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By: Ron Rhodes

Microsoft and Blue Line Bring Energy Savings To Your "Hohm."

Microsoft and Blue Line now offer a more immediate way for you to monitor and manage your home energy use (and save some dough).

You could lower your energy bills by 18% — so says the Redmond, Washington, tech giant. This week, the two companies announced that the Hohm-compatible PowerCost Monitor™ WiFi from Blue Line is now available (SEE VIDEOS, BELOW).

Microsoft Hohm is a free web app by Microsoft where you can assess your own energy usage and receive energy-saving recommendations. Log into the Hohm site, and start by entering just your Windows Live ID and zip code. Using this simple information, Hohm starts predicting your home energy consumption (okay, it also uses algorithms licensed from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Department of Energy). From there, you can enter as much information as you want (up to 180 questions) about your home size, water heater, etc.

Blue Line's PowerCost Monitor WiFi is a portable, wireless device that claims to be easy enough to install for the DIY'er and easy to use for everyone else. It wirelessly sends your near real-time energy use to Hohm, providing you with more detailed energy use information than your monthly utility bill. You can view and track changes in your energy use almost instantly, and discover potential energy waste in your home and areas where you can save.

Benefits

- See your own energy consumption patterns
- Track and compare your home energy usage over time
- Compare your energy usage to others in your area
- Uncover the connection between your energy habits to your power bill
- Compare energy usage and costs at different times of the day, week, month and year
- Track your energy savings as you make changes and use less energy
- Connect with others and learn while sharing your experience

About PowerCost Monitor™ WiFi Edition

PowerCost Monitor™ WiFi Edition has an MSRP \$268 (at the time I wrote this article). It includes sensor, in home monitor, WiFi Gateway, AC adapter, mini usb, installation/user manuals and enables personal data feeds to Microsoft® Hohm™. The PowerCost Monitor™ and WiFi Gateway may be purchased separately.

NOTE: The PowerCost Monitor™ WiFi Edition and WiFi Gateway are available today in the US market only. The product will be released in Canada in Q4, 2010 simultaneously with the roll out of the Hohm™ Score for Canada.

The PowerCost Monitor™ WiFi Gateway is an upgrade accessory. A Blue Line Innovations PowerCost Monitor™ or Black and Decker® Power Monitor™ and an in-home wireless router are both required.