

Reading Electric Meters

Digital Meters

Most digital meters display the kilowatt-hours consumed, followed by a “segment check,” which is a series of “8”’s that show that the display is working correctly. If a part of a segment is missing, the read could be reported incorrectly.

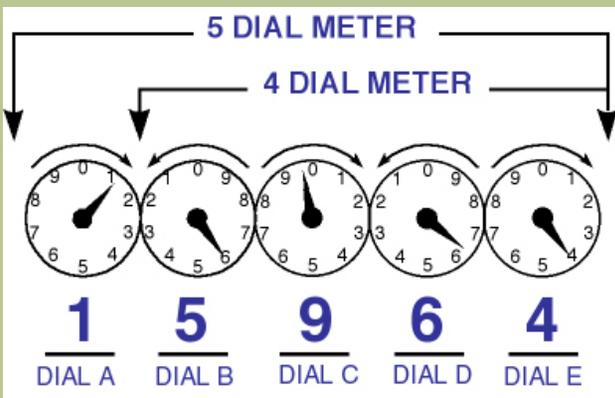
For Digital Net Meters (customers with solar or wind installations), the display segments move back and forth, depending on whether grid power is being used or fed back. There is typically an arrow showing the direction of energy flow, with the words "delivered" or "received" displayed.



Mechanical Meters

It’s easy to read a mechanical meter once you learn a few tricks.

- The dials are like watch faces in a row (every other dial moves counterclockwise).
- If the pointer is between two numbers, record the lower of the two numbers.
- If the pointer is directly on a number, look at the dial to the right. If the pointer on that dial has passed “0”, record the number the pointer is on. If not, record the next lowest number on the dial you are recording.



Regardless of your meter type, if you subtract the last reading you took from the one you take today, the result is the number of kilowatt-hours of electricity you’ve used during that time.

Saving Energy, Living Better...

For information about how to use less electricity, save money, and be more comfortable in your home, please call our Energy Advisors at **(206) 684-3800**, or visit our website at www.seattle.gov/light/conserve.

If you are wondering how much electricity an average City Light customer uses in a month, see the chart below.

Average Bi-Monthly Residential Electrical Use

Single-family home with electric space and water heat	2,828 kWh
Single-family home with electric water heat only	1,727 kWh
Single-family home with no electric space or water heat	1,527 kWh
Apartment with electric space and water heat	1,236 kWh
Apartment with electric water heat only	677 kWh
Apartment with no electric space or water heat	355 kWh

Source: 2009 Residential Customer Characteristics Survey

(7/13) C&PA



Your Seattle City Light

About Your
Electric Meter



Your Seattle City Light

700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3300,
Seattle, WA 98104-5031
Utilities Call Center (206) 684-3000
Out-of-Area Calls Only (800) 862-1181

www.seattle.gov/light

Electric Meter Basics

- Electric meters measure a customer’s electric energy use in kilowatt-hours.
- There are two kinds of electrical meters: Mechanical and Digital.
- Mechanical meters have four or five dials to measure electrical consumption, and a metal disk that spins as power is consumed.
- Digital meters show power consumed by way of an LCD display.
- City Light is gradually phasing out the mechanical meters, but may homes and businesses still have them installed.

Meter Reading

Our employees read the meters on a regular schedule, usually every two months. Please help them do their jobs by keeping plants, tools, building materials and other items at least three feet away from the meter.

Remember—if you can’t see the meter numbers and dials, the City Light meter reader probably can’t either.

If your meter is accessible only with a key, please call **(206) 386-1731** to make arrangements for access. Many customers give us a key, which we keep locked in a secure place. For your convenience, we will even pick up the key from you.

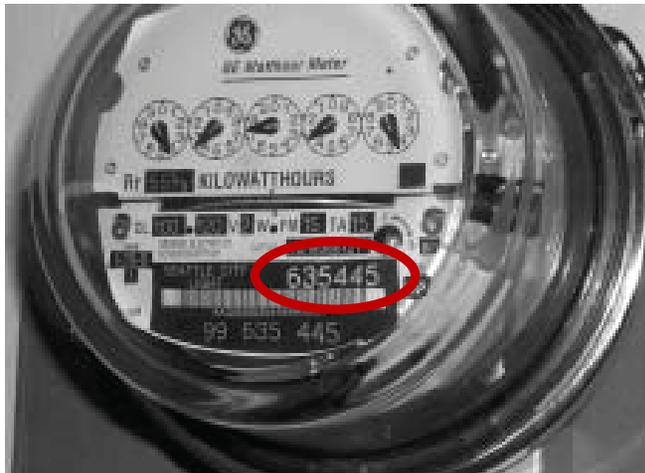


Estimated Meter Readings

If we are unable to read the meter, we will estimate how much electricity you’ve used based on previous consumption history at your address. As soon as we can, we will read your meter and correct any billing inaccuracies that occurred.

Meter Identification Number

You may want to look at your meter to make sure that the identification number matches the one printed on your bill in the “Detailed Billing Information” section. If you live in an apartment, you may have to check the identification number to determine which meter is yours. The meter identification number is generally five or six digits and in larger, bolder print. Older models may have only four digits. In the photo below, the meter number is 635445.



For help with your account, please call **(206) 684-3000**, or visit our website at www.seattle.gov/light/accounts/resa/

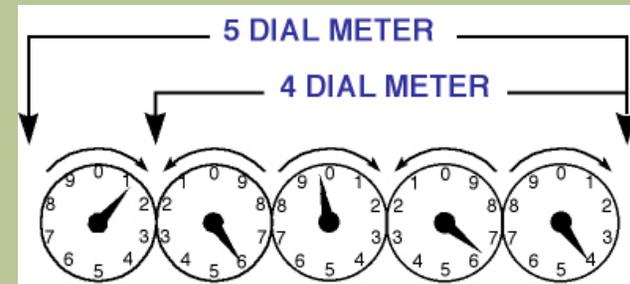


Opening and Closing Your Account

When you open or close your Seattle City Light account, we will need to figure out how much electricity has been used since the last meter reading. There are several methods to choose from:

- You can look at the meter, then call us at **(206) 684-3000** to tell us where the pointers are positioned on the dials, or what the LCD display reads. A City employee will record this information and calculate the consumption.
- We can estimate the consumption.
- For a fee, a City Light meter reader can come out and read your meter.

You may use the blank meter dials below to record the positions of the pointers. This may be useful when you open or close your account, or if you inquire about your electricity consumption.



Understand Your Electricity Use

By reading your meter regularly, you will get an idea of how much electricity you use between regular City Light readings. If you get a bill that seems unusually high, read your meter and compare the reading with the “Current Reading” number printed on your bill.