

# Save money and energy with LED Holiday Lights!

With the holidays right around the corner, many UCNSB customers will begin decorating their homes with lights. Before you get started, it may be helpful to know how those decorations will affect your utility bill. Estimate changes to your bill using the 7-step formula below.

## How Much Do Your Lights Cost?

Use this formula to estimate your holiday energy costs:

1. Count the number of bulbs on your indoor tree and all of your other decorative indoor and outdoor lights.
2. Check the wattage per bulb. One watt per bulb is common for traditional incandescent mini lights.
3. Multiply watts per bulb by number of bulbs. For example, if you had 2500 bulbs in Step 1, and they use 1 watt (Step 2), your bulbs use 2500 watts.
4. Convert to kilowatts (kW). Divide your number in Step 3 by 1000. For example,  $2500 \text{ watts} / 1000 = 2.5 \text{ kW}$ .
5. Estimate the number of hours in a month the lights are on. For example, 5 hours per day  $\times$  30 days = 150 hours.
6. Multiply the total kilowatts (Step 4) by the total number of hours (Step 5) to get the total kilowatt hours (kWh). For example,  $2.5 \text{ kW} \times 150 \text{ hours} = 375 \text{ kWh}$ .
7. Multiply the total kWh by the total cost of electricity. For typical UCNSB customers, the total cost of electricity is approx. 13 cents per kWh. For example,  $375 \text{ kWh} \times .13 = \$48.75$ .

In our example, holiday lighting will add **\$48.75** to your monthly utility bill.

Save money by using Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights instead. LED lights use only .04-.08 watts - more than **90% less power** than regular lights. Using the same information as the example to the left, they would cost approx. \$2-4.

**That's a savings of \$45 or more!**

LED lights, in addition to using less power, also have a **longer life span**. They last up to 100,000 hours or more when used indoors, around 500,000 when used outdoors, and some manufacturers provide a limited lifetime warranty.



LED lights are also **safer** than traditional incandescent because there is **no chance of combustion** since the bulbs are cool to the touch, regardless of how long they are left on.

Source: EnergyIdeas Clearinghouse, [www.energyideas.org](http://www.energyideas.org)

LED lights are available in many shapes, sizes, and colors, and can beautifully replace your incandescent lighting. Consider incorporating these types of lights into your holiday décor to save energy and money over the holidays.



**Have a safe holiday season!**

Utilities Commission, City of NSB | [www.ucnsb.org](http://www.ucnsb.org)