



Electricity usage is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh). A 1000-watt appliance, running for an hour, uses 1 kilowatt hour of electricity. This makes it possible to calculate electricity usage. For example, a 100-watt light bulb, left on for 1 hour, would use 1/10 of a kilowatt hour.

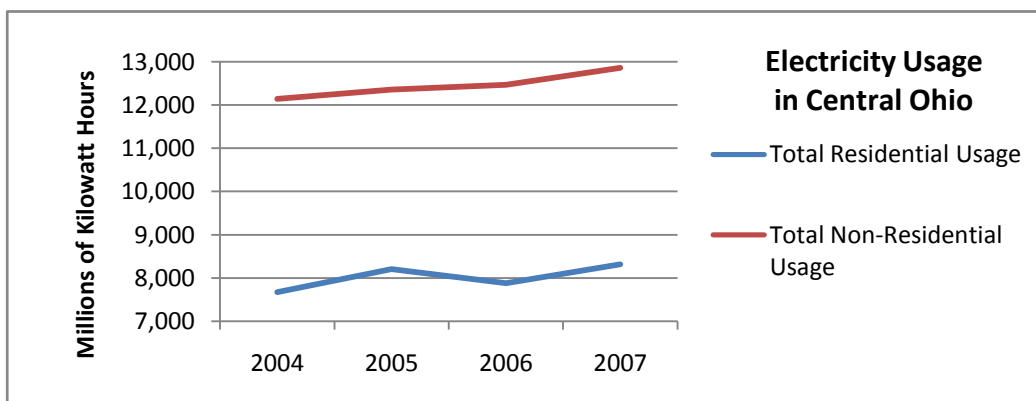
Electricity is produced by hydroelectric, nuclear, and coal-burning power plants. In Ohio, a significant portion of electricity comes from burning coal. A typical 32-inch TV uses about 100 kilowatt hours per year if it is turned on for 2 hours every day. In Ohio, using 100 kilowatt hours of electricity results in about 180 pounds of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. According to the American Forests organization, a typical tree absorbs about 15 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. To offset the carbon dioxide produced by television watching, someone who watches TV for 2 hours a day would need to plant 12 trees each year.

The chart below shows electricity consumption per person in central Ohio from 2004 to 2007. Overall, electricity usage per person has increased.

	Annual Electricity Consumption Per Person (in Kilowatt Hours)							
	Residential				Non-Residential			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
Delaware	4,356	4,586	4,350	4,495	5,030	5,040	4,996	5,106
Fairfield	5,445	5,742	5,517	5,740	4,765	4,704	4,665	4,728
Fayette	323	343	347	368	24	24	23	23
Franklin	4,282	4,541	4,285	4,486	7,431	7,599	7,515	7,699
Knox	3,152	3,305	3,245	3,328	4,901	5,211	5,582	6,111
Licking	3,918	4,126	3,970	4,134	8,393	8,222	8,638	8,370
Madison	1,154	1,223	1,183	1,233	2,314	2,455	2,550	2,643
Marion	741	782	766	783	547	535	550	560
Morrow	747	785	778	792	238	239	227	235
Pickaway	5,225	5,553	5,387	5,602	9,467	8,518	8,319	8,410
Ross	5,895	6,237	5,981	6,283	5,959	5,695	5,902	6,313
Union	51	76	81	93	60	72	82	81
Region	3,989	4,224	4,017	4,195	6,314	6,364	6,356	6,487

Source: MORPC collects information from individual electric power providers.



Natural gas usage is measured in thousands of cubic feet, which is abbreviated Mcf. During the 2007-08 heating season (October-March), Midwest households on average used about 85.5 Mcf of natural gas. Although natural gas burns more cleanly than most heating fuels, it still has an environmental impact. A home that consumes 85.5 Mcf of natural gas each winter will release a little over 10,000 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

If a typical tree absorbs about 15 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, homeowners who want to offset the carbon they produce from heating would need to plant about 666 trees per year. Another option is to reduce natural gas consumption by home weatherization. Ohio's Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) assists households in saving energy by improving insulation and heating system efficiency. Weatherization reduces natural gas usage by 27% on average. See the "Home Weatherization" section of this report for more information.

The table to the right shows natural gas consumption per person in central Ohio. Despite the growing population, natural gas consumption overall has decreased significantly since 2003.

	Natural Gas Consumption Per Person (Mcf)					% Change,
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003-2007
Delaware	38.7	36.3	36.6	32.4	33.6	-13.4%
Fairfield	21.5	20.6	20.2	18.4	19.1	-10.9%
Fayette	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Franklin	56.5	53.5	54.1	48.5	50.1	-11.3%
Knox	30.3	28.4	28.5	25.4	26.5	-12.7%
Licking	29.4	28.3	26.6	28.9	29.3	-0.5%
Madison	39.5	36.9	32.5	29.8	30.7	-22.4%
Marion	82.4	82.2	83.4	76.6	76.7	-7.0%
Morrow	15.0	13.9	14.1	12.9	12.8	-14.3%
Pickaway	74.6	53.0	46.5	42.6	42.9	-42.5%
Ross	36.3	35.8	34.7	33.0	34.0	-6.4%
Union	96.3	90.5	92.2	83.6	83.6	-13.1%
Region	49.5	46.5	46.4	42.2	43.3	-12.5%

Sources: Energy Information Administration

http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/brochure/oil_gas/rngp/index.html

Usage: MORPC contacts natural gas providers directly

