are available at the NEX and/or local building supply and hardware stores.
4. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light (CFL) or LED bulbs and turn them off when not in use. Use daylight as much as possible.

Additional energy conservation tips and ways to track domestic energy consumption can be found online at:

<http://www.hawaiianelectric.com/heco/Residential/Energy-Info-You-Can-Use-Publications>

<http://www.energystar.gov/>

<http://www.hawaiienergy.com/tips-to-save-energy>

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### 3-3-3-3 Tools for Managing Your Housing Electricity Bill

<http://michaelbluejay.com/electricity/howmuch.html>  
<http://energyhog.org/>

Remember, the cheapest kilowatt is the one not used.

Article by Lt. Cmdr. Preston Taylor, P.E., LEED AP, NAVFAC Hawaii Assistant Operations Officer for Utilities and Energy

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YES ENERGY MANAGEMENT  
 Customer Service: (855) 838-6918  
 Resident ID: 10162013  
 Statement Date: 10/15/2013  
 Due Date: 11/06/2013  
 Amount Due: \$ 0  
 Amount Enclosed: \$ 21.33

YES ENERGY MANAGEMENT  
 PO Box 9610  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80922

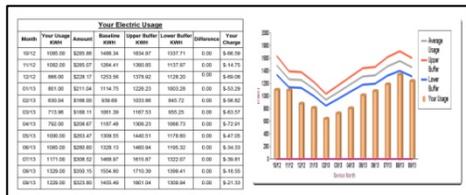
Do Not Pay - Credit Balance Exceeds Minimum.

ACCOUNT DETAIL  
 Billing period: 10/15/2013 - 10/31/2013  
 Resident Name: [Redacted]  
 Resident ID: [Redacted]

Usage Type	Previous Reading (kWh)	Current Reading (kWh)	Net Usage (kWh)	Water Multiplier	Rate (\$/kWh)	Year Usage Amount
ELECTRIC	37,641.00	37,870.00	229.00	1	0.22350	\$52.96

Over Buffer: \$45.13  
 Average Usage: \$383.48  
 Upper Buffer: \$421.63  
 Credit Due: [Redacted]  
 Your Usage: \$323.90  
 Payment Due: [Redacted]

Understanding the monthly RECP bill will help residents make more informed decisions on regarding their energy consumption habits at home. The sample bill above shows the billing period and metered consumption as well as the baseline consumption for that housing group and the accompanying 10 PERCENT buffer zone. The house in this bill came in below the buffer zone and will receive a \$21.33 credit.



For information about NAVFAC Hawaii, visit the command's website at [www.navfac.navy.mil](http://www.navfac.navy.mil) or call Denise Emsley, Public Affairs Officer, at 808-471-7300 ([denise.emsley@navy.mil](mailto:denise.emsley@navy.mil)). Become a Fan at [www.facebook.com/navfac](http://www.facebook.com/navfac) and follow us at [www.twitter.com/navfac](http://www.twitter.com/navfac), or visit our Photostream on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/navfac>.

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