

User Manual

POWER COST MONITOR™



Please read before using this equipment.

BLUE line
INNOVATIONS

Table of Contents

1	Welcome	1
2	Your Powercost Monitor™	2
	2.1 Safety instructions	3
	2.2 Care and maintenance	3
3	Determining your utility meter type	4
4	Unpacking and verifying basic operation	7
	4.1 Powering the display unit	7
	4.2 Powering the sensor unit	7
	4.3 Verifying the basic operation	8
5	Sensor unit installation	9
	5.1 You will need	9
	5.2 Electromechanical meter	10
	5.2.1 Preparing your sensor unit	10
	5.2.2 Installing your sensor unit	10
	5.3 Electronic meter (optical port on face)	12
	5.3.1 Preparing your sensor unit	12
	5.3.2 Installing your sensor unit	13
	5.4 Electronic meter (optical port on face-shims required)	14
	5.4.1 Preparing your sensor unit	14
	5.4.2 Installing your sensor unit	15
	5.5 Electronic meter (optical port on top)	16
	5.5.1 Preparing your sensor unit	16
	5.5.2 Installing your sensor unit	17
	5.6 Re-synchronizing your Display and Sensor Units	19
6	Setting up your display unit	20
	6.1 Determine your type of billing	20
	6.2 Display unit buttons and icons	21
	6.3 Setting up for single (flat) rate billing	24
	6.4 Setting up for tiered billing	26
	6.5 Setting up for time-of-use billing	29
7	Display unit functions	33
	7.1 Your display unit	33
	7.1.1 Current Consumption Row	33
	7.1.2 Total Consumption Row	34
	7.1.3 Status Row	34
	7.2 Dollar and cents display mode	35
	7.3 Kilowatt and kilowatt-hours mode	36
	7.4 Temperature display	37
	7.5 Loss of signal display	38
	7.6 Resetting the total values	39
	7.7 Display backlight	39
8	Troubleshooting	40

1 Welcome

Thank you for purchasing the *PowerCost Monitor*™ from Blue Line Innovations.

The *PowerCost Monitor*™ can help you reduce your electricity bill. Our goal is to empower all households to reduce the amount of electricity they use without having to dramatically change their lifestyles. At Blueline Innovations Inc., we develop all our products and services with that goal in mind.

By using this manual and making the *PowerCost Monitor*™ a regular part of your daily household management, you can considerably reduce the amount of electricity you consume without significantly altering the way you live from day to day.

Important: *This manual contains important safety and care information, and provides step-by-step instructions for using this product. Please read this manual thoroughly, and keep it in a safe place in case you need to refer to it later.*

You will find relatively inexpensive and effective tips at www.save-electricity.ca to help you maximize energy savings. When used in conjunction with the *PowerCost Monitor*™, these tips will help you attain your conservation goals.

The *PowerCost Monitor*™ is straightforward and easy to use. Should you happen to experience any difficulties with your system, please use the following resources in the order listed below:

1. The troubleshooting section at the end of this manual.
2. If the problem persists or you have a question that remains unanswered, additional information is available online at www.bluelineinnovations.com.
3. If none of the above resources contains the solution to your problem, please feel free to dial our toll free line at 1-866-607-2583. One of our customer support staff will be happy to assist you. However, we do ask our clients to understand that this is a last resort to be used only if all else has failed.

2 Your PowerCost Monitor™

Your *PowerCost Monitor*™ gives you the advantage of real-time feedback. Tests have proven that households where real-time feedback is put to good use can reduce their electricity needs by as much as 5 - 20%.

Real-time feedback means being able to:

- See how much energy your home is using from minute to minute.
- See the effect of turning on or off various electrical devices in your home.

It is important to remember that the *PowerCost Monitor*™ is just a tool. The amount of savings is up to you. By striving to keep the values shown on the Display Unit as low as possible, you will use less electricity - up to 20% less - every month. That will translate into:

- Real savings on your monthly electricity bill
- Reduced green-house gas emissions
- Reduced demand on the power grid

Your *PowerCost Monitor*™ has an easy to read screen that lights up at the touch of a button. It can display:

- Your current electricity consumption in dollars and cents per hour
- Your total cost of energy consumed in dollars and cents
- Your current energy consumption in kilowatts
- Your total energy consumed in kilowatt-hours
- The outdoor temperature in Celsius and Fahrenheit

2.1. Safety Instructions

This device does not interfere with your utility meter readings in any way. After the *PowerCost Monitor*[™] is installed, utility company personnel will still be able to access your readings normally.

Please read, understand and apply the safety instructions below and read the rest of the User Manual thoroughly before using this product. These instructions must be followed at all times.

- Do not attempt to repair the *PowerCost Monitor*[™] yourself. If you experience any difficulties, please refer to the troubleshooting section of this manual or visit **www.bluelineinnovations.com** for assistance. If you are still having difficulty please feel free to call our customer support department toll-free at (866) 607-2583.
- Take precautions when handling batteries. They can cause injuries, burns, and/or property damage as a result of contact with metal objects, heat, and corrosive materials.
- A damaged LCD display may leak fluids that can be harmful to your health. If any fluid does leak from the Display Unit after you drop it accidentally, immediately wash it off with soap and water.
- Do not use this device in aircraft or hospitals. The use of radio frequency devices can cause malfunctions in the control devices of other sensitive equipment.

2.2. Care and Maintenance

To ensure your *PowerCost Monitor*[™] provides trouble-free service, please read the following tips and the rest of the User Manual thoroughly before using the system.

- Do not immerse the *PowerCost Monitor*[™] in any liquid.
- Do not use the Display Unit in high moisture areas such as bathrooms.
- Place the Display Unit indoors only. Placing the Display Unit outdoors can result in damage to the product and will void the warranty.
- Keep this product away from heat sources such as stoves and heaters.
- Do not drop the *PowerCost Monitor*[™] or cause any sudden impact to it.
- If disposing of this product, do so in accordance with your local waste disposal regulations.

Determining Your Utility Meter Type

Your utility meter is most probably located outside your house and it looks like one of the pictures on the following two pages.

Your *PowerCost Monitor*[™] Sensor Unit has been designed to fit on virtually any residential meter type, using its built-in clamping strap that goes over the meter dome.

However, the installation procedure varies according to meter types. It is extremely important that you determine accurately what kind of meter is installed in your home before proceeding.

Here are a few indications to help you.

There are two families of electrical meters:

- Electromechanical meters (with dials and a spinning disk with a black mark)
- Electronic meters (with a digital readout)

Electronic meters emit an invisible light pulse signal, similar to a remote control infrared beam, through an optical port. The meter's optical port can be located:

- On the front of the meter face
- On top of the meter.

The next two pages will help you accurately determine the kind of meter you have and what it should look like when you complete the installation of your *PowerCost Monitor*[™] system.

Find the picture on the left side that looks like your meter. The picture next to it shows how your sensor should look when properly mounted.

IF YOU DETERMINE THAT YOUR METER IS ONE OF THE TWO FOLLOWING TYPES, YOU CAN FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES IN THE QUICKSTART GUIDE TO INSTALL YOUR SENSOR UNIT.

Your meter looks like this...

... with the Sensor Unit mounted



Electromechanical Meter
*Use Quick Install Guide
or see section 5.2*



Electronic Meter
*Measure the distance
between the FRONT optical
port and the outer rim of the
dome. It should be NO LESS
THAN 1.5 inches (37 mm).*
*Use Quick Install Guide
or see section 5.3*



Your meter looks like this...

... with the Sensor Unit mounted



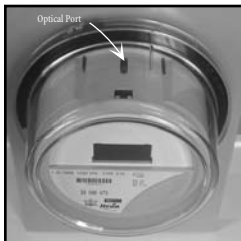
Electronic Meter
with **FRONT** optical port,
LESS THAN 1.5 inches from
outer rim of meter dome.

**You will need the rubber
shims. See section 5.4**



Electronic Meter
with **FRONT** optical port,
LESS THAN 1.5 inches from
outer rim of meter dome.

**You will need the rubber
shims. See section 5.4**



Electronic Meter
with **TOP** optical port.

**You will need the clear
alignment template.
See section 5.5**



4 Unpacking and Verifying Basic Operation

Verify that your box contains all the following components:

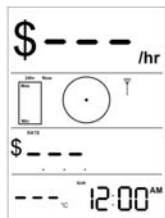
- Display Unit
- Sensor Unit
- Rubber Shims (2)
- Clear Alignment Template (1)
- Installation Guide, Setup Guide and User Manual
- Alkaline “AA” Batteries (4)
- Installation DVD

After you unpack your *PowerCost Monitor™*, keep all the packing materials in a safe place.

4.1. Powering the Display Unit

Proceed as follows to power the Display Unit:

1. Remove the Display Unit from the box.
2. Remove the Display Unit battery cover on the back of the unit, insert two alkaline “AA” batteries in the orientation indicated and replace the cover.
3. The Display Unit beeps and, after approximately 5 seconds, it displays the start-up screen.

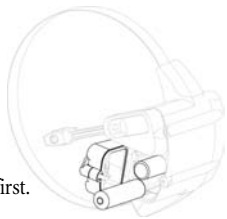


Find an appropriate location for the Display Unit. It must be an indoor location 30 meters (100 ft.) or less from your home's utility meter.

Note: To ensure your PowerCost Monitor™ operates at peak performance, you should place your Display Unit in a room near your utility meter. Ideally, it should be on the same side of the house where the utility meter is situated. Also, deduct 5 meters for every wall separating the Sensor Unit from the Display

4.2. Powering the Sensor Unit

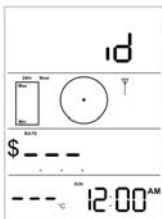
1. Open the Sensor Unit battery compartment by moving the cover latch to the unlocked position.
2. Install two AA alkaline batteries, with the battery closest to the Sensor Arm going in positive (+) end first.
3. Close the cover and move the cover latch back to the locked position. The red STATUS indicator lights up.



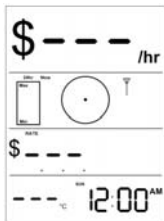
4.3. Verifying the Basic Operation

Your Sensor Unit comes pre-programmed with a unique ID code so it will only work with your Display Unit. This synchronization step ensures that both the Display Unit and Sensor Unit operate properly using the same ID code.

1. Press and hold the SYNC button on the front of the Display Unit until you hear a beep (approx. 3 seconds). The Display Unit displays this screen:



2. Press and release the RESET button on the battery cover of the Sensor Unit. The display exits ID mode and displays this screen.



If your Display Unit does not react as described above, repeat steps 1 and 2 and, if you still do not get the expected results, see the Troubleshooting section at the end of this User Guide.

5 Sensor Unit Installation

5.1. You Will Need...

It is very important to follow the installation instructions for the *PowerCost Monitor*™ exactly as outlined in this User Guide for the type of meter installed in your home. Failure to do so will result in incorrect consumption data being displayed and may void the product warranty.

For best results, install your Sensor Unit on a dry day. Also, to facilitate signal detection, we recommend you **turn on an appliance that uses a lot of energy, like your electric stove or dryer.**

When you are ready, go to your utility meter taking the following items with you:

- This User Guide
- Display Unit
- Sensor Unit
- 1 large Flat Head screwdriver
- Stepping stool or ladder if your utility meter is located higher than eye level
- Clean damp cloth
- Supplied Rubber Shims (if needed for your meter type)
- Supplied Clear Alignment Template (if needed for your meter type)

IMPORTANT: Wipe the meter glass dome clean with the damp cloth before proceeding.

WARNING: If your meter is not installed at eye level, please use all the necessary precautions when on the stepping stool or ladder.

5.2. Electromechanical Meter

Electromechanical meters have dials on the face and a spinning disk with a black mark. The faster the disk spins, the higher your electricity consumption.



5.2.1. Preparing Your Sensor Unit

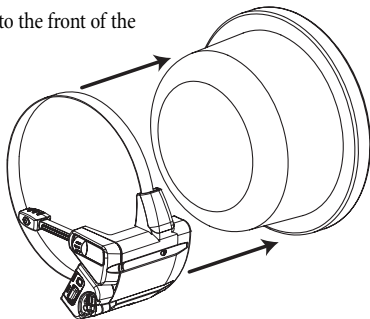
Proceed as follows to prepare your Sensor Unit for mounting on your electromechanical meter.

1. Pull the Sensor Arm latch upward to open it.
2. Extend the Sensor Arm to its full length by pulling on it. If you accidentally pull it out completely, push it back into the casing.
3. Close the latch.

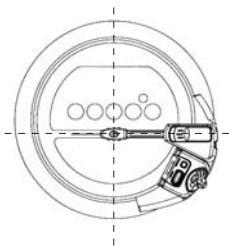


5.2.2. Installing Your Sensor Unit

1. Adjust the sensor mounting strap by turning the adjustment screw several turns with a flat head screwdriver until it is a little wider than the diameter of your meter dome.
2. Fit the Sensor Unit over your utility meter as shown below. Ensure that the Sensor Arm is as close to the front of the utility meter glass dome as possible.
3. Tighten the sensor strap adjustment screw until snug. The Sensor Unit should still be able to move so adjustments can be made. Do not over-tighten!



4. Make sure that the Sensor Arm is properly positioned with the disk on the utility meter. It should be positioned so that the alignment line on the Sensor Arm is in line with the disk and the sensor head is centered from side-to-side.



NOTE: If the Sensor Arm is not properly positioned, the Sensor Unit may not detect the motion of the disk and will generate incorrect readings.

5. Press and release the RESET button on the battery cover of the Sensor Unit. The red indicator on the Sensor Unit lights up and stays on for approximately 45 seconds, until the Sensor Unit has determined that it is installed on an electromechanical meter. The red indicator light then turns off and starts flashing every time the black mark on the disk passes in front of the Sensor Head. The indicator stops flashing after approximately 2 minutes in order to conserve battery power.
6. Tighten the strap adjustment screw until the Sensor Unit cannot be moved easily. Do not over-tighten!

After a few minutes, if the Sensor Unit indicator does not flash when the black mark passes, or if it flashes while the black mark is not visible, then the Sensor Arm is not properly aligned. To re-adjust the Sensor Arm:

1. Open the Sensor Arm latch and gently move the Sensor Arm up or down a few millimeters to align it with the meter disk.
 2. Close the Sensor Arm latch then repeat step 5 above. Continue to do this until the Sensor Unit consistently and only flashes when the black mark passes in front of the Sensor Head.
7. Now read section 5.6 to re-synchronise your Display and Sensor Units.

5.3. Electronic Meter (Optical Port on Face)

Electronic meters have digital readouts, as well as an optical port which emits light pulses similar to the infrared light produced by a television remote control.

This section deals with meters where the optical port is located on the face, more specifically, where the distance between the port and the outer rim of the meter dome is **AT LEAST** 1½ inches (37 mm). If in doubt, physically measure the distance between your port and the outer rim of the dome. If it is less than 1½ inches (37 mm), you must follow the instructions in section 5.4 to install your Sensor Unit.



5.3.1. Preparing Your Sensor Unit

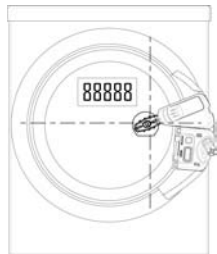
Your Sensor Unit is ready to be installed from the box. However, it is recommended that you do the following:

1. Pull the Sensor Arm latch upward to open it.
2. Ensure that the Sensor Arm is completely pushed in as far as it will go.
3. Close the latch.



5.3.2. Installing Your Sensor Unit

1. Adjust the sensor mounting strap by turning the adjustment screw several turns with a flat head screwdriver until it is a little wider than the diameter of your meter dome.
2. Fit the Sensor Unit over your utility meter by sliding the clamp around the meter dome. Ensure that the Sensor Arm is as close to the front of the utility meter glass dome as possible.
3. Tighten the sensor-strap adjustment screw until snug. The Sensor Unit should still be able to move so adjustments can be made. Do not over-tighten!
4. Make sure that the Sensor Arm is properly positioned on the utility meter. It should be positioned so that the Sensor Head is located exactly above the optical port.



5. Press and release the RESET button on the battery cover of the Sensor Unit. The red indicator on the Sensor Unit lights up and stays on until the Sensor Unit has determined that it is installed on an electronic meter. The red indicator light then begins to flash irregularly. The indicator stops flashing after approximately 2 minutes in order to conserve battery power.



6. Tighten the strap adjustment screw until the Sensor Unit cannot be moved easily. Do not over-tighten!

If the Sensor Unit indicator does not begin to flash irregularly after about 5 minutes, the Sensor Arm is not properly positioned over the optical port or the glass dome is dirty. Clean the dome and repeat step 5 above.

7. Now read section 5.6 to re-synchronise your Display and Sensor Units.



5.4. Electronic Meter (Optical Port on Face – Shims Required)

Electronic meters have digital readouts, as well as an optical port which emits light pulses similar to the infrared light produced by a television remote control.

This section deals with electronic meters that have their optical port on the face, at a distance LESS THAN 1.5 inches (37 mm) from the outer rim of the meter dome. If in doubt, physically measure the distance between your port and the outer rim of the dome. If it is equal to or more than 1.5 inches (37 mm), follow the instructions in section 5.3 to install your Sensor Unit.

Here are two examples of such meters. Although the meter in the photo on the right hand side appears to have two optical ports, it has only one, and it is the opening located closest to the meter's center.



5.4.1. Preparing Your Sensor Unit

Proceed as follows:

1. Pull the Sensor Arm latch upward to open it.
2. Ensure that the Sensor Arm is completely pushed in as far as it will go.
3. Close the latch.



In these electronic meters, the optical port is too close to the dome's outer rim for it to be possible to position the Sensor Head over the port, because the Sensor Arm is too long, even when fully pushed in.

The supplied rubber shims are required to achieve proper installation.

- Loosen the hose clamp and determine by eye if one or two shims will be required.
- Remove the adhesive backing from one of the shims and press the shim in place onto the underside of the Sensor body.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT stick the shim to the glass dome.

- If required, remove the adhesive backing from the second shim and press the second shim onto the first.

5.4.2. Installing Your Sensor Unit

- Fit the Sensor Unit, with the shims installed, over your utility meter by sliding the assembly around the meter dome. Ensure that the Sensor Arm is as close to the front of the utility meter glass dome as possible.
- Tighten the sensor-strap adjustment screw until snug. The Sensor Unit should still be able to move so adjustments can be made. Do not over-tighten!
- Make sure that the Sensor Arm is properly positioned on the utility meter. It should be positioned so that the Sensor Head is located exactly above the optical port.
- Press and release the RESET button on the battery cover of the Sensor Unit. The red indicator on the Sensor Unit lights up and stays on until the Sensor Unit has determined that it is installed on an electronic meter. The red indicator light then begins to flash irregularly. The indicator stops flashing after 2 minutes in order to conserve battery power.
- Tighten the strap adjustment screw until the Sensor Unit cannot be moved easily. Do not over-tighten!

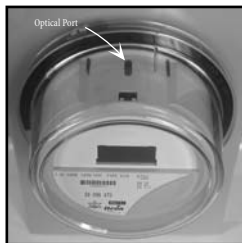


If the Sensor Unit indicator does not begin to flash irregularly after about 5 minutes, the Sensor Arm is not properly positioned over the optical port or the glass dome is dirty. Repeat steps 10 and 11 above.

- Now read section 5.6 to re-synchronise your Display and Sensor Units.

5.5. Electronic Meter (Optical Port on Top)

Electronic meters have digital readouts, as well as an optical port which emits light pulses similar to the infrared light produced by a television remote control. This section deals with electronic meters that have their optical port on the top.



These meters require that you reconfigure the Arm in the Sensor Unit.

5.5.1. Preparing Your Sensor Unit

1. Pull the Sensor Arm latch upward to open it.
2. Gently pull the Sensor Arm completely out of the Sensor Body.
3. Turn the Sensor Arm over.



4. Push the smaller end of the Sensor Arm upwards through the latch opening.



5. Push the Sensor Head behind the strap, and as far down as it will go into the bottom cavity of the body.



6. Tuck the wire neatly into the side cavity.

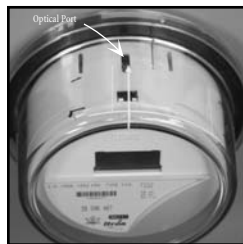


7. Close the latch.

5.5.2. *Installing Your Sensor Unit*

To help with the positioning of the Sensor Head exactly over the optical port, Blueline Innovations has supplied you with a clear plastic template that goes on top of the meter dome.

8. Stand directly in front of your meter, at a height where you can see the optical port.
The optical port itself looks like a small pipe in the center of the top portion of the meter.
9. Hold the template with the protruding tab facing towards you and the white arrow pointing away from you. Peel off the adhesive backing.
10. Position the template on the meter so that the horizontal white line on the template follows the front edge of the meter dome, and the white arrow points straight to the optical port.
11. Carefully stick the template to the dome. Press on the template on top of the dome, and then press on the protruding tab down the front of the dome. Verify the alignment. If needed, gently remove the template and try again.



-
12. Slide the Sensor Unit over the glass dome and align the edges of the Sensor Unit body with the white sidelines on the template.



13. Tighten the hose clamp so that the Sensor Unit is snug but can still move easily.
14. Push the Sensor Unit back on the glass dome as far as it will go.

15. Open the Sensor Arm latch and sight down the opening. You see a vertical plastic tab painted white on the inside of the Sensor body.



16. Align the white plastic tab with the white line on the template.
17. Press and release the RESET Button. The red STATUS indicator lights up.

18. Keeping the white lines on the body and template aligned, pull the Sensor Unit towards you gently and slowly until the red STATUS indicator starts flashing, regularly at first, then irregularly.
19. When the STATUS indicator is flashing irregularly, your Sensor Unit is properly aligned and is sending signals to your Display Unit. Tighten the clamp to secure the Sensor Unit to the meter dome.

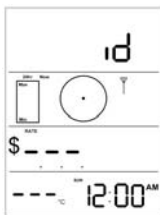


20. Now read section 5.6 to re-synchronise your Display and Sensor Units.

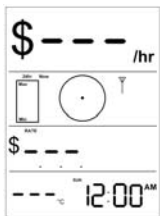
5.6. Re-synchronizing your Display and Sensor Units

NOTE: You normally only need to synchronize your Display and Sensor Units once. If you replace the batteries in your Display or Sensor Units, the system will start working normally again as soon as you insert fresh ones.

1. Press and hold the SYNC button on the front of the Display Unit until it beeps (approx. 3 seconds). The Display Unit goes into ID Mode and it begins to search for your Sensor Unit.



2. Press and release the RESET button on the battery cover of the Sensor Unit. The Display Unit exits ID mode and displays this screen:



Your Sensor and Display Units are now synchronized and you are ready to set up your Display Unit by following the instructions in section 6.



Setting Up Your Display Unit

Once the Sensor Unit begins to detect power usage from your utility meter, the Display Unit automatically starts showing information after a short time. The actual numbers displayed are immaterial at this point.

6.1. Determine your Type of Billing

Before you start setting up your Display Unit, you must first determine the type of billing your electricity provider is applying to your account. Retrieve a recent electricity bill and find out which of the following three billing modes applies in your case.

SINGLE (FLAT) RATE mode

Your bill shows a single value in cents per kilowatt-hour

You are charged a SINGLE (FLAT) RATE for electricity consumption.
(See section 6.3)

Single (Flat) Rate Example

\$0.063/kWh
\$0.063 = 6.3 cents
kWh = kilowatt/hour
You are paying 6.3 cents per kilowatt/hour at all times.

TIERED RATE mode

Your bill shows more than one value in cents per kilowatt-hour

You are charged a TIERED RATE for electricity consumption. You pay the first (usually the lowest) rate until you reach a threshold, and you start paying another (usually higher) rate thereafter.
(See Section 6.4)

Tiered Rate Example

1200 kWh @ \$0.063/kWh and
1369 kWh @ \$0.075 /kWh
\$0.063 = 6.3 cents
\$0.075 = 7.5 cents
kWh = kilowatt/hour
You are paying 6.3 cents per kilowatt/hour (the first rate) for the first 1200 kilowatt/hours (the threshold), and 7.5 cents per kilowatt/hour (the second rate) thereafter.
In our example, you consumed 2,569 kilowatt/hours in total, of which the last 1,369 were charged the second rate (7.5 cents).

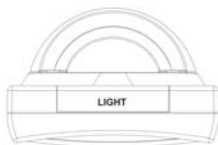
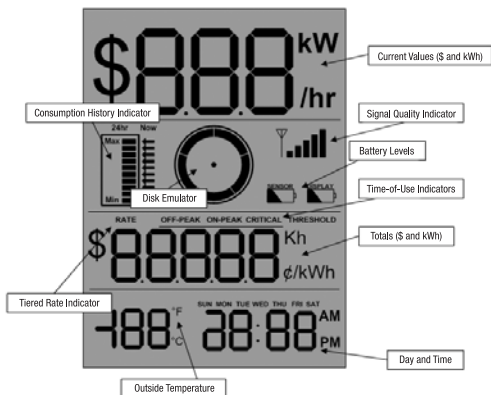
TIME OF USE mode

Your bill shows different values according to various time periods during the day.

You are billed on a TIME OF USE basis. You pay different Off-Peak and On-Peak rates, reflecting the overall demand your electricity provider must satisfy between given hours of the day. (Go to section 6.5)

6.2. Display Unit Buttons and Icons

The pictures below illustrate all the various icons and values that can be displayed at any given time on your Display Unit, as well as the locations of all the available buttons.



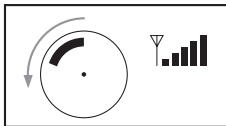
ICON/BUTTON	PURPOSE
Disk Emulator	When spinning, indicates that the Display Unit is receiving a signal from the Sensor Unit. The higher the energy consumption, the faster the disk emulator spins.
Consumption History	Graphical representation of the power consumption over the last 7 days. See the User Manual for more detailed explanations
Battery Levels	Status of the Display Unit and Sensor Unit batteries. A black battery icon indicates a fresh battery. When a battery is fresh, the icon is not visible; the black area on the icon increases as the battery becomes depleted.
Signal Quality	Provides an indication of the quality of the signal from the Sensor Unit. The more bars the better the signal.
\$	Dollar Mode: Current Values are shown in dollars-per-hour (\$/hr) and consumption totals are shown in dollars (\$).
KW	Kilowatt Mode: Current Values are shown in kilowatts (kW) and consumption totals are shown in kilowatt-hours (kWh).
RATE	Tiered Rate Indicator: Appears on the display with a number under it indicating the current rate in tiered rate mode. This indicator only appears in Configuration mode.
THRESHOLD	Tiered Rate Indicator: Appears on the display indicating that the value to enter or modify represents the number of kilowatts at which the rate changes. Appears during normal operation to indicate that a consumption threshold has been exceeded and that a new rate applies.
OFF-PEAK ON-PEAK	Time of Use Indicators: Appear on the display to indicate one of two possible different rates charged by the utility company during the day.

ICON/BUTTON	PURPOSE
↑	Increase: During setup, each press of the button INCREASES the target value on the display by various increments. In some cases, if you Press-and Hold, the value is increased by a much larger increment; for example, the Kh increases by increments of 1.0 instead of 0.1.
↓	Decrease: During setup, DECREASES the target value on the display by various increments. In some cases, if you Press-and Hold, the value decreases by a much larger increment; for example, the Kh value decreases by increments of 1.0 instead of 0.1.
CLEAR	Press and hold to reset the consumption totals to zero.
SYNC	Press and hold to enter ID mode.
SET	Press and hold to enter configuration mode.
MODE	In Configuration Mode, press and hold to switch between Tiered-Rate and Time-of-Use operating modes.
12/24	Time Format: Press to switch the clock between 12-hour and 24-hour time display format.
°C/°F	Temperature Format: Press to switch between Celsius and Fahrenheit degrees temperature display format.
Light	Backlight: Press to illuminate the display backlight for 5 seconds.

6.3. Setting Up for SINGLE (FLAT) RATE Billing

IMPORTANT: The instructions that follow assume that your Sensor Unit is transmitting signals normally to your Display Unit. Your Display Unit should show:

1. The Disk Emulator spinning.
2. The Signal Quality indicator showing a strong signal.

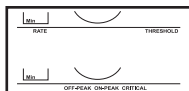


Proceed as follows:

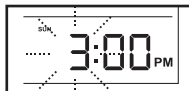
1. Press-and-Hold SET After 3 seconds, the Display Unit beeps and enters Configuration Mode. The HOURS digits of the clock are flashing.



2. Press-and-Hold MODE (if required) If the OFF-PEAK/ON-PEAK indicators are displayed, press and hold to display the RATE and THRESHOLD indicators.



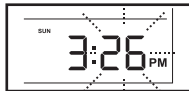
3. Press \uparrow or \downarrow Set the correct hour of the day. Increase or decrease the HOURS value. If the Display Unit is not in 24-hour mode, the AM/PM indicator changes whenever the HOURS value exceeds 12.



4. Press SET The HOURS value you set is stored and the MINUTES value starts flashing.



5. Press \uparrow or \downarrow Set the correct minutes of the time of day. Increase or decrease the MINUTES value.



6. Press SET Your MINUTES value is stored and a Day-of-Week segment starts flashing.



7. Press \uparrow or \downarrow

Set the correct day of the week.
Select the correct Day-of-Week segment.



8. Press SET

Your Day-of-Week segment is stored and the currently stored Kh value flashes.



9. Press OR Press-and-Hold \uparrow or \downarrow

Set your meter's Kh Factor.
Each button press increases or decreases the Kh value by 0.1. Press-and-hold to change the value by increments of 1.0. If you have an *electromechanical meter*, enter 7.2. If you have an *electronic meter*, enter 1.0.



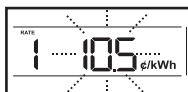
10. Press SET

Your Kh value is stored. "1" is displayed under RATE, and the currently stored value for Rate 1 flashes next to the ¢/kWh segment.



11. Press \uparrow or \downarrow

Set your electricity rate
Each button press increases or decreases the displayed Rate value by 0.1.



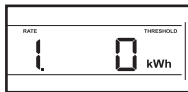
12. Press SET

Your Rate is stored. The THRESHOLD segment appears and the currently stored Threshold flashes.



13. Press \downarrow

Set the THRESHOLD to "0"



14. Press SET

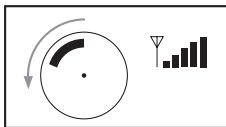
Your electricity rate is now stored. The Display Unit quits Configuration mode and is now fully configured for operation.



6.4. Setting Up for TIERED RATE Billing

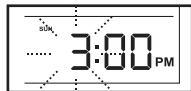
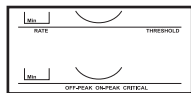
IMPORTANT: The instructions that follow assume that your Sensor Unit is transmitting signals normally to your Display Unit. Your Display Unit should show:

1. The Disk Emulator spinning.
2. The Signal Quality indicator showing a strong signal.



Proceed as follows:

1. Press-and-Hold SET After 3 seconds, the Display Unit beeps and enters Configuration Mode. The HOURS digits of the clock are flashing.
2. Press-and-Hold MODE (if required) If the OFF-PEAK/ON-PEAK indicators are displayed, press and hold to display the RATE and THRESHOLD indicators.
3. Press \uparrow or \downarrow Set the correct hour of the day. Increase or decrease the HOURS value. The AM/PM indicator changes whenever the HOURS value exceeds 12.
4. Press SET The HOURS value you set is stored and the MINUTES value starts flashing.
5. Press \uparrow or \downarrow Set the correct minutes of the time of day. Increase or decrease the MINUTES value.
6. Press SET Your MINUTES value is stored and a Day-of-Week segment starts flashing.



7. Press \uparrow or \downarrow

Set the correct day of the week.

Select the correct Day-of-Week segment.



8. Press SET

Your Day-of-Week segment is stored and the currently stored Kh value flashes.



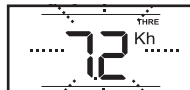
9. Press OR Press-and-Hold \uparrow or \downarrow

Set your meter's Kh Factor.

Each button press increases or decreases the Kh value by 0.1. Press-and-hold to change the value by increments of 1.0.

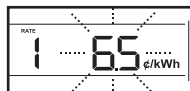
If you have an *electromechanical meter*, enter 7.2.

If you have an *electronic meter*, enter 1.0.



10. Press SET

Your Kh value is stored. "1" is displayed under RATE, and the currently stored value for Rate 1 flashes next to the ¢/kWh segment.



11. Press \uparrow or \downarrow

Set your first electricity rate

This is generally the lowest rate on your bill.

Each button press increases or decreases the displayed Rate value by 0.1.



12. Press SET

Your Rate is stored. The THRESHOLD segment appears and the currently stored Threshold flashes.

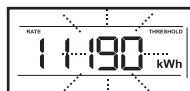


13. Press \uparrow or \downarrow

Set your rate threshold

Each button press increases or decreases the displayed THRESHOLD value by 10 units.

Press and hold to change the value changes by increments of 100.



14. Press SET

Your Threshold value is set. “2” is displayed under RATE, and the currently stored value for the Rate 2 flashes next to the ¢/kWh segment.



15. Press \uparrow or \downarrow

Set your second electricity rate.

This is generally the highest rate on your bill. Each press one of these buttons increases or decreases the displayed Rate value by 0.1.



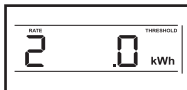
16. Press SET

Your second rate is stored. The THRESHOLD segment appears and the currently stored value for the second Threshold flashes.



17. Press \downarrow

Set the SECOND THRESHOLD to “0”
If needed, you can set a 2nd threshold and a 3rd rate by repeating steps 12 to 15 above. Your Display Unit can thus accommodate up to 9 different rates.



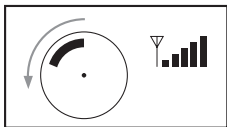
18. Press SET

Your electricity rate is now stored. The Display Unit quits Configuration mode and is now fully configured for operation.

6.5. Setting Up for TIME-OF-USE Billing

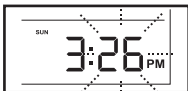
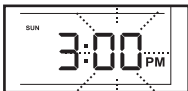
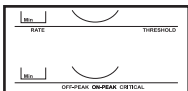
IMPORTANT: The instructions that follow assume that your Sensor Unit is transmitting signals normally to your Display Unit. Your Display Unit should show:








1. The Disk Emulator spinning.
2. The Signal Quality indicator showing a strong signal.



Proceed as follows:

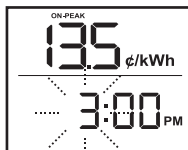
1. Press-and-Hold SET After 3 seconds, the Display Unit beeps and enters Configuration Mode. The HOURS digits of the clock are flashing.
2. Press-and-Hold MODE (if required) If the RATE and THRESHOLD indicators are displayed, press and hold to display the OFF-PEAK/ON-PEAK indicators.
3. Press \uparrow or \downarrow Set the correct hour of the day. Increase or decrease the HOURS value. The AM/PM indicator changes whenever the HOURS value exceeds 12.
4. Press SET The HOURS value you set is stored and the MINUTES value starts flashing.
5. Press \uparrow or \downarrow Set the correct minutes of the time of day. Increase or decrease the MINUTES value.
6. Press SET Your MINUTES value is stored and a Day-of-Week segment starts flashing.



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7. Press \uparrow or \downarrow | <p><i>Set the correct day of the week.</i>
Select the correct Day-of-Week segment.</p> |  |
| 8. Press SET | <p>Your Day-of-Week segment is stored and the currently stored Kh value flashes.</p> |  |
| 9. Press OR Press-and-Hold \uparrow or \downarrow | <p><i>Set your meter's Kh Factor.</i>
Each button press increases or decreases the Kh value by 0.1. Press-and-hold to change the value by increments of 1.0. If you have an <i>electromechanical meter</i>, enter 7.2. If you have an <i>electronic meter</i>, enter 1.0.</p> |  |
| 10. Press SET | <p>Your Kh value is stored. The OFF-PEAK and ¢/kWh segments appear and the currently stored OFF-PEAK RATE flashes.</p> |  |
| 11. Press \uparrow or \downarrow | <p><i>Set your OFF-PEAK RATE.</i>
Each button press increases or decreases the OFF-PEAK RATE value by 0.1</p> |  |
| 12. Press SET | <p>Your Off-Peak Rate is stored. The OFF-PEAK segment is replaced by the ON-PEAK segment and the currently stored ON-PEAK RATE flashes.</p> |  |
| 13. Press \uparrow or \downarrow | <p><i>Set your ON-PEAK RATE.</i>
Each button press increases or decreases the value by 0.1</p> |  |

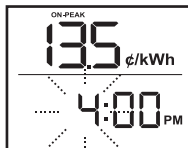
14. Press SET

Your ON-PEAK RATE is stored. The currently stored ON-PEAK start time value appears and the HOURS digits of the clock flash.



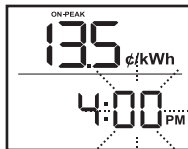
15. Press \uparrow or \downarrow

Set your ON-PEAK RATE Start Time- HOURS. Each button press increases or decreases the value by 1.



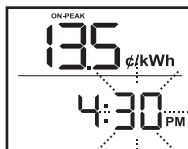
16. Press SET

Your ON-PEAK Start Time HOURS value is stored. The MINUTES digits are flashing.



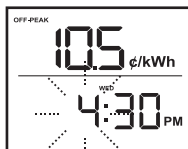
17. Press \uparrow or \downarrow

Set your ON-PEAK RATE Start Time - MINUTES. Each button press increases or decreases the value by 10.



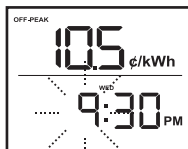
18. Press SET

Your ON-PEAK Start Time is stored. The ON-PEAK segment is replaced by the OFF-PEAK segment, and the currently stored OFF-PEAK Start Time is displayed with the HOURS value flashing.



19. Press \uparrow or \downarrow

Set your OFF-PEAK RATE Start Time- HOURS. Each button press increases or decreases the value by 1.



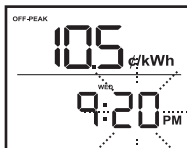
20. Press SET

Your OFF-PEAK Start Time HOURS is stored.
The MINUTES digits are flashing.



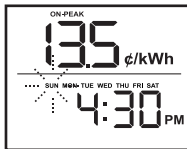
21. Press \uparrow or \downarrow

Set your OFF-PEAK RATE Start Time- MINUTES.
Each button press increases or decreases the
value by 10.



22. Press SET

Your RATE, HOURS and MINUTES values,
as well as the current day-of-week segments
are stored. The SUN (Sunday) segment is flashing.



23.

Set the days of the week that are subjected to the
ON-PEAK rate. Press \uparrow to change the Day of the Week segment and press
 \downarrow to toggle the current segment On (On-Peak Rate) or Off (Off-Peak Rate).
The default values are MON to FRI (ON), SAT and SUN (Off)

24. Press SET

Exit the Configuration process.
Your Display Unit is now fully configured for operation.

Display Unit Functions

7.1. Your Display Unit

When the Sensor Unit begins to detect power usage from your utility meter and the Display Unit receives the Sensor Unit signals correctly, the Signal Strength indicator indicates a good quality signal, the Disk Emulator starts spinning and real information appears on the screen after a short time.

7.1.1. Current Consumption Row

At first, the screen shows a series of dashes, then after a short delay, it displays the current cost of electricity in dollars-per-hour in the *top row*. The faster the Disk Emulator spins, the greater the rate of energy consumption and the higher the dollars-per-hour (or kW - see section 7.2) value you will see on the screen.



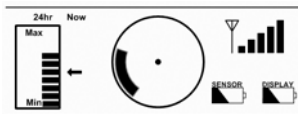
IMPORTANT: If your Display Unit shows unusually low consumption (0.4 KW or less) for an extended period of time when you are performing normal household tasks such as cooking, laundry, or turning on other appliances, your Sensor Unit may have become misaligned. See Section 8 for more information.

7.1.2. Total Consumption Row

After a few minutes, the value in the *third row* (Totals Row), starts increasing and provides the total cost of electricity used. This row always shows the cumulative total of electricity consumed (either in \$ or kW - see section 7.2) since the value was last reset.

7.1.3. Status Row

The second row shows the current status of your *PowerCost Monitor™* system.



The *Disk Emulator* spins counter-clockwise at a speed proportional to the rate at which you consume electricity: the more you consume, the faster it spins.

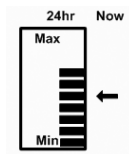
The *Signal Quality Indicator* shows vertical bars representing the quality of the signal gives you an indication of the quality of the signal received from the Sensor Unit. Five bars represent the best possible signal.

The two *Battery Level Indicators* show the current battery levels of the Sensor and Display Units. When a battery is fresh, the black icon is not visible; the black area in the icon increases in size as the battery becomes depleted.

Consumption History Indicator

The Display Unit stores two peak energy consumption values in kilowatts: the peak value that has occurred since you last reset the consumption totals, as well as the peak value for the last 24 hours.

The MAX level represents the highest consumption since you last reset the totals. The number of bars displayed represents how the 24-hour peak compares to the maximum peak. For example, the illustration above shows 7 bars out of a possible 10, therefore the peak for the last 24 hours is 70% of the peak recorded since the consumption totals were reset.



The arrows indicate how the current level of energy consumption compares to the maximum and 24-hour peaks. In the illustration, the arrow points to the fifth bar: this means that your current energy consumption is 50% of the maximum peak and about 70% (5 bars out of 7) of the 24-hour peak.

7.2. Dollar & Cents Display Mode

The first screen you will see once the *PowerCost Monitor*™ starts functioning is similar to the one below.



Pressing the MODE button on the back of the Display Unit toggles the display between Kilowatt mode and Dollars & Cents mode.

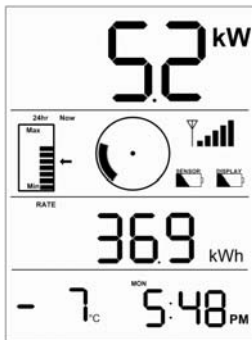
The top row shows how much electricity you are currently consuming in dollars and cents. In this example you are currently using \$1.08/hour worth of electricity.

The third row represents the total dollars worth of electricity consumed since the total was last reset. In the example above you have used \$27.09 worth of electricity since the total was last reset.

To reset the Total Dollar value, refer to Section 7.6.

7.3. Kilowatt and Kilowatt-Hours Mode

To enter the Kilowatt and Kilowatt-Hours screen, press and release the MODE button located on the back of the Display Unit. You will then see a screen similar to the one below (your actual values will vary).



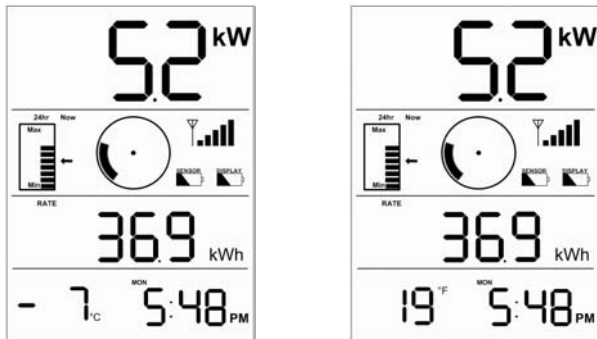
The top row now shows how much electricity you are currently consuming in kilowatts. In the example above, you are currently using 5.2 kW of electricity.

The third row now displays the Total Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) of electricity consumed since the value was last reset. In the example above, you used 36.9 kWh of electricity since the total was last reset.

To reset the Total kWh value, refer to Section 7.6.

7.4. Temperature Display

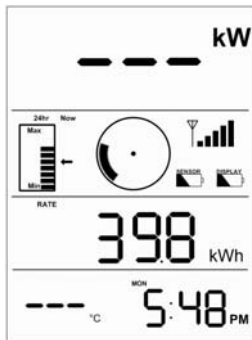
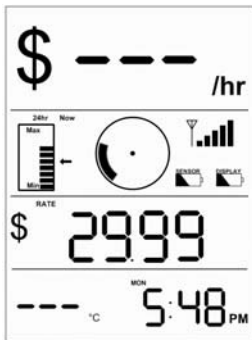
The *PowerCost Monitor*™ displays the temperature reading at the location of the Sensor Unit. The temperature can be displayed in either °C or °F, as shown in figure 6.5 below. To change the temperature reading between Celsius and Fahrenheit, press and release the - °C/°F button on the back of the Display Unit.



NOTE: If your utility meter is located indoors, this function will NOT show outside temperature. It only shows the temperature at the utility meter where the Sensor Unit is situated.

7.5. Loss of Signal Display

In the event that your Display Unit loses the signal from the Sensor Unit you will see a screen similar to one of the two illustrations below, depending on the mode your Display Unit is currently operating in. For example, this may occur if you move the Display Unit to a location in your house that is too far from the Sensor Unit.



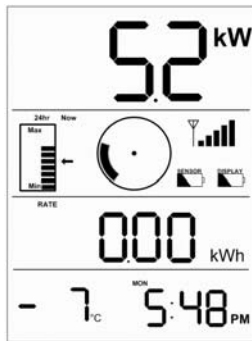
Here are a few causes of loss of signal:

- The Sensor Unit batteries are exhausted.
- The Display Unit has been moved out of range of the Sensor Unit.
- There is a strong interference from other electronic devices, such as wireless weather stations.
- The Sensor Unit has become misaligned, possibly because of ice or snow falling on it.

To resolve the problem, press any button on the back of the Display Unit and then move the Display Unit closer to your Utility Meter. If this does not solve the problem, try re-synchronizing the Display and Sensor Units. Refer to the instructions in section 5.2 to 5.5 according to the type of meter that is installed in your home.

7.6. Resetting the Total Values

Press-and-hold the CLEAR button located on the front of the Display Unit until you hear a beep to reset the Total values (Dollars and kW) that appear on the third row of the screen, as well as the peak values for the Consumption History Indicator. The current values do not change, as shown below.



7.7. Display Backlight

Your *PowerCost Monitor*™ has a backlight that can be used to see the screen in dimly lit conditions. To turn the backlight on, press the LIGHT button located on the top of the display unit. The screen will light up in blue and remain lit for approximately 5 seconds.



Troubleshooting

In the event that you are experiencing difficulty installing or using your *PowerCost Monitor™* system, please refer to the information below to assist you in resolving the issue. If you do not see your problem listed here, or you are still unable to get your system working properly, more information is available at <http://www.bluelineinnovations.com/pcm> or you may send an email to support@bluelineinnovations.com describing the difficulty you are having. You may also call us toll-free at 1-866-607-2583.



I am unsure of my utility meter type. How can I find out which type of meter I have?

The PowerCost Monitor™ system supports virtually all residential utility meter types. First, please look at the photos in section 3 and determine your meter type; then follow the installation instructions for your meter in section 5.



After installing the Sensor Unit on my meter and pressing the RESET button, nothing happens. The red STATUS indicator does not light up.

Either you have installed the Sensor Unit batteries backwards or the batteries are exhausted. Ensure that the battery closest to the Sensor Arm is inserted positive (+) end first and the other battery is opposite. Also, if you are changing the batteries, ensure that the new batteries are fresh. Refer to Section 4.2.



After installing the Sensor Unit on my meter and pressing the RESET button, the red indicator lights up. How can I tell if the unit is operating properly?

When you press the RESET button, the red STATUS indicator lights up and stays lit until the Sensor Unit has determined 1) that it is correctly installed on a meter and 2) the type of meter on which it is installed. The STATUS indicator then starts flashing either at each pass of the black mark on the disk in front of the Sensor Head (electromechanical meter) or irregularly (electronic meter).

In both cases, the indicator stops flashing after about 2 minutes to preserve battery life. This is normal. If this sequence does not happen as described, the Sensor Unit is likely not positioned properly on the meter. Repeat the steps in Sections 5.2 to 5.5 as appropriate for your meter type.



When I try to synchronize my Display and Sensor Units, the Display Unit keeps showing “id” on the screen.

This indicates that the Display Unit is in ID mode, meaning that it is searching for your Sensor Unit. Press the RESET button on the Sensor Unit. If the Display Unit remains in ID mode, locate it within 10 feet (3m) of the Sensor Unit, and then press the RESET button again.



The Sensor Unit appears to have detected my meter properly, but I only see dashes (--) on my Display Unit.

This indicates that the Display Unit is not receiving transmissions from the Sensor Unit. Ensure that the Display Unit is located within 100 feet (30m) of the Sensor Unit. Note that each wall of your house reduces the range by approximately 15 feet (5m). Also, aluminum siding on your house will significantly reduce the range. If this is the case, try to position the Display Unit so that there is a window between it and the Sensor Unit.

If range or wall construction does not seem to be the problem, repeat the steps in Section 5.6. Lastly, it is possible that the batteries in the Sensor Unit are exhausted. Replace the batteries with fresh ones.



The power usage shown on my Display Unit is not updating or is unusually low.

Try turning on an electric appliance that consumes a large amount of power such as a stove or dryer. If the Display Unit does not update within a couple of minutes, then the Sensor Unit is likely not aligned correctly on your utility meter. Try repeating the steps in Section 5.2 to 5.5 as appropriate for your meter type.



The Sensor Battery indicator shows low battery charge, but I installed fresh batteries not long ago.

Regular alkaline batteries can become exhausted very rapidly when it is extremely cold outside. If you are expecting an extended period of temperatures below -20°C (-4°F), try using lithium type AA batteries in the Sensor Unit. These batteries are commonly available wherever you can buy batteries and they provide better cold-weather performance.





The temperature shown on the Display Unit does not match weather reports or appears to be incorrect.

The temperature shown on the Display Unit is the ambient temperature at your utility meter; it may vary from other sources, such as TV weather reports, because of distance and other factors. Also, if your utility meter is exposed to direct sunlight during any part of the day, then the reading will be higher than normal. The reading will return to the correct value when the utility meter is shaded.



The consumption information shown on my Display Unit is not correct and it jumps randomly.

There are several things that can affect the accuracy of the information shown on your Display Unit and they all relate to interference.

If your neighbour also has a PowerCost Monitor™ system you may be receive their information. In this case you need to change the Sensor Unit address and resynchronize the Display Unit. Follow the steps in Section 5.6, but press and hold the RESET button for five (5) seconds). The Sensor Unit then selects a new address randomly on which to base the synchronization.

Wireless devices, such as weather stations or old-style baby monitors and cordless phones, transmit information on frequencies similar to the PowerCost Monitor™. If you have a wireless weather station try turning it off briefly and check to see if the PowerCost Monitor™ Display Unit returns to normal operation. If it does, then check to see if you can change the channel that your weather station operates on.



The total shown on my Display Unit does not match the total shown on my electricity bill.

In order for the two totals to match you would need to clear the totals on the Display Unit on the exact day and time as the utility company reads your meter. The total amount shown on the PowerCost Monitor™ is accurate, but is really meant as a reference to indicate how much power you have consumed since you last cleared the totals. If you clear the totals at the beginning of every month, for example, then you can use the PowerCost Monitor™ to compare against your monthly budget.

Warranty

LIMITED ONE YEAR WARRANTY

Blue Line Innovations warrants this product to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one year from the date of sale to the original user or consumer purchaser. Blue Line Innovation's exclusive obligation under this warranty shall be, at its option, (a) to supply, without charge, a replacement of the product or (b) to refund the purchase price in respect of any product that is found to be defective and that is returned, with its proof of purchase, to the original supplier.

This warranty excludes and does not cover defects, malfunctions, or failures caused by misuse, unauthorized repairs, modifications or accidental damage.

Note: This warranty does not apply to batteries or damage to the product caused by the use of faulty batteries.

This warranty is only applicable to a product purchased through a Blue Line Innovations authorized dealer.

In no event shall Blue Line Innovations be liable for consequential or incidental damages.

This warranty is in lieu of all other expressed warranties. The duration of any implied warranty is limited to the period of the expressed warranty set forth above.

MANUFACTURED IN CHINA

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Specifications

Power	
Display Unit	2 AA Alkaline Batteries (LR6 or equivalent)
Sensor Unit	2 AA Alkaline Batteries (LR6 or equivalent)

Wireless Communications	
Frequency	433.92MHz
Update Rate	Approximately every 30 seconds
Range	Up to 30m (100ft.) line-of-sight (Subtract 5m or 15 feet for each wall between Display and Sensor Units)

Operating Temperature Range	
Display Unit	10°C to 45°C (50°F to 113°F) For indoor use only.
Sensor Unit	-40°C to 60°C (-40°F to 140°F)

FCC Information

FCC Class B Part 15

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

1. This device may not cause harmful interference, and
2. This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Warning: Changes or modifications not expressly approved by Blue Line Innovations Inc. void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Industry Canada Certification

Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

1. This device may not cause harmful interference, and
2. This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.



www.powercostmonitor.com

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