

Save Money with the Microsoft Hohm Blue Line PowerCost Monitor

November 3, 2010 by [Mel](#)

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Ever since we married, my husband has been a hound, so to say, about our electric bill. Any way he can find to curb our electric use and save on our bill, he has sniffed it out. Don't get me wrong; I do not fault him, in any way, for that. For me, it's a bit more difficult to really "see" the cost of our usage, when all I see is our total bill every month.



I never really broke it all down into individual parts, in order to see the cost of each thing that I was doing.

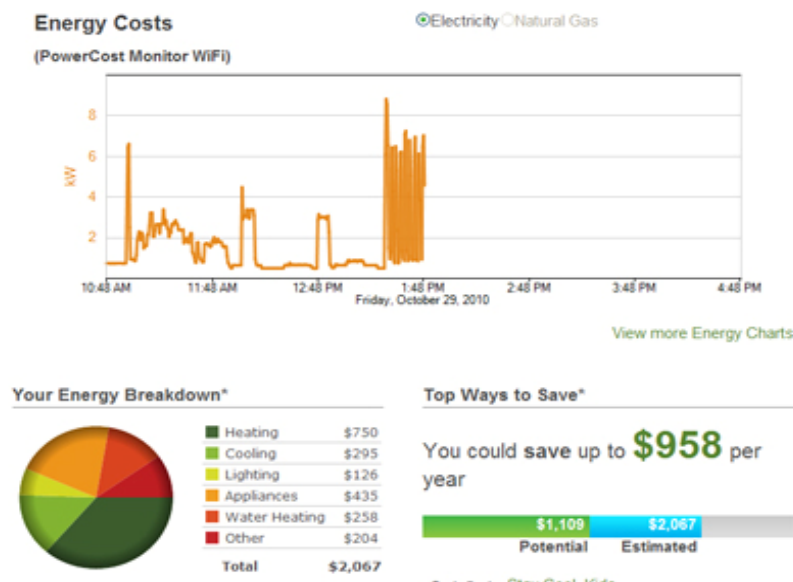
Now, thanks to [Microsoft Hohm](#) and the [Blue Line PowerCost Monitor](#), I can see the effects of every single thing I do in our home. Learning, through Microsoft Hohm, that we could potentially save up to \$958 per year really perked up my ears. That is a lot of groceries, birthday presents, Christmas presents, even just savings put back into an account for when we need it.

My husband actually hooked up our Blue Line PowerCost Monitor, and it was fairly easy, as long as he stuck to the step by step instructions that came with it. Installation requires placing the sensor head on your electrical meter; don't worry, though, because anyone can do this; it doesn't take an electrician; it's simple and easy. (You do want to make sure that your type of electrical meter is compatible with this device before purchase.) We also have the WiFi Accessory, which helps us to sit down and study our energy usage, via Microsoft Hohm, so we can see areas where we need to work a bit harder to save. What I like is that we've put the actual monitor in our kitchen, which is the hub of our household, so even when I'm doing school with the boys, I can look up and see how much energy we're using; it just makes me more aware of when I might need to go find out who left their light on or when it might be time to turn down the heat a bit. The monitor displays how much electricity we are using and the cost of that; for me, that's awesome because



it coincides with my pocketbook, so I can really see the whole picture. We've noticed that when our dryer is on, our usage jumps up significantly; it was actually quite shocking. Our monitor said 0.5 kW with our dryer off; this equaled about \$0.05 per hour. Once I turned the dryer on, it jumped, shockingly, up to 6.5 kW, which equaled about \$0.65 per hour. Couple that cost with the cost of the air conditioner/furnace, lights, electrical appliances, and it significantly increases our bill. It has definitely inspired me to hang dry our clothes more often. We can also see the total cost and total kW/hour on the monitor, as well as the current temp and time. Now keep in mind that this is not your electric company's exact information, so it may differ somewhat from your actual bill.

This device doesn't leave you hanging, though. With the help of your account on Microsoft Hohm, you can see patterns actually graphed out, and they'll give you tips on where and how to save in your home. (Below is a screenshot of a graph for part of today in our home.)



I'm anxious to see what our electric bill will be this next month, as we've really used the monitor to our advantage in this way. We can even compare our home to other homes around us on the Hohm site.

You can [purchase the BlueLine PowerCost Monitor WiFi Edition](#) for \$268. I highly recommend it, especially if you are a family who is wanting to both save money and live green. This is an investment that will continue to give back in more ways than one. You can find more videos about the PowerCost Monitor on [PowerCostMonitor's YouTube Channel](#).

(Disclosure: I received the BlueLine PowerCost Monitor WiFi Edition, free of charge, from Microsoft, for the purposes of this review.)

Mel