

Energy meters available at library

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For the DAILY RECORD |

The Ellensburg Public Library, through a partnership with HopeSource, is loaning new equipment to help users accurately track energy usage, according to a news release.

The library has four Kill-A-Watt EZ personal energy meters available for check-out in an energy saving tool kit.

A Kill-A-Watt EZ meter is a small device that displays power usage and costs for individual devices and appliances in the home. The meters can be used to measure the energy draw of a variety of appliances, including cell phone chargers, televisions, refrigerators, computers, and more.

The meters measure instantaneous power consumption and energy use over time. They also have the ability to project power consumption and energy costs for up to one year.

An AmeriCorps volunteer serving with HopeSource heard about a similar program and thought it would be beneficial for Kittitas County residents. HopeSource researched the background of how to make the Kill-A-Watt meters accessible to more people as an extension of HopeSource's ongoing energy education and conservation efforts. The goal is to give Kittitas County residents the power and control to learn about their energy use and identify ways to save money on their monthly energy bills.

The meters are easy to use and take little time to set up. Users unplug the appliance to be measured, plug the Kill-A-Watt EZ meter into the outlet, and reconnect the appliance into the socket on the meter. The meter will start recording the energy use for the appliance. For the most accurate reading on a larger appliance, such as a refrigerator that cycles on and off, it is recommended that it be measured for at least two days to a week.

The Kill-A-Watt EZ meters are available for one week at a time with one renewal. Ask for them at the library's circulation desk.

