

Get a Grip on Your Electricity Consumption with the Blue Line PowerCost Monitor.

By Will - February 1st, 2010

The BLI 28000 model of the Blue Line PowerCost Monitor boasts new features such as a monthly-bill-prediction feature and an appliance button to pinpoint energy hogs.

Energy monitoring can be a powerful tool to reduce your home's electricity consumption, help you save money on utility bills and limit your impact on the environment. **Energy Circle's experience in energy monitoring** has been backed by **research that demonstrates the effectiveness of energy monitoring**. By increasing consciousness of energy consumption, monitoring can induce behavioral changes that can save a family somewhere in the ballpark of 15% of their monthly electricity bill.

One simple, energy saving product that is sometimes overlooked is the **Blue Line PowerCost Monitor**. The Blue Line is an extremely affordable (just over 100 bucks), easy to install, wireless, real-time energy monitor that tells you not only how much energy your house is using at any given moment, but also how much that electricity is costing you, per hour, at that moment. Consisting of two parts -- an optical sensor that you attach to your electric meter, and a handy wireless display -- the Blue Line is a practical way to get a grip on your home's energy consumption.



What's more, Blue Line has recently switched to a new model of the PowerCost Monitor. While the price is the same, and all the great features of the original PowerCost Monitor have stayed, the BLI-28000 model has some cool new features, namely:

- **An appliance tab** to help you zero in on the energy consumption of a specific appliance. Here's how it works: you press the appliance function and the monitor "zeros out" your baseline usage. You then turn on the appliance you're targeting and you'll get a reading for that specific appliance, minimizing number-crunching on your part.
- **A predictive feature:** when you press the "total/est" toggle, the PowerCost 28000 monitor provides you with an estimated monthly electricity bill based on the info since the latest reset. This is a very cool feature that helps a user wrap his/her head around the real impact of what may appear to be a low momentary reading.
- **A sleep function:** in older models of the PowerCost monitor, if the sensor and the display temporarily lost connectivity, the device would run its battery down by searching extra hard for the signal. In the Blue Line 28000, if the sensor and display lose connectivity the monitor goes into sleep mode automatically. A simple press of the button will wake it right up.
- **Expanded kWh factor compatibility:** the PowerCost BLI 28000 accommodates kWh factors from 0.1 to 99, to ensure compatibility with high-load homes.

The Blue Line PowerCost Monitor is a highly effective, highly affordable device, and we're psyched about the new features. While it doesn't have the handy data-storing capacity of **TED 5000 with Google PowerMeter**, or the circuit-by-circuit precision of the **PowerHouse Dynamics eMonitor**, it's a great product, and one that you can be sure will help you save energy, save money, and reduce your environmental impact. Cheers to that.

Check out our video featuring the PowerCost Monitor (sadly, the model shown is the old one) that guides you through installation and gives you a neat visual of just how cool this product really is at:

<http://www.energycircle.com/blog/2010/02/01/get-grip-your-electricity-consumption-blue-line-powercost-monitor>