

How to keep utility bills low

FIXED FEES

One way to decrease the fixed fees on the utility bill is to use a smaller garbage can. The common residential garbage can is 90 gallons and costs \$15.65/month. A smaller 60 gallon can is available and costs \$13.50/month. If you are a commercial customer, other savings may be available. If you have questions call Amy in the Environmental Dept. at 435 716-9755. If you currently have a 90 gallon can and you fill it up each week, the 60 gallon can may be too small for your needs.

VARIABLE FEES

The electricity charge and the water consumption charge are variable fees on the utility bill. In other words the amount of the charge is based on usage. The best way to lower the charge is to lower the usage.

In general, air conditioners and plug-in heaters use more electricity than expected. Instead of using an air conditioner, try using a fan or drinking a cold beverage to stay cool. To stay warm when it's cold, try wearing extra layers of clothes, using a blanket or eating something warm. If none of these ideas work, using a plug-in heater may be the best alternative, but it may cost a lot of money.

A device known as the Kill-a-Watt can be checked out at the Logan Library. By plugging an appliance into the Kill-a-Watt, then plugging it into an outlet, you can find out how much electricity that appliance uses. The Kill-a-Watt won't work on a central air conditioner that is wired directly into your home's electrical system. Also, consider unplugging appliances that are not being used. If an appliance is plugged in, it may still use some electricity, even if it is off. This includes cell phone rechargers, extension cords, televisions, game consoles, etc.

Go to <http://www.loganutah.org/LP/Conservation/index.cfm#tab3> to see how your electricity usage compares to other homes in Logan with similar characteristics. If you have questions about the website or conservation in general, call Logan City's Conservation Specialist at 435 716.9792.

To decrease your water usage, check your sprinkler system. You may be watering more than necessary, or there may be a leak. Call the USU Extension at 752.6263, look online or call a sprinkler company to determine the correct amount of water for your lawn. If you have a leak, you may need to call a plumber to fix the problem. Call the Logan City Water Dept. at 435 716.9620 if you have questions about your water meter or usage.

DEFERRED PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

If you can't pay your bill by the due date, call the Logan City Utility Billing office at 435 716.9208. You may be eligible for a deferred payment arrangement. This will allow you to keep the electricity on after the due date of the bill. You can avoid disconnect/reconnect fees by keeping the arrangement.

OTHER

When moving to a new home or apartment, ask about the energy source of the furnace. If it runs on electricity, expect your electricity bills in the winter to be extremely high. Furnaces run by electricity are not necessarily good or bad, but realize that the energy source for your furnace will affect your Logan City utility bill. If applicable, ask who pays water consumption charges (the tenant or the landlord). The Logan City Utility Billing office will give you the highest and lowest bill amount over the last year of any address we provide utilities to. Their phone number is 435 716.9208.