



# it's Power Smart to buy Energy Star®

## overview

ENERGY STAR labelled appliances are the most energy efficient on the market and help you save money on your energy bill. This tip sheet outlines the benefits of ENERGY STAR labelled clothes washers, refrigerators and dishwashers and shows you how to calculate the two "price tags."

Many manufacturers are adding the ENERGY STAR mark to the EnerGuide label to single out their top energy performing clothes washers, refrigerators, and dishwashers. While EnerGuide tells you how much energy the appliance uses, ENERGY STAR tells you which ones are the most energy efficient.

Here's some information on why these appliances are labelled ENERGY STAR.

## ENERGY STAR labelled clothes washers

- use 35–50 per cent less water than standard models, saving 14,000 to 22,000 litres of water a year.
- reduce overall energy use up to 50 per cent by having to heat less water.
- have higher spin speeds, therefore less time is needed to dry clothes.
- have no agitator, therefore space is freed up for more clothes capacity.

## ENERGY STAR labelled refrigerators

- use 50 per cent less electricity than a standard 10 year old fridge.
- are better insulated and have more efficient compressors, precise temperature settings and defrost mechanisms.
- are at least 10 per cent more efficient than the minimum federal standard.
- are quieter.

## ENERGY STAR labelled dishwashers

- are at least 25 per cent more efficient than the minimum federal standard.
- have internal heaters which save up to 20 per cent on water heating costs by heating incoming water.
- use less hot water to clean by using smart sensors to adjust the wash cycle to match the load.
- use a more effective washing action.





## Consider the total cost

An appliance's life-cycle cost is the most realistic measure of its true cost, because it takes into account the purchase price and the operating cost. It is important to find an appliance that will cost the least to operate and still meet your needs, as operating costs could easily equal or exceed the original cost of the appliance.

**Table 1** shows you simple calculations to estimate the actual long-term cost of an appliance.



## Two "price tags"

Although energy efficient appliances sometimes cost more initially, the savings on your electricity bill can often make up for the initial cost. One way to look at whether purchasing energy efficient appliances makes sense, is for you to think of the appliance as having two price tags.

**Price tag 1 = purchase price of the appliance**

**Price tag 2 = operating cost of the appliance over its lifetime**

When both are considered, what seemed like a good deal in the store, may end up costing considerably more to operate.

### *For more information call:*

Lower Mainland..... 604 431-9463

Elsewhere in B.C. .... 1 877 431-9463

**www.bchydro.com**

Conservation is the first and best way to help meet B.C.'s future electricity needs.

Copyright 2008, BC Hydro. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced, in whole or part, without the express written consent of BC Hydro.

### **Table 1** Calculate the long-term cost of a new appliance

#### **Step 1**

**Cost of Energy x kWh (kilowatt/hour) per year = Estimated annual energy cost**

Note: The cost of energy equals 7¢ per kWh and you'll find the kWh per year number on the EnerGuide label.

Example: 0.07 x 200 kWh = \$14.00

#### **Step 2**

**Purchase Price + (Average lifespan x Estimated annual energy cost) = Total lifecycle cost**

#### **Step 3**

**Total lifecycle cost ÷ Average lifespan = Average annual expense for appliance**