

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Energy bills have been going up in recent years, but very few clubs actually look at the electricity or gas meter to find out whether increases are just price inflation or an increase in the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) or 'units' used.

The major uses for energy are in space heating (keeping the club house warm) and water heating (warm showers and washing up etc). Electricity can also be used in large quantities for cooking in the kitchen and refrigeration/cooling of drink and alcohol (depending on whether the club runs catering functions or has a bar).



By keeping a regular eye on the meter your club will become much more aware of energy use.

Look at your energy bills for the last 3-5 years and look at the annual energy consumption (this is shown in kWh or units on your bill).

You can take an average to work out a typical consumption for your club.

Note that energy consumption might not be uniform from year to year due to variation in weather and the demand for energy as well as any alterations that may have gone on in the club house.

You can use your meter to calculate energy consumption over shorter periods. Take a reading on a particular day in the season (write down all the digits on the meter – the last two digits (in red) indicate 10ths and 100ths). Wait three weeks and then take another reading at the same time and on the same day of the week.

Or, if you speak to your energy supplier they may be able to supply you with a portable smart meter to help you monitor live consumption from inside the club house.

Calculate the difference and divide this by three – this will give you an average consumption for a week.

You can get independent advice on energy saving and available grants to help clubs reduce their energy used from the Energy Saving Trust www.energysavingtrust.org.uk They also provide a guide on renewable and low carbon energy technologies such as Ground Source Heat Pumps, Wind Turbines and Solar PV.

You can also get help and advice on saving energy from your energy supplier(s).