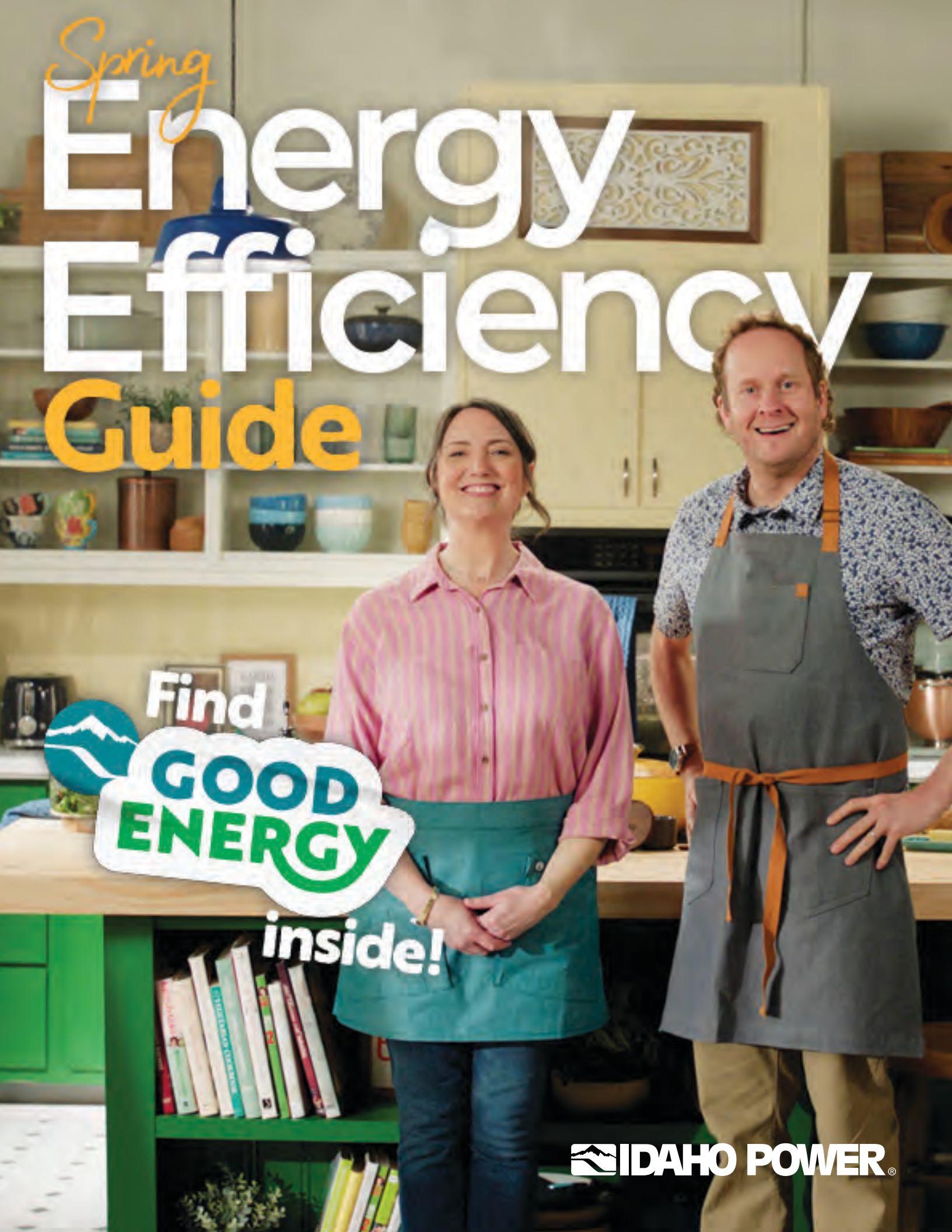
Spring
Energy Efficiency
Guide
Find
GOOD ENERGY
inside!
IDAHO POWER®

YOU HAVE THE POWER

To Understand Your Energy Use

They say knowledge is power. When it comes to understanding your electrical use, it's true. Once you understand where electricity is used in your home and how you are specifically using it, you can make informed choices. You can better control your spending on energy and be more comfortable knowing what you are paying for, when, and why. It is also one of the first steps you can take to become more energy efficient.

Know Your Home

A simple way to get to know your house, and the electricity you use, is to do a walk-through. Everything plugged into an outlet or hardwired to a circuit contributes to the electricity use in your home.

Once you have a mental list, consider opening the door to your breaker panel. You can use the list inside to see if you forgot anything. *Did you remember the water heater, furnace, and extra refrigerator?*

Know Your Use

Electric utilities charge by the kilowatt-hour (kWh). To calculate the kWh used by an appliance or piece of equipment, check the nameplate (bottom or back of the item) for the wattage. Multiply the number of watts by the hours of use each month, and divide by 1,000.

Then multiply that number by the current cost-per-kWh to find out how much it contributes to your monthly bill.

$$\frac{\text{watts x hours}}{1{,}000} = \text{kWh}$$

If you had to put quarters into your appliances every time you used them, you might use them differently or understand their use better. One of the complexities of electricity is that you can't see it directly. But you can measure it, appreciate the benefits from it, and get the best value for your electricity use.

Understanding your energy usage helps you control costs and make informed choices about what you're paying for, when, and why.

Examples of appliance energy use and their approximate costs.*

- **1,500-watt space heater running for 10 hours..... $1.69**
- **120-watt LCD television running for 10 hours.....$0.13**
- **3,000-watt clothes dryer running for 1 hour..... $0.34**

*Based on 11.24 cents-per-kWh

Learn more!

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Take Control of Your Use

Spend an Extra Minute with Your Power Bill

It has a lot of good information you can use to learn about your electric use patterns.

My Account — 24/7/365

When you register for My Account at idahopower.com, you'll have 24-hour access to a web portal where you can learn about your energy use with data from your meter. You can see how your use compares to previous months, when you use energy (down to the hour!), how high and low temperatures affect usage, and much more. From here, you are in the driver's seat and you can look at options and make choices that work for you.

Kill A Watt® Meters

Idaho Power has teamed up with libraries throughout Idaho to bring customers an Energy Efficiency Kit. The kit features a Kill A Watt meter — a device that measures the energy consumption of appliances in your home. Simply plug the Kill A Watt meter into a standard, three-prong electrical outlet, then plug your appliance into the meter. The meter will measure the amount of power being used, helping you identify potential savings by either unplugging items when not in use or replacing them with more energy-efficient models.

Keep a Diary

Keeping a diary of household activities or referring to a calendar you may already keep can also help you understand your electricity use. Did you have a holiday party? Did you have company or was your in-laws' RV drawing electricity from your home for a few days? Were you or other family members home on days they would not ordinarily be? Did you spend a day cooking, cleaning, and doing laundry?

Example:

One customer with a higher-than-usual bill was investigating what may have happened. Using daily and hourly data from My Account, she noticed a couple of days in August with very high use. Looking at her calendar reminded her that she had spent a few hot days canning salsa. This activity packed a double punch — the extra stove-top use and the added heat that required her air conditioner to run longer. In the end the customer was satisfied with the additional "cost," about $8 per day, for her investment in salsa.

Has Your Bill Changed?

Ask Yourself These Questions:

- **What's happening with the weather?** Extreme temperatures can have a large impact. This is especially important when comparing your use year-to-year.
- **Has your household changed?** Is someone home more? Extra people can increase your use.
- **Have your habits changed or are there seasonal issues to consider?** Do you have landscape pumps, a pool, or a hot tub? Are you cooking differently or doing more laundry due to outdoor activity?
- **Have you added high-energy users, such as an extra refrigerator or freezer, hot tub, or outside water feature?**
- **Have you moved recently?** It might be a good idea to have a whole-house inspection. Complete information is not always transferred from the previous owner to the new owner.

It is normal for energy bills to fluctuate month-to-month and year-to-year due to weather, family changes, and price adjustments. But significant, unexplained fluctuations in energy use may be an indication of equipment or appliance problems in the home that need to be addressed.

Tap into WATER SAVINGS

Ready to save money, reduce your energy usage, and make the most of your hot water? Learn how to help extend the life of your water heater while keeping your energy bills in check.

Water Heater Tips:

- **Set the Right Temperature:** Factories often set water heaters at 140°F. Use a thermometer to check the farthest faucet from your heater. If it's over 120°F, adjust it following your manual or online instructions. This saves energy, extends your heater's life, and reduces scalding risks.
- **Insulate Tank and Pipes:** If your water heater is in a cold place, wrap it with a water heater blanket from a hardware store. Insulate the first 3 to 6 feet of hot and cold pipes with pipe wrap.

- **Maintenance:** Sediment can lower efficiency. Maintain higher efficiency by periodically flushing a quart of water. Check online or your manual for more maintenance tips.
- **Know When to Replace:** Water heaters last 10 to 15 years. Select an energy-efficient replacement before your old one fails to avoid rushed decisions and inefficient purchases. See the next page for help selecting a new water heater.

Water Use Tips:

- **Faucets:** Install WaterSense showerheads, faucets, and aerators to save hot water. New showerheads use as little as 1.5 to 2 gallons per minute (gpm). Older ones can use up to 5.5 gpm, so savings can be significant.
- **Fix Leaks:** A dripping hot water faucet or shower can cost more than you think. Even cold-water leaks can be pricey if they keep a well pump running.
- **Laundry:** Save by washing full loads in warm or cool water. Check detergent labels to ensure they work with cool water. Always rinse in cold.
- **Dishes:** Use an energy-efficient dishwasher. It may use less energy than hand washing when running full loads. Skip the heat/dry cycle to save more.

Did You Know?

Running a clean cycle on your clothes washer and dishwasher to remove residue, ensures that water flows freely and the machine operates efficiently.

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Choosing the Right Water Heater for Your Home

Water heaters work quietly behind the scenes, often hidden away until they until they reach the end of their lifecycle and break down. Choosing the right one before the old one fails can save you stress and money. Here's a simple guide:

Tank Water Heaters

- **Most common:** They're popular because they're cheaper and easier to install.
- **Fuel options:** They can use electricity or gas. Electric ones use heating elements but aren't as efficient as electric heat pump tank heaters. Gas models have efficient condensing types.

Heat Pump Water Heaters

- **How they work:** They use electricity and a compressor to absorb heat from the air and transfer it into the water.
- **Efficiency:** About twice as efficient as electric heaters with elements.
- **Extra benefits:** They cool the surrounding air when running, which is great in the summer. In winter, you can add a duct kit to exhaust the cool air outside.

Solar Thermal Tank Water Heaters

- **Energy source:** They use the sun to pre-heat water.
- **Cost:** Higher upfront but can be a good long-term investment if you use a lot of hot water.
- **Backup needed:** Usually need electric elements as backup.

Tankless (On-Demand) Systems

- **Location:** Installed near where you need hot water.
- **Flow rate:** Gas models provide a continuous supply but may struggle with multiple tasks at once if not sized correctly. Multiple units might be needed for high demand.
- **Electric option:** Not recommended in Idaho due to high electricity demands that can overload home transformers.

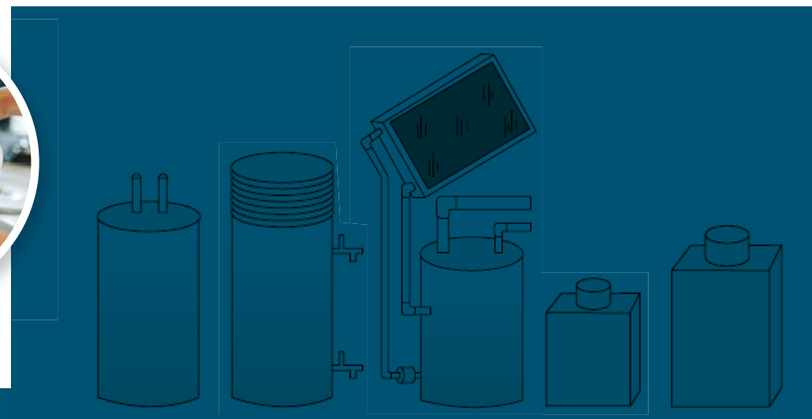
Gas Hybrid Water Heaters

- **Design:** Self-contained units with a gas burner and a small water tank.
- **Efficiency:** Heats water to higher temperatures and mixes with cold water to provide safe hot water.

Understanding these options can help you make an informed decision that meets your needs and saves you money.

Learn more!

idahopower.com/heatingcooling



Mini Home Assessment

Complete this mini home assessment to see how your energy use stacks up and discover simple ways to save.

Circle the number that best matches your response to each statement. For each section, add up the numbers circled in each column. Then add the totals from each category.

GOOD ENERGY

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Lights

	ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NEVER
1. Use ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs.	2	1	0
2. Turn off lights when not in use.	2	1	0
3. Turn off the TV when no one is watching.	2	1	0
4. Use the natural daylight coming into your home.	2	1	0

_____ [ ] + [ ] + [ ] = [ ]

Kitchen

	ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NEVER
1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed tightly.	2	1	0
2. Cover liquids and wrap food stored in the refrigerator (uncovered foods release moisture and keep the compressor running).	2	1	0
3. Use the smallest pan and burner possible.	2	1	0
4. Cover pots with lids to keep heat from escaping.	2	1	0
5. Turn off the oven a few minutes before your food is ready.	2	1	0
6. Use a toaster oven, microwave, grill, or pressure cooker instead of your oven.	2	1	0
7. Use a sink stopper when washing dishes by hand.	2	1	0
8. Wash full loads of dishes in the dishwasher.	2	1	0
9. Let your dishes air dry in the dishwasher.	2	1	0

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Laundry & Bath

	ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NEVER
1. Wash full loads of clothes in cold water.	2	1	0
2. Use the timed dry or sensor on your dryer.	2	1	0
3. Clean the dryer lint screen after every load.	2	1	0
4. Use a clothesline or drying rack when possible.	2	1	0
5. Repair dripping faucets.	2	1	0
6. Take 5-minute showers.	2	1	0
7. Use high-efficiency shower heads.	2	1	0
8. Fill the bathtub with only as much water as you need.	2	1	0

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Cooling*

	ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NEVER
1. Schedule an annual check-up of your A/C unit.	4	2	0
2. Set your thermostat at 74 degrees or higher during the cooling season.	4	2	0
3. Use a fan instead of turning down the thermostat.	4	2	0
4. Close the blinds before the sun heats up your home.	4	2	0

* If you do not have an A/C unit, skip questions 1–4 and add 16 points to your score.

_____ [ ] + [ ] + [ ] = [ ]

Heating

	ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NEVER
1. Keep thermostats set at 68 degrees or lower during the heating season.	4	2	0
2. Give your furnace a regular tune-up.	4	2	0
3. Seal air leaks around windows and doors.	4	2	0
4. Replace or clean furnace filters at least twice a year.	4	2	0
5. Put on a sweater instead of turning up the heat.	4	2	0
6. Open your blinds during the day to let the sun heat your home.	4	2	0

_____ [ ] + [ ] + [ ] = [ ]

See how energy efficient your family is by comparing your grand total to the scale below.

	TOTALS
Lights	_____
Kitchen	_____
Laundry & Bath	_____
Cooling	_____
Heating	_____
GRAND TOTAL	[ ]

68–82

Congratulations! Your home is using energy very efficiently.

38–67

Good job, but there's some room for improvement.

0–37

OOPS! Your home needs some help in saving energy. By following the suggestions listed in this survey more consistently, you can reduce the bottom line on your own electricity bill, and conserve energy resources for everyone! Take a look at the tips on the next page.

10 Things YOU CAN DO TO LOWER YOUR ENERGY USE — AND YOUR BILL!

ONE AND DONE!

1. Set your water heater to 120°F at the tap to save energy while still providing hot water.
2. Seal windows and doors to prevent drafts and improve insulation.
3. Properly insulate your attic to keep your home warmer in winter and cooler in summer, reducing heating and cooling costs.
4. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when replacing old appliances.
5. Plug multiple devices into a power strip, and turn it off when the devices are not in use to prevent phantom energy loss.

GET IN THE HABIT!

6. Turn off lights when you leave a room.
7. Unplug chargers, electronics, and appliances when they're not in use to avoid phantom energy usage.
8. Wash clothes in cold water to help reduce energy that goes into heating the water.
9. Use a clothesline or drying rack instead of a dryer.
10. Regularly replace HVAC system filters and schedule maintenance to ensure it runs efficiently.

Learn more!

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