

## Frequently Asked Questions

**How will this program affect my Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)?** There will be no impact to the BAH allowance. To learn more about BAH, go to [www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm)

### Isn't a utility allowance already part of my BAH?

Yes. An allowance for "normal" utilities is a part of the BAH. The BAH is computed based on three local price data points: (1) median current market rent, (2) average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer), and (3) average renter's insurance. In other words, your BAH pays for typical utility usage. This program is intended to encourage residents to achieve normal usage and to reward them for conservation beyond normal expectations. If you conserve and use utilities wisely within the normal range, you will have no out-of-pocket utility expense and with a little extra effort could be eligible for a utilities rebate.

**We have more children living in our 3-bedroom house than our neighbors who also live in a 3-bedroom house. How will this affect my overall bill compared to my neighbors? Am I exempt from paying more?** Family size is definitely proportional to your cost of living. However, other than bedroom assignment, family size is not a factor in determining RECP baselines, just as it isn't a factor for determining BAH. Members of the same rank receive the same housing and utility allowance regardless of whether they have no children or many children.

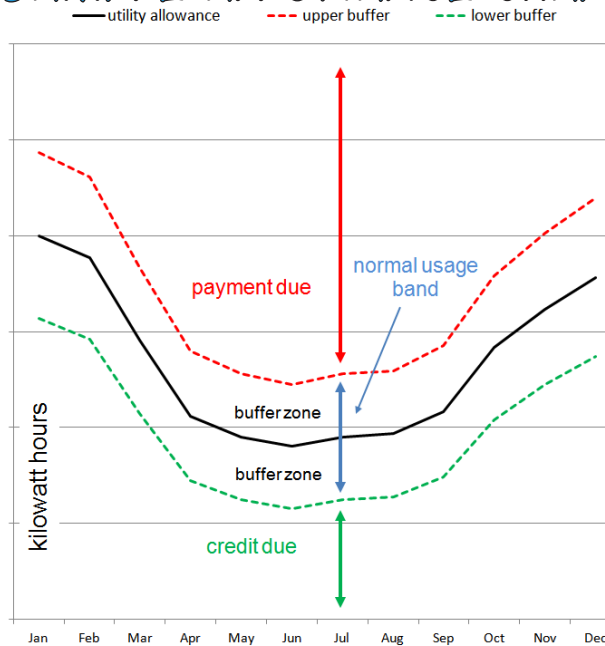
**What if there is an extremely hot summer or cold winter?** Your utility usage target is established on a monthly basis to account for seasonal weather changes.

**My neighbor's bill is lower than mine because they have Energy Saver appliances and I don't. Can I have new appliances to lower my bill and receive a rebate?** No. We account for these differences by setting the buffer around the utility usage target.

**How and when can I expect a rebate?** Residents whose monthly utilities cost is 10% or more below the monthly usage target will earn a credit or rebate that will be payable when the accumulated rebate exceeds \$25. Residents can elect to roll-over savings credits to apply against charges they may accrue in future months.

**Is there a waiver policy if a member in my family has a medical circumstance that requires us to use more electricity?** Yes. If you are enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member (EFM) program and you can provide justification as to how the medical circumstance has a direct result on excessive usage of electricity exemption will be considered. Wounded Warriors are automatically exempted from the RECP.

## SAMPLE ALLOWANCE CHART

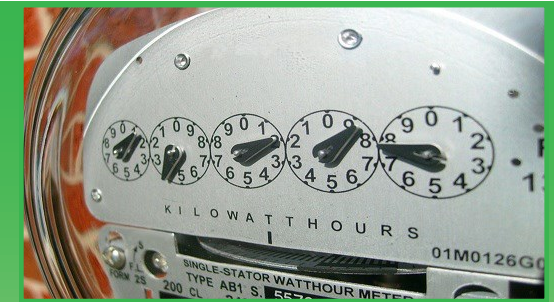


This chart provides an example of a monthly usage allowance for a like-type home grouping. Your actual usage may fall above or below the buffer zone or right in between. Depending on your usage you may pay nothing (covered by BAH), be eligible for a refund, or be required to pay for the usage above the buffer.

A similar chart will be created for each like-type home grouping. If you have any questions you can always call your Neighborhood Management Office:

**NBK:** (360) 598-5831 • **NSE:** (877) 245-7370  
**NASWI:** (360) 679-4241

Or visit us online:  
[www.northwestmilitaryhousing.com](http://www.northwestmilitaryhousing.com)





### What is the Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) and what does it mean to me?

The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) originally established the policy for the payment of utilities in Public Private Venture (PPV) housing to encourage energy efficiency. The RECP transfers the responsibility for energy consumption from the PPV partner to the PPV resident. The program was designed to set a reasonable range for normal energy consumption (this includes both gas and electric utilities). Money saved through this program will go back to the families living in Hunt housing via capital reinvestments, renovations, community amenities, and more.

The RECP is **NOT** a Hunt initiative. It is **NOT** a Navy Region Northwest program. It is **NOT** a program that generates profits for Hunt, Navy Region Northwest or the US Navy.

The RECP **IS** a program to increase awareness of electricity and other energy use and to ultimately reduce energy consumption among all PPV housing properties. It **IS** a program that supports the Navy's goals of environmental sustainability and encourages good stewardship of our nation's resources.

Well over **34%** of the costs to operate your homes and neighborhoods goes towards paying for utilities. As energy costs continue to rise there will be fewer and fewer dollars available for home and community improvements, grounds maintenance, pest control, site security, and recreational programs such as movie and game nights and other community center activities.

Studies have shown that when residents are responsible for actual costs, **usage drops by 20% or more.**

### How is the "Utility Allowance" determined?

Homes will be grouped by like-type and the average usage will be calculated monthly. The highest 5% and lowest 5% users and unoccupied homes will not be included in the calculating of the average. A buffer zone 10% above and 10% below the average will equal the range or "normal usage band" creating your utility allowance.

### How can I reduce my monthly electricity usage?

You should check your home for inefficiencies such as doors, windows or blinds that do not close properly. Talk to your family members about how they can help save energy by doing little things like unplugging unused electronics and chargers. Some simple conservation tips are listed below:

#### Lighting

- ⚡ Take a good look at how you and your family are using lights and turn off any that are not being used.
- ⚡ Take advantage of daylight and open blinds during the day.
- ⚡ Whenever possible, replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs. A CFL bulb lasts up to 10 times



Like-type home groupings are based on neighborhood, square-footage, number of bedrooms and year built. Size of family/number of occupants is not a factor.

longer and uses 75% less electricity than a traditional incandescent bulb. And an LED is even more efficient!

#### Appliances

⚡ Unplug smaller appliances when not being used: crock pot, rice cooker, toaster, blender, coffee maker, iron, blow dryer, shaver, etc. According to the US Department of Energy, unplugging unused devices can reduce your energy usage by 5% to 10%.

⚡ Refrigerators are one of the biggest energy drainers in the home, so make sure to limit the amount of time the door is open. A refrigerator with an open door is working harder because it's trying to cool an entire room!

⚡ If you have a dishwasher, wait until it is full to run it—that saves water, too! Using the "air dry" setting uses less electricity than the "heated dry" setting.

⚡ Wash and dry full loads of laundry to optimize usage. Using cold or cooler water also reduces the energy needed to heat water for washing.

#### Electronics

⚡ Use power strips for devices like TVs, cable/satellite boxes, sound systems, stereos, gaming systems, computers and modems and turn them off at the power strip to help stop wasted electricity. But don't forget to keep your DVR powered: you don't want to miss your favorite shows!

⚡ Rechargeable devices are a huge energy waster if the transformers are left plugged in, so be sure to unplug them after your device or batteries are fully charged.

#### Heating

⚡ Check to make sure all of your windows and doors are closing properly to make sure your home is as weather-tight as possible. Give Maintenance a call if you believe they are not closing properly.

⚡ Keep your heater temperature at a reasonable/ comfortable setting to maximize efficiency and reduce waste.

⚡ If you have a furnace make sure to regularly change the filter to keep it working efficiently.