

# Managing Your Electricity Costs

Operating Costs of Appliances and Equipment



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**Northland Utilities  
(NWT) Limited**  
An **ATCO** Company



**Northland Utilities  
(Yellowknife) Limited**  
An **ATCO** Company



**The Yukon Electrical  
Company Limited**  
An **ATCO** Company

# Empowering the North...

## Yukon Electrical Company Limited

The Yukon Electrical Company Limited has been providing electrical service to Yukoners for over a century. Chartered in 1901, the pioneer company began generating electricity for the residents of Whitehorse using a wood-fired, horizontal piston steam engine. Since then, Yukon Electrical has grown to serve 14,000 customers in 20 communities from south of the Yukon border to north of the Arctic Circle. A private, investor-owned utility, Yukon Electrical is a member of the ATCO Group of Companies. Its head office and service centre is in Whitehorse.

Today, Yukon Electrical purchases power from Yukon Energy Corporation, a crown corporation of the Yukon government, for distribution to its customers in Whitehorse, Marsh Lake, Tagish, Teslin, Haines Junction, Carmacks, Carcross, Keno and Ross River. It maintains back-up generating plants in Carmacks, Teslin, Haines Junction and Ross River in the event of a power interruption.

The company generates and distributes its own power in Old Crow, Pelly Crossing, Stewart Crossing, Beaver Creek, Destruction Bay, Upper Liard, Lower Post, Burwash, Watson Lake and Swift River. Yukon Electrical has customer service offices in Whitehorse and Watson Lake and plant operators in 10 communities, including Goodhope Lake. Yukon Electrical also owns and operates the Fish Lake Hydro plant, on the outskirts of Whitehorse. Built in 1950, the Fish Lake plant remains a steady contributor of power to customers in Whitehorse.

Yukon Electrical Company Limited

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## Northland Utilities Enterprises

Northland Utilities Enterprises has been lighting up the North for more than half a century. Its owners include northern investors, the Denendeh Development Corporation (14%) and Arctic Energy Investors (10%). The remaining shares are owned by ATCO Electric, one of the ATCO Group of Companies. Other northern ATCO companies include ATCO Frontec and its subsidiary Narwhal Arctic Services, and the Yukon Electrical Company Limited in the Yukon Territory.

One of NUE's two operating companies, Northland Utilities (NWT) Ltd., began operations in Hay River in 1951. Today, it provides electricity to 2,500 customers in Hay River, Trout Lake, Kakisa, Dory Point, Fort Providence, Wekweti, Enterprise and Kátl'odeeche First Nation. In 1988, Northland completed a \$3.5 million transmission line from Pine Point to Hay River which allows it to buy power from the Talston hydro system. It also maintains a back-up diesel generation plant in Hay River. In the small remote communities, Northland both generates and distributes its power.

The second of NUE's subsidiary companies, Northland Utilities (Yellowknife) Ltd., serves approximately 7,350 customers in Yellowknife and neighboring Ndilo. The company celebrated its 10th anniversary of service in 2003. In Yellowknife, Northland purchases power from the Snare Lake hydro dams for distribution to its customers.

Northland has the operational experience and corporate resources to offer northern businesses a full range of services, including electrical consulting, ownership and operation of power plants; and power plant operations and maintenance for industrial complexes. Northland is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for staff and the general public, operating in an environmentally responsible fashion and to strong community support.

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# Operating Costs and Your Power Bill

This guide will help you better understand your electricity costs and provide the first step in managing your home electricity costs.

Your electricity bill is made up of two main components: a customer charge and an energy charge. In addition, your bill calculation takes into account various riders (variable or temporary charges).

You can reduce your energy costs by reducing your electrical consumption. Any reduction in energy will result in corresponding savings in your variable delivery costs.

The costs listed in this publication are intended to be a guide or benchmark only, and are based on average use and an energy cost of \$0.15/kW.h. (Kilowatt hour). Your actual cost will vary depending on the specific energy price you pay, the type of appliances you own and the way you use your appliances. To determine your energy costs, check your power bill or call your electrical utility office.

## Using This Guide

We have divided this guide into two parts:

- A checklist of typical appliances and equipment used by residential customers and the average operating costs for each;
- An energy consumption look-up table.

## Instructions

Using the checklist inside this guide, record the estimated cost for each of the appliances in your home under the column titled "Your estimated cost:"

This can be done using one or more of the following methods.

1. Use the average costs provided.
2. Adjust the average cost to more closely reflect your usage. For example, if the average cost is based on three hours a day, and you use yours for six hours, double the average price shown.



3. Use the look-up table on page 14 of this guide for a more precise estimate based on a particular appliance. To use the look-up table, you will need to know the horsepower or wattage of the appliance and the amount of time it is used.

When you are finished, you will have a list of the appliances you use and the estimated monthly cost. By analyzing your list, you can begin to see where your electricity dollars are being spent. You can start identifying ways to lower the cost by:

- Reducing the amount of time an appliance or piece of equipment is used;
- Choosing to use lower cost technologies or methods; or
- Choosing to use appliances differently (i.e., a microwave or toaster oven in place of a conventional oven).

## Legend:

- Appliances and equipment that generally consume large amounts of electricity. Reducing the consumption of these items will have the largest impact on your bill. When purchasing these appliances and electronics, look for the Energy Star label, which identifies items which are more energy efficient. The Energuide label will give you an approximate annual usage for the appliance.
- £ Items marked are thermostatically controlled, which means they cycle on and off to maintain a constant temperature. These items are not “on” all the time and therefore use less energy per hour.
- Note: 1 horsepower (1 hp) = 746 watts.  
Typical wattage = HP x 746/efficiency.

For more information visit [lightingupthenorth.com](http://lightingupthenorth.com).

# Bath and Bedroom Heating and Cooling

	Typical Wattage	Estimated Use	Average kW.h Use per month <sup>1</sup>	Estimated Cost/ Month <sup>2</sup>	Your Estimated Cost
<b>Bath and Bedroom</b>					
Bathtub Spa (Whirlpool Tub) (excluding water heater costs)	750	30 min/day	11.3	1.70	
£ Electric Blanket (double)	200	8 hrs/day	48.0		7.20
Hair Dryer (hand held)	1,000	10 min/day	5.0	0.75	
£ Heating Pad	60	8 hrs/wk	1.9		0.29
£ Hot Tub 300 gallons at 41°C (106°F)					
a) Water Heating (if electric)					
• indoor	N/A	N/A	150.0	22.50	
• outdoor	N/A	N/A	225.0	33.75	
b) Pumping* (1/2 hp. Pump)					
(68% efficient)	549	8 hrs/day	131.8	19.77	
	—	continuous	395.3	59.30	
£ Water Bed Heater set at 29°C (85°F)					
• room temperature 24°C (75°F)	400	cycling	90	13.50	
• room temperature 18°C (65°F)	400	cycling	180	27.00	

## Heating and Cooling

Air Cleaner					
• electronic (on furnace)	40	continuous	28.8	4.32	
• portable/tabletop	33	9 hrs/day	8.9	1.34	
£ Air Conditioner					
• central	2,000 (24,000 Btu/h)	3 hrs/day	180.0	27.00	



	Typical Wattage	Estimated Use	Average kW.h Use per month <sup>1</sup>	Estimated Cost/ Month <sup>2</sup>	Your Estimated Cost
£ Air Conditioner					
• split ductless (24,000 Btu/h)	850 2,570	3 hrs/day 3 hrs/day	76.5 231.3	11.48 34.70	
• window (12,000 Btu/h)	1,000	3 hrs/day	90.0	13.50	
Air Purifier	90	continuous	64.8	9.72	
Fans					
• attic	375	5 hrs/day	56.3	8.45	
• ceiling	80	continuous	57.6	8.64	
• exhaust (kitchen)	85	2 hrs/day	5.1	0.77	
• portable	200	3 hrs/day	18.0	2.70	
Furnace Fan* (1/3 hp.)					
£ a) Standard Motor (51% efficient)					
• normal cycling	488	1,500 hrs/yr	60.9	9.14	
• continuous operation	488	8,760 hrs/yr	355.5	53.33	
£ b) High Efficiency Motor (73% efficient)					
• normal cycling	340	1,500 hrs/yr	42.5	6.38	
• continuous operation	340	8,760 hrs/yr	248.2	37.23	
Heat Tape (12 ft. @ 7W/ft.)	84	continuous	60.5	9.08	
Humidifier					
• on furnace	10	cycling	3.0	0.45	
• portable/ultrasonic	60	6 hrs/day	10.8	1.62	
Space Heater	1,500	6 hrs/day	270.0	40.50	
Baseboard Heater	2,500	6 hrs/day	450.0	67.50	
£ Water Heater					
• standard	4,500	per person	118.0	17.70	
• energy efficient	4,500	per person	112.0	16.80	

# Entertainment and Office Kitchen Appliances – Large

	Typical Wattage	Estimated Use	Average kW.h Use per month <sup>1</sup>	Estimated Cost/ Month <sup>2</sup>	Your Estimated Cost
<b>Entertainment and Office</b>					
Answering Machine	12	continuous	8.8	1.32	
£ Aquarium	190	continuous	18.7		2.81
Clock	2	continuous	1.4	0.21	
Computer					
• central processing unit	60	6 hrs/day	10.8		1.62
• monitor	60	6 hrs/day	10.8	1.62	
• ink jet printer					
– idling	17	6 hrs/day	3.1	0.47	
– printing	78	1 hr/day	2.3	0.35	
• laser printer					
– idling	170	6 hrs/day	30.1	4.52	
– printing	780	1 hr/day	23.4	3.51	
Fax Machine	300	4 times/day	8.1	1.22	
Nintendo Game	100	3 hrs/day	9.2	1.38	
Radio	100	3 hrs/day	9.2	1.38	
Stereo	100	2 hrs/day	6.0	0.90	
Television – Colour					
• solid state	200	6 hrs/day	36.0	5.40	
• instant on feature	30	continuous	21.6	3.24	

## Kitchen Appliances - Large

Dishwasher (excluding water heater costs)

- normal/heat cycle on 1,500 1 load/day 18.0 2.70
- normal/heat cycle off 1,500 1 load/day 10.0 1.50

## £ Freezer

a) Chest – Manual Defrost

- older model (16 cu. ft.) — continuous 84.0 12.60



	Typical Wattage	Estimated Use	Average kW.h Use per month <sup>1</sup>	Estimated Cost/ Month <sup>2</sup>	Your Estimated Cost
<b>Freezer</b>					
• energy-efficient model (15 cu. ft.)	—	continuous	37.0	5.55	
• energy-efficient model (19 cu. ft.)	—	continuous	44.0	6.60	
<b>b) Upright – Manual Defrost</b>					
• older model	—	continuous	107.0	16.05	
• energy-efficient model	—	continuous	47.0	7.05	
<b>b) Upright – Auto Defrost</b>					
• older model	—	continuous	198.0	29.70	
• energy-efficient model	—	continuous	68.0	10.20	
Microwave oven	700*	30 min/day	23.9	3.59	
* input wattage is 1600W					
<b>£ Range</b>					
• large element	2,400	1 hr/day*	36.0	5.40	
• small element	1,300	1 hr/day*	19.5	2.93	
• oven (self-cleaning)	3,200	1 hr/day	24.0	3.60	
• oven (non self-cleaning)	3,500	1 hr/day	32.0	4.80	
• convection oven	3,500	1 hr/day	3.6	0.54	
• broil	3,600	1 hr/mo	3.6	0.54	
• self-clean cycle	4,000	once/mo	5.9	0.89	
* on medium heat					
Total (average)	—		62-75	9.3-11.25	
<b>£ Refrigerator</b>					
<b>a) Manual Defrost (10-12 cu. ft.)</b>					
• older model	—	continuous	100.0	15.00	
• energy-efficient model	—	continuous	45.0	6.75	
<b>b) Frost Free (20 cu. ft.)</b>					
• older model	—	continuous	140.0	21.00	
• older model side-by-side	—	continuous	17.0	2.55	
• energy-efficient model	—	continuous	64.0	9.60	

# Kitchen Appliances – Small Laundry/Utility, Lighting

	Typical Wattage	Estimated Use	Average kW.h Use per month <sup>1</sup>	Estimated Cost/ Month <sup>2</sup>	Your Estimated Cost
<b>Kitchen Appliances – Small</b>					
Breadmaker	600	once/day	13.3	2.00	
Broiler (portable)	1,500	1 hr/mo.	1.5	0.23	
Coffee Maker					
• brew cycle	1,500	6 min/day	4.5	0.68	
• warm cycle	60	1 hr/day	1.8	0.27	
£ Convection Oven (portable)	1500	1 hr/day	15.0	2.25	
Corn Popper	850	15 min/wk	0.85	0.13	
Deep Fat Fryer	1,500	15 min/wk	1.5	0.23	
Electric Grill (indoor)	1,500	2 hrs/wk	12.0	1.80	
£ Food Dryer/Dehydrator	875	8 hrs/wk	9.6	1.44	
£ Food Processor	690	30 min/wk	1.4	0.21	
£ Frying Pan	1,200	2 hrs/wk	4.0	0.60	
£ Griddle	1,200	0 min/wk	1.2	0.18	
Hot Plate	1,250	2 hrs/mo.	2.5	0.38	
Kettle	1,500	10 min/day	7.5	1.13	
Pressure Cooker	1,300	1 hr/wk	5.2	0.78	
Slow Cooker					
• low	75	8 hrs/wk	2.4	0.36	
• high	175	8 hrs/wk	5.6	0.84	
£ Toaster (2 slice)	1,200	5 min/day	3.0	0.45	
£ Toaster Oven	1,400	2 hrs/wk	6.4	0.96	
£ Waffle Iron	1,200	2 hrs/mo.	1.2	0.18	
Water Cooler					
• cold only	115	4.5 hrs/day	15.3	2.30	
• hot/cold	138	4.5 hrs/day	18.6	2.79	



	Typical Wattage	Estimated Use	Average kW.h Use per month <sup>1</sup>	Estimated Cost/ Month <sup>2</sup>	Your Estimated Cost
<b>Laundry/Utility</b>					
£ Clothes Dryer	6,000	34 loads/mo.	80.0	12.00	
£ Iron	1,000	1 hr/wk	4.0	0.60	
Sump Pump	135	6 hrs/day	24.3	3.65	
<b>Vacuum Cleaner</b>					
• portable	650	2 hrs/mo.	1.3	0.20	
• built-in	1,440	2 hrs/mo.	2.9	0.44	
<b>Washer</b> (excluding water heating costs)					
• automatic	500	34 loads/mo.	8.5	1.28	
• portable (twin tub)	300	34 loads/mo.	5.1	0.77	
<b>Water Distiller</b> (2 gal./day)					
	1,200	4 hrs/day	144.0	21.60	
Water Softener	5	24 hrs/day	3.6	0.54	

## Lighting

### Christmas Lights

#### a) Exterior

• 7W (25 bulbs/string)	175	4 hrs/day	21.0	3.15	
• 5W (25 bulbs/string)	125	4 hrs/day	15.0	2.25	
• 0.6W miniature (35 bulbs/string)	21	4 hrs/day	2.5	0.38	

#### b) Interior

• 5W (15 bulbs/string)	75	4 hrs/day	9.0	1.35	
• 0.3W miniature (35 bulbs/string)	10	4 hrs/day	1.2	0.18	

### Compact Fluorescent

• 23W	23	4 hrs/day	2.8	0.42	
• 20W	20	4 hrs/day	2.4	0.36	
• 15W	15	4 hrs/day	1.8	0.27	

# Lighting cont'd

## Outdoors

	Typical Wattage	Estimated Use	Average kW.h Use per month <sup>1</sup>	Estimated Cost/ Month <sup>2</sup>	Your Estimated Cost
<b>Incandescent</b>					
<b>a) Standard</b>					
• 100W bulb	100	4 hrs/day	12.0	1.80	
• 60W bulb	60	4 hrs/day	7.2	1.08	
<b>b) Reduced wattage (krypton)</b>					
• 90W bulb	90	4 hrs/day	10.8	1.62	
• 52W bulb	52	4 hrs/day	6.2	0.93	
<b>Fluorescent Tubes</b>					
• 2 @ 40W tube fixture (magnetic ballast)	95	4 hrs/day	11.4	1.71	
• 2 @ 34W tube fixture (magnetic ballast)	81	4 hrs/day	9.7	1.46	
• 2 @ 32W tube fixture (T-8) (electronic ballast)	64	4 hrs/day	7.7	1.16	
• 15W single tube fixture (magnetic ballast)	21	4 hrs/day	2.5	0.38	
• 2 @ 75W tube fixture (8 ft.) (magnetic ballast)	172	4 hrs/day	20.6	3.09	
<b>Floodlight</b>					
• 150W incandescent	150	4 hrs/day	18.0	2.70	
• 90W halogen (PAR)	90	4 hrs/day	10.8	1.62	
• 75W incandescent	75	4 hrs/day	9.0	1.35	
• 45W halogen (PAR)	45	4 hrs/day	5.4	0.81	
<b>Sunlamp</b>	250	1 hr/day	7.5	1.13	
<b>Security Lighting</b>					
• mercury vapour	175	4 hrs/day	21.0	3.15	
• high pressure sodium	100	4 hrs/day	12.0	1.80	



	Typical Wattage	Estimated Use	Average kW.h Use per month <sup>1</sup>	Estimated Cost/ Month <sup>2</sup>	Your Estimated Cost
<b>Outdoors</b>					
<b>Battery Charger</b>	700	1 hr	0.7	0.11	
Car Battery Blanket	100	4 hrs/day	12.0	1.80	
	—	8 hrs/day	24.0	3.60	
<b>Car Block Heater</b>	600	4 hrs/day	72.0	10.80	
	—	8 hrs/day	144.0	21.60	
<b>Car Interior Warmer</b>	850	4 hrs/day	102.0	15.30	
	—	8 hrs/day	204.0	30.60	
<b>Garage Door Opener</b>	350	3 times/day	31.5	4.73	
<b>Garden Tools</b>					
• edger	480	2 hrs/mo.	1.0	0.15	
• hedge trimmer	290	4 hrs/mo.	1.2	0.18	
<b>Lawnmower</b>	1,200	1 hr/wk	4.8	0.72	
<b>Power Tools</b>					
• chain saw	1,380	2 hrs/mo.	2.8	0.42	
• circular saw	1,150	2 hrs/mo.	2.3	0.35	
• drill	287	2 hrs/mo.	0.6	0.09	
• jigsaw	287	2 hrs/mo.	0.6	0.09	
• table saw	1,380	2 hrs/mo.	2.8	0.42	
• sander	287	2 hrs/mo.	0.6	0.09	
<b>Snow Blower</b>	1,200	2 hrs/mo.	2.4	0.36	
<b>Yard Light</b>					
• mercury vapour	175	10 hrs/day	52.5	7.88	
• high pressure sodium	100	10 hrs/day	30.0	4.50	

For other appliances and equipment not specifically listed, use the energy consumption look-up table on page 14.

# Energy Consumption Table

## Calculating Consumption

### Energy Consumption Look-up Table

Use the table below to customize and estimate the monthly consumption of equipment and appliances you use that are not listed in this guide. Once you have determined the consumption, you can calculate the cost using the instructions listed on the next page.

To use the table:


- 1) Estimate the total daily operating hours of the appliance or equipment.
- 2) Find the closest daily operating time on the bottom of the table.
- 3) Find the closest wattage or hp\* rating on the left side of the table.
- 4) The number in the table that intersects is the approximate monthly energy consumption.

### Monthly Energy Consumption (kWh)

hp Wattage

5	5000	25.0	75.0	150.0	300.0	600.0	900.0	1200.0	1800.0	3600.0
3	3000	15.0	45.0	90.0	180.0	360.0	540.0	720.0	1080.0	2160.0
2 1/2	2500	12.5	37.5	75.0	150.0	300.0	450.0	600.0	900.0	1800.0
2	2000	10.0	30.0	60.0	120.0	240.0	360.0	480.0	720.0	1440.0
1 1/2	1500	7.5	22.5	45.0	90.0	180.0	270.0	360.0	540.0	1080.0
1	1200	6.0	18.0	36.0	72.0	144.0	216.0	288.0	432.0	864.0
3/4	1000	5.0	15.0	30.0	60.0	120.0	180.0	240.0	360.0	720.0
1/2	500	2.5	7.5	15.0	30.0	60.0	90.0	120.0	180.0	360.0
1/3	300	1.5	4.5	9.0	18.0	36.0	54.0	72.0	108.0	216.0
1/5	200	1.0	3.0	6.0	12.0	24.0	36.0	48.0	72.0	144.0
1/8	100	0.5	1.5	3.0	6.0	12.0	18.0	24.0	36.0	72.0
-	50	0.2	0.8	1.5	3.0	6.0	9.0	12.0	18.0	36.0
-	25	0.1	0.4	0.8	1.5	3.0	4.5	6.0	9.0	18.0
-	10	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.2	1.8	2.4	3.6	7.2
-	5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.83	0.6
		10 min.	30 min.	1 hr.	2 hr.	4 hr.	6 hr.	8 hr.	12 hr.	24 hr.

\* hp ratings are approximate and are based on partial motor loading and estimated efficiencies



The appliance or equipment will have a nameplate with one of the following electrical specifications.

**Watts (W)** – The maximum power rating of the appliance or equipment.

**Horsepower (hp)** – Output power rating of a motor (1 hp = 746 Watts).

**Amps (A)** – This is the current rating and is easily converted to Watts. To convert Amps to Watts multiply amperage by the line voltage. If the equipment or appliance is plugged into a standard electrical outlet, multiply Amps by 120 (assuming the line voltage is 120VAC).

**Example:** If the nameplate says 50A then (50A X 120VAC = 6000W).

Please note that the nameplate rating is a maximum rating. The actual operating Watts, hp or Amps may be lower. (often only 50% to 80% of the nameplate rating)

1. Instructions for calculating your monthly energy consumption:

To find your monthly energy consumption for an electrical appliance or piece of equipment, take the equipment wattage (W) and divide by one thousand, multiply by hours of use per day times days per month. This will give you an estimate of kilowatt-hours used per month.

$$W/1000 * \text{hr/day} * \text{day/month} = \text{kWh/month}$$

Example: Baseboard Heater

$$2500W/1000 * 6 \text{ hr/day} * 30 \text{ day/month} = 450 \text{ kWh/month}$$

Calculation: \_\_\_\_\_ W/1000 \* \_\_\_\_\_ h/d \* \_\_\_\_\_ d/mo = \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/mo

2. Instructions for calculating energy costs based on consumption:

To find your monthly cost, take the energy consumption that applies (kWh) and multiply by your energy costs. An example is provided below.

$$\text{kWh/mo} * \$/\text{kWh} = \$/\text{mo}$$

Example: Baseboard Heater

$$450 \text{ kWh/month} * \$0.06/\text{kWh} = \$27.00/\text{month}$$

Calculation: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/mo \* \_\_\_\_\_ \$ /kWh = \_\_\_\_\_ /mo

# The Next Step

Appliance: \_\_\_\_\_

Energy Consumption

Calculation: \_\_\_\_\_ W/1000 \* \_\_\_\_\_ h/d \* \_\_\_\_\_ d/mo = \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/mo

Energy Cost Calculation: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/mo\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_ /kWh= \_\_\_\_\_ /mo

Appliance: \_\_\_\_\_

Energy Consumption

Calculation: \_\_\_\_\_ W/1000 \* \_\_\_\_\_ h/d \* \_\_\_\_\_ d/mo = \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/mo

Energy Cost Calculation: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/mo\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_ /kWh= \_\_\_\_\_ /mo

Appliance: \_\_\_\_\_

Energy Consumption

Calculation: \_\_\_\_\_ W/1000 \* \_\_\_\_\_ h/d \* \_\_\_\_\_ d/mo = \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/mo

Energy Cost Calculation: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/mo\*\$ \_\_\_\_\_ /kWh= \_\_\_\_\_ /mo

## The Next Step

Now that you know how much it costs to operate your appliances and equipment, you may want to take some steps to save energy. For further assistance, contact your local YECL or NUE office and pick up a copy of The Energy Scorecard, an energy evaluation you can do at home.

## We're Here to Help

Our team of dedicated professionals is ready and waiting to assist you with an energy evaluation to help you:

- save money on energy costs
- become more energy efficient
- contribute to improving the environment

For more energy-saving information and tips, visit our website: [lightingupthenorth.com](http://lightingupthenorth.com).