

CONSUMER IMPACT

Vol. 12, No.1 March, 2023



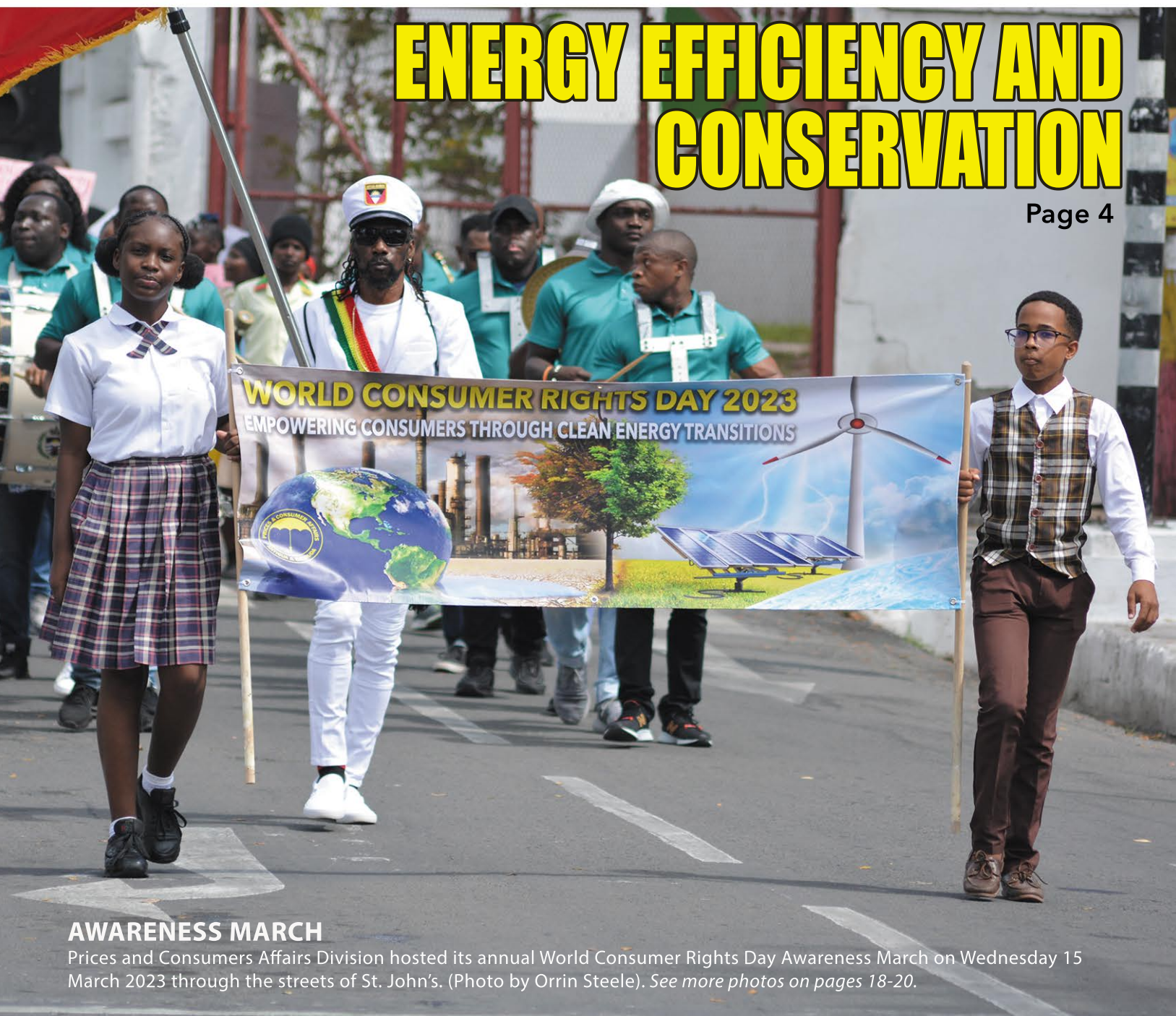
Refrigerators and freezers
Page 14



Cool down but...
stay efficient
Page 17

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

Page 4



AWARENESS MARCH

Prices and Consumers Affairs Division hosted its annual World Consumer Rights Day Awareness March on Wednesday 15 March 2023 through the streets of St. John's. (Photo by Orrin Steele). See more photos on pages 18-20.

Energy Conservation Guide **Page 9**

Energy Label Information for Consumers **Page 12**

CONSUMER IMPACT

CONTENTS

- p.03** Minister's Message
- p.04** Talking Energy Efficiency and Conservation
- p.07** Energy Efficiency Guidelines
- p.09** Efficiency Conservation Guide
- p.12** Energy Label Information for Consumers
- p.14** Refrigerators and Freezers
- p.15** Televisions
- p.16** Washing Machines
- p.17** Air Conditioners (ACs)
- p.18** World Consumer Rights Day Awareness March



PRICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DIVISION
Ministry of Trade
Cecil George-John Building
Redcliffe Street and Corn Alley, St. John's, Antigua.
Tel: (268) 462-4347 or (268) 462-0834 Fax: (268) 562-7556
Email: consumeraffairs@ab.gov.ag

Minister's Message

As we celebrate World Consumer Rights Day under the theme 'Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions' we are faced with the harsh reality that most economies are facing a deepening energy crisis globally which is having an especial untold impact on vulnerable consumers. According to Consumers International, global energy prices are set to rise by 50% by the end of 2022 and will stay high in 2023.

The world needs energy to support everyday life and drive human and economic development. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports that in 2019, over 26,000 terawatt-hours of electricity were produced worldwide. This electricity is being produced by a range of energy sources, but mostly fossil fuels.

Energy production and use are the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions around the world. As greenhouse gases are a driving force behind climate change, countries worldwide including Antigua and Barbuda are actively working on a clean energy transition by changing how energy is produced.

The clean energy transition means shifting energy production away from sources that release a lot of greenhouse gases, such as fossil fuels, to those that release little to no greenhouse gases.

As we celebrate today, it affords consumers, businesses and government the opportunity for us to place greater emphasis on the need for the protection of our environment from the harmful effects of greenhouse gasses. Additionally, it allows for increased awareness and promotion of various forms of renewable energy sources and the advantages to include cost-saving benefits available to consumers.

As the world over struggles to navigate the greatest cost of living crisis in a generation and as the energy world drastically responds to supply and climate issues, our Government considers it crucial that long-term sustainability is achieved by the integration of renewable energy sources to the benefit of consumers. Consumers too must play their part by utilizing energy conservation measures and promoting energy efficiency.

Happy World Consumer Right Day to all.

Hon. E. P. Chet Greene
Minister of Immigration, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and
Barbuda Affairs





Prices and Consumer Affairs Director, Orrin Steele.



Itajah Simmons, Senior Energy Officer, Energy Unit, Melissa LeBlanc and Vekash Khan, Technical Officers, Department of the Environment.

Talking ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

Energy efficiency and conservation are the talks in the consumer arena lately, and on March 14 was the subject of a panel moderated by the Prices and Consumer Affairs Director (Ag.) Orrin Steele. Standing before those gathered at Villa Poly clinic, Steele asked the panel of five energy experts to discuss what energy efficiency and conservation mean, how they can be achieved, and the benefits to consumers.

Winston Whyte, Renewable Energy Engineer of the APUA, focused first on defining energy efficiency as "utilizing energy without wastage. The more efficiently we use energy, the more energy efficient we would be."

The general attitude of utilizing a lot of unnecessary energy is reflected in our society and our homes.

For example, "we utilize energy by not turning off lights on playfields and they are on and shining at nights when nobody is using them," Whyte said.



Dianne Rodrigues, Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards and Winston Whyte, Renewable Energy Engineer of the APUA. (Photos by DKaboo Brann).



Within the home, there are many ways in which energy is wasted. Refrigerator doors are left open unnecessarily, appliances are left plugged in when not in use, doors and windows are opened while air conditioning units are in use, multiple televisions are being used at once or being used simply for background sound and are left on for hours when no one is watching them and the list goes on.

Yet, the majority of consumers want to spend less money on their electricity bills although most consumers don't know what the bills mean.

"What does our bill say to us? We see \$100 on our bill but what does that \$100 mean to us? Does it mean that we use \$100 in electricity or what does it mean in terms of consumption? According to Vekash Khan, Technical Officer of the Department of the Environment, these



questions, most consumers can't answer and should seek to know if they are serious about making changes and becoming energy efficient.

The gatekeeper to our relationship with energy consumption is the APUA. Whyte noted that the Authority's online billing platform allows consumers to monitor their energy usage.

"For example, you can see a year's-worth of bills online (and) you can see what you paid in March last year," Whyte explained. He added that by using the online platform consumers are able to compare their current month's consumption with the previous month and the system will automatically indicate whether more or less energy has been consumed.

In Antigua and Barbuda, appliances purchased in recent times should have an Energy Label on or inside the appliance.

"This gives you (the consumer) an idea of the energy consumption based on the conditions under which it was tested," Dianne

Rodrigues, Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards noted.

The labelling project is to increase the awareness of the public about energy and energy efficiency.

"As such, we do have national standards for LEDs, CFLs, refrigerators (like general requirements, performance requirements, and energy consumption) and energy labelling for refrigerating appliances, Rodrigues stated.

Energy-efficient in homes and businesses is often viewed as being expensive, but conservation provides some of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste.

"Conservation is a change in our behaviour and our approach towards using energy," Itajah Simmons, Senior Energy Officer, Energy Unit, said.

It comes with a relatively high cost initially but in the long run, it works out pretty much cheaper and it saves you a lot," Simmons added.

Plugging things into a power strip, balancing your thermostat, and using compact fluorescent (CFL) and LED bulbs are all cheap ways to reduce energy use.

For consumers to realize lower bills, "they need to use more energy-efficient appliances, plug out appliances when they are not using them, turn off air conditions when leaving home and make other small changes to save energy," Melissa LeBlanc, Technical Officer, Department of the Environment noted.

One of the main thing consumers can do is reduce their use of transformers.

For example, "if your home is what we say locally uses 220 current and you are going to buy a 110 iron you would want to buy a transformer to connect the iron. When you plug the iron out of the transformer and the transformer is left plugged into the outlet the transformer on its own will consume electricity. So, the transformer in addition to the appliance will cost more," Whyte explained.

Additionally, a lot of standby devices (phone chargers, microwaves,



Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim.

electrical kettles, televisions etc.) use electricity even when they are not in use and they will consume electricity," Rodrigues noted.

Another easy and cheap way to reduce energy use is to keep your refrigerator/freezer on the lowest setting.

"It is designed to freeze at 1, so if you keep it at 4 the motor has to work more. But since it is designed to work from 1 to 4, please put it at 1 so the motor works less and you save more energy," Simmons stressed.

For now, the best way forward is for consumers to use simple solutions as the industry works to create new

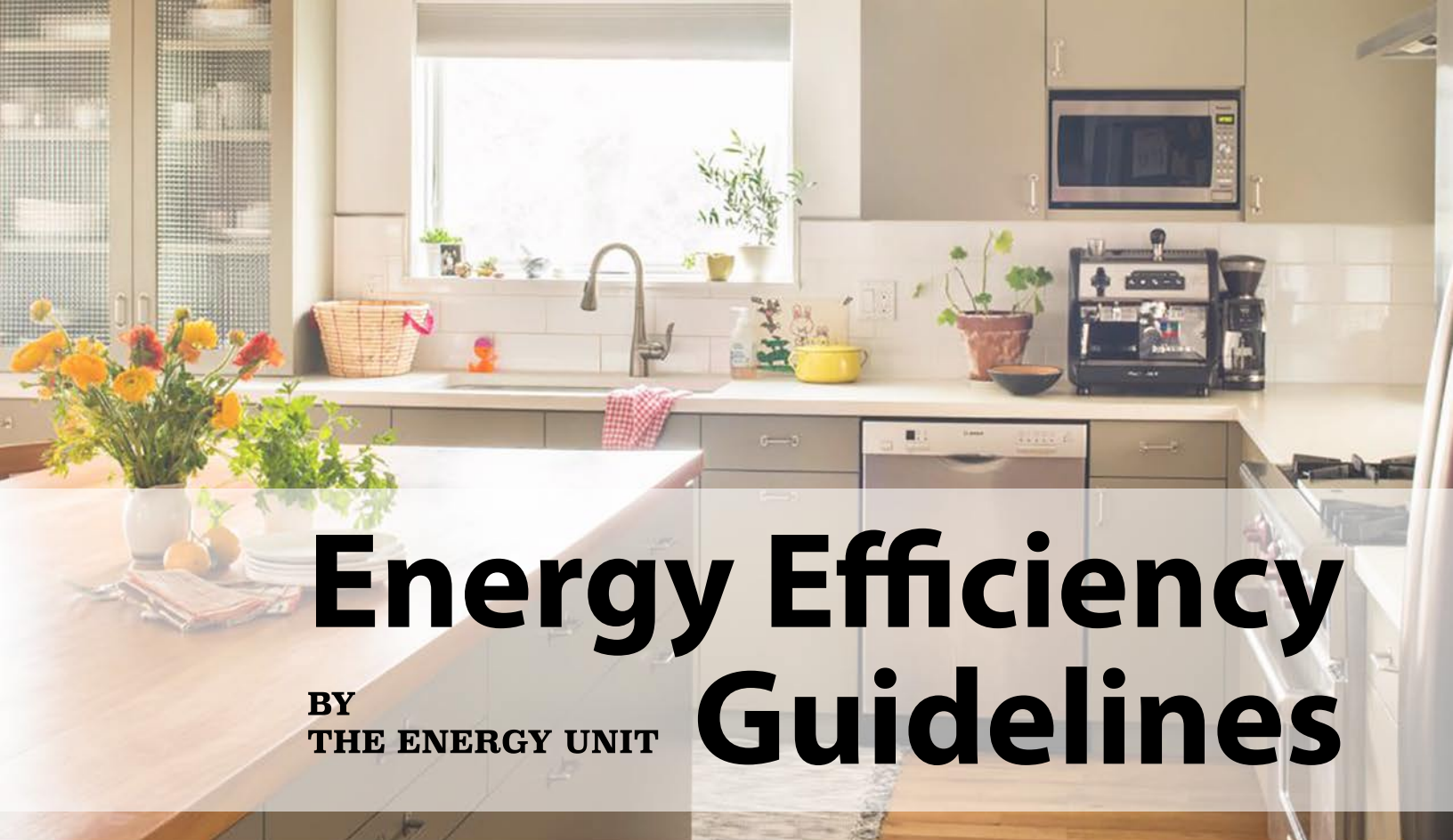


Some of the Prices and Consumer Affairs members of staff at the panel discussion.



systems and standards. The industry is still working on new developments, but energy efficiency is possible, and necessary, especially as the world experiences the effects of

climate change. Every consumer has a responsibility to monitor how much energy he or she is using and take measures to become more energy efficient.



Energy Efficiency Guidelines

BY
THE ENERGY UNIT

Energy efficiency in the most basic terms means using less energy to perform the same task – that is, eliminating energy waste. Energy efficiency brings a variety of benefits: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing demand for energy imports, and lowering our costs on a household. While renewable energy technologies also help accomplish these objectives, improving energy efficiency is the cheapest – and often the most immediate – way to reduce the energy footprint within a given space. There are enormous opportunities for efficiency improvements in every sector of the economy, whether it is buildings, transportation, industry, or energy generation.

It is because of this within the ministry of energy we recommend different methods that will assist in reducing the usage of un-necessary energy.

Typical home energy improvements:

It all starts with a smart design

Cost effective homes start from the construction phase. Designers and Architects, Engineers should be familiar with energy efficient steps involved in building a home. The homes should be designed in such a way that the builders and subcontractors can implement these steps as cost-effectively as possible. Detailed communication between the designer and builder can ensure that critical details are not overlooked.

Using insulated Windows and Doors

Windows and doors are like big energy holes in a well insulated, airtight building envelope and are the third most cost-effective opportunity for making a home energy efficient. Control window and door heat loss and gain by selecting appropriate window and door products, carefully locating them, and optimizing their size and orientation.

Upgrade heating and cooling systems

Heating and cooling your home uses more energy than any other system in your home. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with appropriate insulation, air sealing, and thermostat settings, you can cut your energy use for heating and cooling.

Heat Water Wisely using Solar Heaters

The benefits of this heating system include:

- Endless amounts of energy, free of charge.
- No CO₂ emissions during operation.
- Cost savings: up to 60% less energy to heat water, up to 35% less energy for space heating.
- Reduced consumption of fossil fuels.
- Solar thermal systems can be integrated into existing systems.



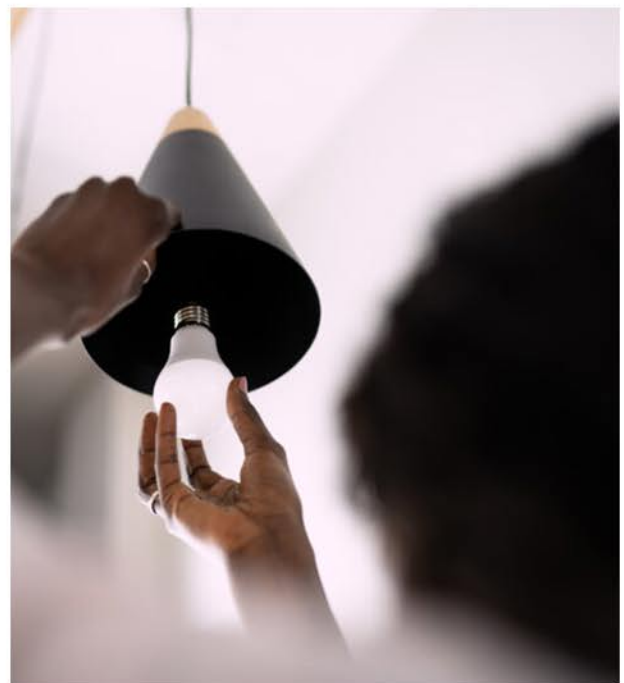
Use the Sun for Renewable Energy

Grid-tied solar photovoltaic (PV) panels currently provide a cost-effective form of renewable energy for a low energy home. They can power all the energy needs of a home including lighting, heating and cooling systems, appliances and hot water. Consider contracting a certified Solar Energy installer for further information as to the procedure for installation and cost.

Replace Incandescent light bulbs with LED Bulbs

Benefits include:

- Long Lifespan.
- Energy Efficiency.
- Improved Environmental Performance.
- The Ability to Operate in Cold Conditions.
- No Heat or UV Emissions.
- Design Flexibility.
- Instant Lighting and the Ability to Withstand Frequent Switching. ...
- Low Voltage Operation.



Home or Office Energy Audits

A residential energy audit is a review of a home's energy performance, including an assessment of both the home's energy features and the household's energy consumption patterns. Home energy audits identify how efficiently your home is operating and where your home is wasting energy. This can be done in order to improve the conditions within the home or office.



GREEN ANTIGUA

POWERED BY  Apua

**EVERY LITTLE STEP CAN
MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AND YOUR USAGE.**

ENERGY CONSERVATION GUIDE


**GREEN
ANTIGUA**
POWERED BY Apua

Why Conserve?

Global warming is a very real and serious situation. Consumers can assist in reducing fossil fuel emission by reducing energy usage.

Consistent conservation will result in a reduction of monthly electricity consumption and by extension cost.

How to Conserve ?

- Begin by introducing small changes into your daily routine.
- Ensure that all members of your household are on board with a conservation routine.

High Energy Household Appliances

Big Screen TVs

- The bigger the TV, the more energy consumed.
- The average household has multiple TVs running for extended periods of time.
- HD/3D and Plasma screen TVs are the most inefficient types of big screen TVs.

Television Cost

Device	Length of Use	Monthly Consumption	Current additional monthly cost
48 " Plasma Screen TV	5 hours per day	14.70 kWh	\$14.68 EC
48 " LED Screen TV	5 hours per day	8.25 kWh	\$8.25 EC

LED TVs are currently the most energy efficient beating out the plasma and LCD Screen TVs.

Energy Saving Solution -TVs

- Consider a smaller screen.
- On your next purchase choose an LED screen TV.
- Ensure that all TVs are turned off when not in use.
- Avoid sleep mode (TV still uses energy).



Refrigerator/Freezer

- Refrigerators/Freezers are the largest household consumers of energy. Choosing the right one is crucial.
- Fridges with top-mounted freezers are 10-25% more efficient than side-by-sides and bottom mounted freezers.
- Automatic icemakers and dispensers, increase energy use by 10-15%.



Refrigerator Cost

22 Cubic Foot (model year)	Monthly Consumption	Current additional monthly cost
2001-2010	50 kWh	\$50 EC
2008-2010 (Energy Star)	41.67 kWh	\$41.67 EC

Refrigerators made before 2001 are extremely inefficient. Brands that are energy star rated are guaranteed to be more efficient.

Energy Saving Solution Refrigerator/Freezer

- Keep the condenser coils at the back of the fridge clean.
- Keep the thermostat at 36 to 38 degrees F (2.2 to 3.3 degrees C) for refrigerators; 0 to 5 degrees F (-17.8 to -15 degrees C) for freezers.
- Defrost: frost buildup hurts the efficiency of the refrigerator.

Electric Water Heater

- Depending on the household usage, the water heater can account for 12-18% of household's energy use.
- The amount of electricity used depends on the size of the water tank, the amount of water used, the temperature setting and whether the tank is insulated.

Electric Water Heater Cost

4000 watt heater	Monthly Consumption	Current additional monthly cost
1 hour per day	120 Kwh	\$120 EC

Energy Saving Solution – Water Heater

- Keep the thermostat below 120 degrees F (50 degrees C)
- Ensure that you insulate the hot-water storage tank and first 6 feet of pipes connected to the tank, to reduce heat loss.
- Take shorter showers.
- Consider purchasing a solar or gas water heater.

Common Energy Wasting Activities

We mindlessly waste electricity through simple daily tasks.

• Overcharging cell phones.

The average phone cell phone takes 2-3 hours to charge. Most consumers leave their phones to charge for the duration of the night.

• Leaving appliances on standby modes

- Appliances on stand by are still receiving power although turned off.
- Here are examples of appliances with stand by power: Microwaves, Stereos, Computers, Cable boxes & Video game consoles.
- Appliances on stand-by power can account for up to 5-10% of a household's annual usage.
- Use a power strip or unplug these appliances to stop these appliances from using power.

Ways to Conserve

• Change bad daily habits.

- Stop leaving on fans in empty rooms.
- Put TV on timer to avoid falling asleep with it on.
- Try to iron once a week instead of daily.
The iron pulls extra energy to heat up every time it is plugged in.

- Fully power down desktop computers and laptops.
- **Make household adjustments.**
- Don't place lamps or televisions close to air conditioning units. The heat from these appliances cause the A/C to use more energy.
- Set A/C between 75-78 degrees for efficiency.
- Install your fridge away from direct sun or your range top/ oven.
- Use dimmers, timers and motion sensors on indoor and outdoor lights.

Conservation Investments

- LED Light Bulbs are now the most efficient types of light bulbs.

Bulb Type	Lifespan	Wattage	Kwh per year	Heat Emitted
LED Bulb	50,000 hours	6-8 watts	329 Kwh	3.4 btu's/hr
CFL Bulb	8000 hours	13-15 watts	767 Kwh	30 btu's/hr

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Bulb

LED light bulbs are more costly than CFL bulbs but are a better investment.



Compact Fluorescent



LED

- Purchase energy star approved appliances. These marked appliances can reduce energy usage by 25-50% depending on appliance.
- Energy Star appliances are environmentally friendly.
- **Invest in Renewable Energy (RE):**
According to the Interconnect Policy, customers are allowed to generate RE capacity of up to 50 kW.
- An application can be submitted and upon approval a certified installer can proceed to install system.
- Excess generation is purchased by APUA at a set rate.



Energy Label Information for Consumers

Eastern Caribbean Energy Labelling Project (ECEL P)

Considering the energy efficiency of products when buying household appliances is one of the easiest ways to save energy and protect our environment and climate. Besides, saving energy also means saving money. Even if high-efficient appliances are more expensive, the higher investment will pay back soon due to reduced utility bills.

Energy labels can help consumers to find and choose the most energy efficient appliances. Many countries have introduced mandatory or voluntary labelling programs for refrigerators, air-conditioners and other products. As the demand for energy-efficient appliances will further increase in the future, it is important to know how to read those labels.

The advantages of energy-efficient appliances

When shopping for appliances, more and more consumers pay attention to energy efficiency – among other purchasing criteria, such as functionality and design. Why that?

Well, there are electrical devices on the market that use more or some that use less energy for the same supply of services. Or in other words: some products are more energy-efficient than others!

Buying high-efficient household appliances means reducing monthly utility bills! Besides, it helps to reduce the impact on the environment. That's why everybody should look out for such products. And certainly, the demand for high-efficient devices will even further increase in the future!

Why energy labels are so important

To help consumers choose the best products regarding energy efficiency, many countries have established mandatory or voluntary energy labels. They usually are easy to understand and show at a glance the product's energy efficiency compared to similar products. Most OECS countries do not have their own labelling program (yet) but the manufacturers for certain markets already label most imported devices.

Retailers who are able to advise their customers regarding energy efficiency and energy labels can secure a significant competitive advantage.

What do energy labels tell us?

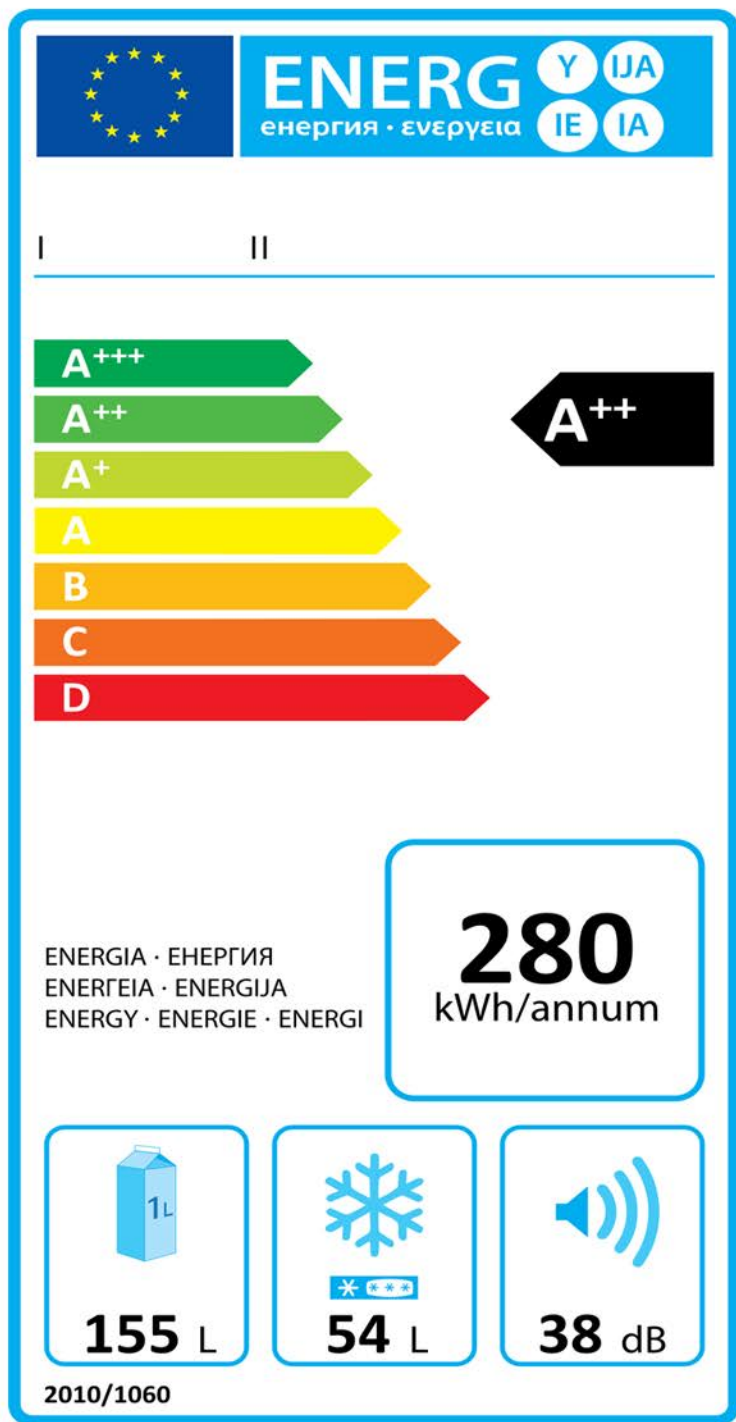
There are two different types of energy labels: comparative labels and endorsement labels.

Endorsement labels can be understood as "seals of approval" indicating a product meets certain criteria regarding energy efficiency. In general, appliances with such a label have to exceed minimum energy efficiency requirements by a certain margin. Usually, it can be recommended to buy products with such labels rather than products without a label.



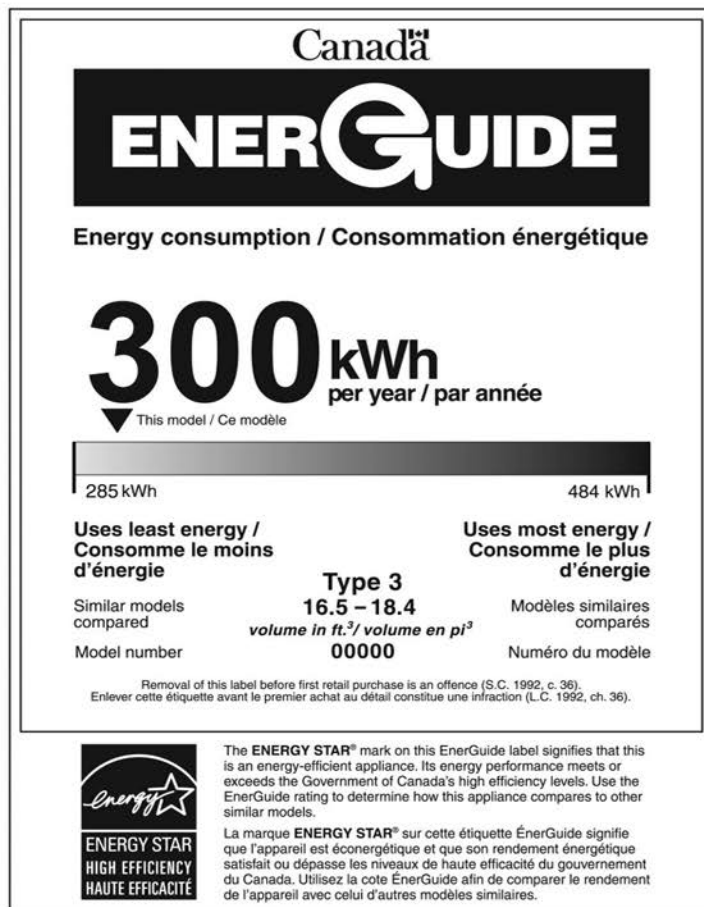
Example:
The international "Energy Star"

Example: European Union energy label



Please note: Comparative labels, such as those shown, are mandatory in most countries, at least for major electricity-consuming appliances, such as refrigerators/freezers, air conditioners and lighting.

Example: Canada energy consumption label



Comparative labels allow the consumer to compare the energy consumption of products of the same type and size. They mostly contain a kind of ranking, often by using a scale with pre-defined efficiency categories.

Energy labels - the easy way to save energy and money!

Energy labels, especially the comparative ones, often help to find out how much a certain appliance consumes under defined testing conditions and in comparison with other models of the same or similar type.

In daily life, the consumption does not only depend on the efficiency but also on how (and how often) the appliance is run. But the labels allow comparing products very easily or getting an overview of the ranking of the appliance within the energy efficiency spectrum.

For more information on energy efficiency labels contact the Antigua Barbuda Bureau of Standards. Tel: 268-462-2424

Refrigerators and Freezers



Refrigerators and Freezers usually run 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. That means they are among the largest energy consumers of private households.

Therefore, it is particularly important to care about energy efficiency when buying a new refrigerator.

Choose refrigerator type

There are many different types on the market. Generally, refrigerators with bottom-mounted freezers are the most efficient, but top freezers are alright as well.

Decide which extras you really need

Your new fridge may offer many special features that are convenient and fancy.

But be aware: Most of them make the energy consumption and your electricity bill increase.

Compare the energy consumption

After you have chosen the refrigerator type, size and features, you can compare the energy efficiency. Making these choices first is important as only similar products can be properly compared.

If the product carries an endorsement energy label it is among the most efficient of this type and size. Such a product probably is a good choice. But as there are still large differences between those first-rated appliances you should additionally have a look at the comparative label. Only comparative labels show how much energy the appliances actually consume. Energy-efficient refrigerator/freezer combinations consume about 0.5 kWh/l per year (approx. 14 kWh/ft³).

Save energy during operation

- Don't put your refrigerator near a heat source (oven, dishwasher, direct sunlight).
- Don't put the fridge in your (un-insulated) garage.
- Keep your fridge at 45°F (7°C) and your freezer at 0°F (-18°C). Anything colder is mostly not necessary and will lead to a waste of energy.
- Regularly defrost your refrigeration unit when there's more than one quarter of an inch of ice.
- Keep the outside coils clean and make sure the air can circulate around them. Leave some space between fridge and wall.
- Do not put hot food in the fridge or freezer; always allow the food to cool first.
- Do not leave the fridge door open for too long.
- Make sure the door gaskets on your refrigerator/-freezer seal properly. To check, take a dollar bill and close the door on it, if it pulls through easily, the gasket should be adjusted or replaced.
- Keep all liquids tightly covered. Uncovered liquids evaporate causing a frost-free system to work harder.
- Foods that need thawing before being cooked can be thawed in the refrigerator. The food helps keep the refrigerator cool while growth of bacteria on foods thawed at room temperature can be averted and thus the food is safer.

(Eastern Caribbean Energy Labeling Project)



Televisions

Most people are surprised when they find out how much money they spend annually on electricity costs for their television (TV) and other related devices. With larger and larger screens appearing on the market and having the TV running almost all day, it is not unusual to spend 500 kWh a year. That is as much as a usual refrigerator consumes.

So, what can you do to slash your energy bill?

Buy energy-efficient TVs

The selection of a certain type of television can already save you a lot. Technologies range from power-hungry plasma TVs to LCDs and other types:

- LCDs are much more efficient than the phase-out CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) models of the same size, in particular, if they come with LED backlight. Up to a size of 50" they are a good choice. On average, LCDs with LED backlight consume in standard operational mode around 0.1 to 0.15 Watts per square inch, but the energy differs between models.
- Plasma TVs mostly are available in sizes between 42" and 60". They are far less efficient than LED and LCD monitors and additionally, they produce lots of waste heat, which will increase your cooling load. In terms of energy use, plasma TVs are therefore not recommendable. They use 0.35 to 0.40 Watts per square inch.

Regardless of which technology you choose, you should always pay attention to the energy label. ENERGY STAR labelled TV's are on average over 40 percent more energy-efficient than standard models, and they must consume 1 watt or less in standby

mode. However, standby consumption has decreased dramatically over the last years.

Please note; The given average power consumptions refer to the area of the screen. The larger the TV, the more energy it consumes. To estimate the total consumption, you can use the following formula (for 16:9 screens):

Area = $0.43 \times \text{diagonal}^2$. (diagonal in inch)

Save energy during operation

- Turn the TV and other connected devices off when they're not being used. Don't use the TV for background noise.
- If you watch TV in bed make sure it has a sleep timer mode to provide it from running all night.
- Turn on the power saver mode if available.
- Watch Tv together instead of operating a separate device for every family member.
- Try to watch less TV. Read a book, go out with friends or just enjoy your life. Thus does not only offer energy savings! (ECELP)

Washing Machines

Washing machines have become much more efficient over the last 10 years and offer therefore a good opportunity to save energy and cut the family's energy bill.

New efficient models use less electricity to rotate the drum, for pumps and so on, they need less water per washing cycle and hence less energy to heat that water up. However, in the Caribbean, it is not common to heat the washing water at all. Therefore, energy labels for washing machines may be less significant in this region.



Selecting a washing machine

Before you buy a Washing machine there are some things you should take into consideration. First of all, think about the size of the washer you need. Washing machines work the most efficiently when they are fully loaded.

Compact washers handle about 4 to 8 pounds of laundry, which is enough for about one or two people. Conventional full-size models are holding 8 to 10 pounds of laundry. They are the ideal choice for the average family. Large families or people who consistently have large loads to wash would probably choose a large-capacity washer (10 to 12 pounds).

To find the most energy-efficient models available watch out for energy labels on the appliances. Those labels show the average energy consumption either per washing cycle or per year. In this case, the figure is based on a certain number of washing cycles per week (usually 8 cycles).

Save energy during operation

Some washing machines come with both a cold and hot water connection. Usually, washing machines spend 90% of the consumed energy on heating up the water. When not heating up the washing water at all, energy consumption will be reduced significantly.

Still, there are other ways to save money:



- Choose a washing machine that consumes little water to further reduce your utility bill.
- Try to always wash only full loads, but do not overload your machine.
- If you have to wash heavily soiled clothes, pre-soak them manually before putting them into the washing machine. (ECEL P)



Air Conditioners (ACs)

Living in a region with a hot and possibly wet climate usually implicates the necessity of an air conditioning system for your home.

Before buying an AC

Before considering which type of AC to buy you should try to reduce your cooling load as this will save the most money.

- Make sure your home is well insulated and tightened. This will prevent heat from entering the house.
- Shade windows that are exposed to direct sunlight. Mount shutters always on the outside of the windows.
- Buy energy-efficient household appliances because they emit less waste heat. For the same reason, you should replace your incandescent light bulbs by CFLs.

Choose the right size

It is very important to carefully size the room air conditioners, as under- or oversized ACs do not work properly. Most air conditioners are oversized because people expect a larger unit to provide better cooling.

But the opposite happens! ACs not only cool the room down but also remove air humidity. A too large AC will cool down the air very fast but remove only a small amount of moisture. The result: The air feels damp and clammy. Additionally, oversized ACs tend to switch on and off frequently. That will influence the unit's life time and waste a lot of energy.

Cool down - but stay efficient!

When buying a new air conditioner, you should select a unit with an EER (Energy Efficiency Ratio) of at least 10 (when EER in Btu/h per W; or 2.9 when in W/W). That will save you 50% of the operating cost! You will find that information on the energy label.

In the case of the SEER (Seasonal Energy Ratio) indicated on the label, a SEER of 12 (or 3.5 when EER in W/W) or above is considered very efficient.

But there are more things you can do to save energy:

- ACs with additional features like built-in timers and programmable thermostat settings have a higher purchasing price. Still, you should consider investing that extra money as it will pay back soon through savings on your utility bill. A controllable air conditioner allows you, for example, to turn it off when you are not at home and the timer will turn it on again half an hour before you return.
- Install some supplement fans in your home. They do not use much energy but help to circulate the cool air and help the air conditioner work more efficiently.
- When installing a window unit make sure the edges are sealed carefully to prevent the cool air to leave the room.
- Keep doors and windows shut when running the air conditioner.
- Do not cool your home too low. 78°F (25.6 ° C) is a good value to produce a healthy indoor climate. Every degree you set your AC up will save you up to 5% of operating costs.
- Don't cool unoccupied rooms. When you leave the house and your AC does not provide programmable timers you should manually set the temperature to 85°F (29.4°C). After you have returned your unit will be able to recover lower temperatures in a short time.
- Clean the filters of your air conditioner monthly. Dirty filters prevent the air from circulating properly and will lead to increased energy consumption.
- If your house has cooling or heating vents, you should always shut them when operating the AC. Otherwise, the cool air will sink down and disappear through the slot.
(ECLP)



WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY AWARENESS MARCH

Through the streets of St. John's
on March 15th 2023







Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim flanked by members of staff.

