Biomass

Description of biomass:
Any organic material that can be used for its energy content – woods garbage, yard waste, crop waste, animal waste, even human waste.

Renewable or nonrenewable:
Renewable

Ways we turn biomass into energy we can use:
Burning to produce heat, fermentation into alcohol fuel (ethanol), bacterial decay into methane, conversion to gas or liquid fuels by addition of heat or chemicals.

Who uses biomass and for what purposes:
Industry burns waste wood to make products, homes burn wood for heat, waste-to-energy plants burn organic waste products to produce electricity, gasohol is used as a fuel.

Effect of using biomass on the environment:
Burning biomass can produce air pollution and does not produce carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. It can also produce odors. Burning biomass is cleaner than burning fossil fuels.

Important facts about biomass:
Biomass gets its energy from the sun through the process of photosynthesis.

Using biomass reduces the amount of organic material placed in landfills.

Fast-growing crops can be grown for their energy content.

Using biomass does not contribute to the greenhouse effect, since the amount of carbon dioxide produced equals the amount taken in during growth.

Coal

Description of coal:
Coal is a black, solid hydrocarbon (fossil fuel) formed from the remains of ancient plants in swamps millions of years ago.

Renewable or nonrenewable:
Nonrenewable

Where coal is located and how we recover it:
Coal is located underground in many areas of the country. Shallow seams are surface mined. Coal buried deep is reached through underground mine shafts.

Ways we turn coal into energy we can use:
Most coal is burned to produce heat.

Who uses coal and for what purposes:
Power plants burn most of the coal to produce electricity. Industries also burn coal to make products, especially steel and iron.

Effect of using coal on the environment:
Burning coal can pollute the air and cause acid rain. Burning coal also produces carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

Important facts about coal:
Coal produces nearly half of the electricity in the U.S.

The U.S. has the largest reserves of coal in the world.

Coal is found in Appalachian states and some western states.

Wyoming, West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Montana are the top coal-producing states.

Coal is transported mainly by train and barge. Transporting coal is a huge expense.

Geothermal Energy

Description of geothermal energy:
Geothermal energy is heat produced in the earth's core by the slow decay of naturally-occurring radioactive particles.

Renewable or nonrenewable:
Renewable

Where geothermal resources are located and how we recover them:
Low temperature resources are almost everywhere a few feet underground. High temperature resources are found mostly at the edges of tectonic plates, especially around the Ring of Fire in the Pacific.

Ways we turn geothermal energy into energy we can use:
We can drill wells to reach high temperature resources or lay pipes filled with fluid underground. Some geothermal resources come out of the ground naturally, and we can pipe it to where it's needed.

Who uses geothermal energy and for what purposes:
Power plants use geothermal steam to produce electricity. Homes and businesses use the hot water and steam for heat.

Effect of using geothermal energy on the environment:
There is very little environmental effect.

Important facts about geothermal energy:

Earth is made of layers – an inner core of iron, an outer core of magma (melted rock), a mantle of magma and rock, and a crust. The crust is not a solid piece, but giant plates of land that move. Along the edges of the plates, geothermal resources tend to come to the surface.

Hydropower

Description of hydropower:
Hydropower is the force of moving water caused by gravity.

Renewable or nonrenewable:
Renewable

Description of the water cycle:
The sun shines onto the Earth, evaporating the water in oceans, rivers, and lakes. The water vapor rises into the atmosphere and forms clouds. The water vapor condenses and falls to Earth as precipitation.

Ways we turn hydropower into energy we can use:
We can harness the energy in flowing water by damming rivers and using waterfalls.

Who uses hydropower and for what purposes:
Electric utilities use hydropower dams to turn the energy in flowing water into electricity.

Effect of using hydropower on the environment:
Dams can flood land and disrupt animal and fish habitats. Hydropower doesn't pollute the air, but it can churn up sediments in the water.

Important facts about hydropower:
Hydropower dams are the cheapest and cleanest way to produce electricity.

There are few places in the U.S. where new dams can be built.

Some existing dams could have turbines installed to produce electricity.

Natural Gas

Description of natural gas:
Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas formed millions of years ago from tiny plants and animals. It is a fossil fuel.

Renewable or nonrenewable:
Nonrenewable, although methane produced from landfill gas is classified as renewable

Where natural gas is located and how we recover it:
Natural gas is located in underground rock formations in sedimentary basins. We drill wells to reach it and pipe it from the ground.

Ways we turn natural gas into energy we can use:
Usually we burn natural gas to produce heat.

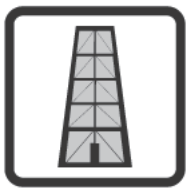
Who uses natural gas and for what purposes:
Industry burns natural gas to manufacture products. Homes and businesses burn natural gas to heat buildings and water, and for cooking. Power plants burn natural gas to produce electricity.

Effect of using natural gas on the environment:
Natural gas is a cleaner burning fossil fuel, but it produces some air pollution and carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

Important facts about natural gas:
Mercaptan, an odorant that smells like rotten eggs, is added to natural gas so leaks can be detected.

Natural gas is shipped by millions of miles of underground pipelines.

Natural gas can be used as a transportation fuel if it is put under pressure and engines are modified.



Petroleum

Description of petroleum:
Petroleum is a liquid hydrocarbon, a fossil fuel formed millions of years ago from the remains of tiny sea plants and animals. It can be thin and clear like water or thick and black like tar.

Renewable or nonrenewable:
Nonrenewable

Where petroleum is located and how we recover it:
Petroleum is located underground in rocks in sedimentary basins. Much is under water. We drill wells to find it, then must pump it from the ground.

Ways we turn petroleum into energy we can use:
Petroleum is refined into many different fuels that are burned to produce heat. When gasoline is burned in vehicles, it causes small explosions that push pistons to produce motion.

Who uses petroleum and for what purposes:
Most petroleum products are used by the transportation sector to move people and goods. Industry burns petroleum to manufacture products and also uses petroleum as a feedstock to produce many products.

Effect of using petroleum on the environment:
Burning petroleum can cause air pollution and produce carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Drilling for and transporting petroleum can cause damage to the land and water if there are leaks or spills.

Important facts about petroleum:
We use more petroleum than any other energy source.

The U.S. does not produce enough petroleum to meet our needs.

We import about half of the petroleum we use from foreign countries.

The Middle East has huge reserves of petroleum.

Petroleum is moved over land mostly by pipeline, and over water by tanker.

Propane

Description of propane:
Propane is a colorless, odorless fossil fuel found with petroleum and natural gas. It was formed millions of years ago from the remains of tiny plants and animals.

Renewable or nonrenewable:
Nonrenewable

Where propane is located and how we recover it:
Propane is found with petroleum and natural gas deposits and is separated from both fuels during refining and processing.

Ways we turn propane into energy we can use:
We put propane in tanks under pressure to turn it into a liquid so that it is more easily moved from place to place, then we burn it to produce heat.

Who uses propane and for what purposes:
Industry uses propane to make products; farmers use propane for heat in rural areas; homes use propane for outdoor grills; businesses use propane to fuel indoor machinery and as a fleet fuel.

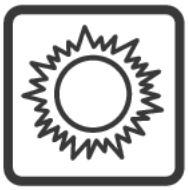
Effect of using propane on the environment:
Propane is a cleaner burning fossil fuel, but burning it does produce some air pollutants and carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

Important facts about propane:
Propane is an LPG – liquefied petroleum gas.

Propane is easily turned into a liquid under pressure. It takes up 270 times less space as a liquid.

Propane is stored in underground caverns and moved by pipelines and trucks.

Propane is called a portable fuel because it is easily transported as a liquid.



Solar Energy

Description of solar:
Solar energy is radiant energy from the sun that travels to Earth in electromagnetic waves or rays.

Renewable or nonrenewable:
Renewable

How solar energy is produced and how we recover it:
Solar energy is produced in the sun's core when atoms of hydrogen combine under pressure to produce helium, in a process called fusion. During fusion, radiant energy is emitted.

Ways we turn solar into energy we can use:
We can capture solar energy with solar collectors that turn the radiant energy into heat, or with photovoltaic cells that turn radiant energy into electricity. We also use the visible light of solar energy to see.

Who uses solar and for what purposes:
We all use the visible light from the sun to see during the day. Many homes and buildings use solar collectors to heat interior spaces and water, and PV cells to produce electricity.

Effect of using solar on the environment:
Solar energy is very clean energy, producing no air or water pollution.

Important facts about solar:
Solar energy is not available all of the time and is spread out so that it is difficult to harness. Today, it is expensive to use solar energy to produce electricity, but new technologies will make solar energy a major energy source in the future.

Uranium

Description of uranium:
Uranium is a common metallic element found in rocks all over the world.

Renewable or nonrenewable:
Nonrenewable

Where uranium is located and how we recover it:
Uranium is located underground in rock formations. Mines are dug to recover it. The U.S. has plenty of uranium, but imports most used in nuclear power plants because it is cheaper to do so.

Ways we turn uranium into energy we can use:
Uranium is processed and turned into uranium fuel pellets for nuclear power plants. Uranium atoms are split in the process of fission to produce heat.

Who uses uranium and for what purposes:
Nuclear power plants use uranium to produce electricity.

Effect of using uranium (nuclear energy) on the environment:
Uranium fission produces radioactive wastes that is dangerous for thousands of years and must be stored carefully. Leaks of radioactive materials pose a danger.

Important facts about uranium (nuclear energy):
Nuclear power plants produce little pollution except for radioactive waste, which must be stored in special repositories. There is no permanent repository in the United States at this time and most waste is stored on site at nuclear power plants. A permanent repository is mandated by Congress, but a final location has not been chosen.

Wind

Description of wind energy:
Wind is the circulation of air caused by the uneven heating of Earth's surface.

Renewable or nonrenewable:
Renewable

Where wind energy is located and how we recover it:
Wind is produced when the sun shines on the Earth, heating the land more than the water. The warmer air over land rises and cooler air moves in to take its place, producing convection currents.

Ways we turn wind into energy we can use:
We use wind turbines that have blades which turn in the wind that turn a turbine to produce electricity.

Who uses wind and for what purposes:
Usually, independent power producers (not big utilities) build wind farms to produce electricity.

Effect of using wind on the environment:
Wind turbines are very clean, producing no air or water pollution. They take up a lot of land, but most of the land can be used for other things, such as farming and grazing cattle, at the same time.

Important facts about wind:
Wind turbines do not produce a lot of electricity, and do not produce it all of the time.

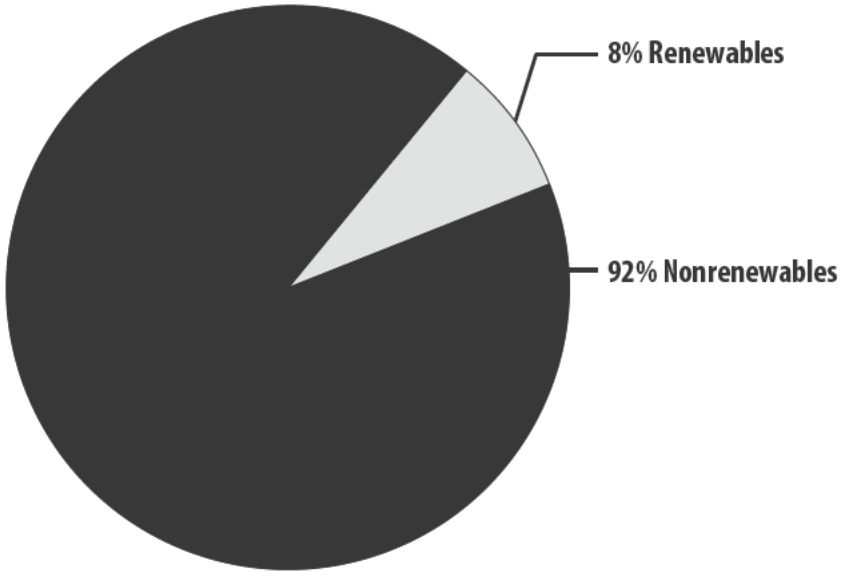
Wind turbines cannot be used in many areas. There must be stable, continuous wind resources.

There are large wind resources on the ocean. The first offshore wind farm in the United States was approved in 2011 and will be built off the coast of Cape Cod, MA.

Renewables and Nonrenewables

Convert the quads into percentagse and make a pie chart showing how much U.S. energy in 2009 came from renewable sources and how much came from nonrenewable sources (Q = quad or quadrillion Btu). Round to the nearest tenth.

Petroleum	**34.49 Q**	**= 36.5 %**
Natural Gas	**23.36 Q**	**= 24.7%**
Coal	**19.76 Q**	**= 20.9 %**
Uranium	**8.35 Q**	**= 8.8 %**
Biomass	**3.88 Q**	**= 4.1 %**
Hydropower	**2.68 Q**	**= 2.8 %**
Geothermal, Solar, and Wind	**1.18 Q**	**= 1.2 %**
Propane	**1.0 Q**	**= .9%**



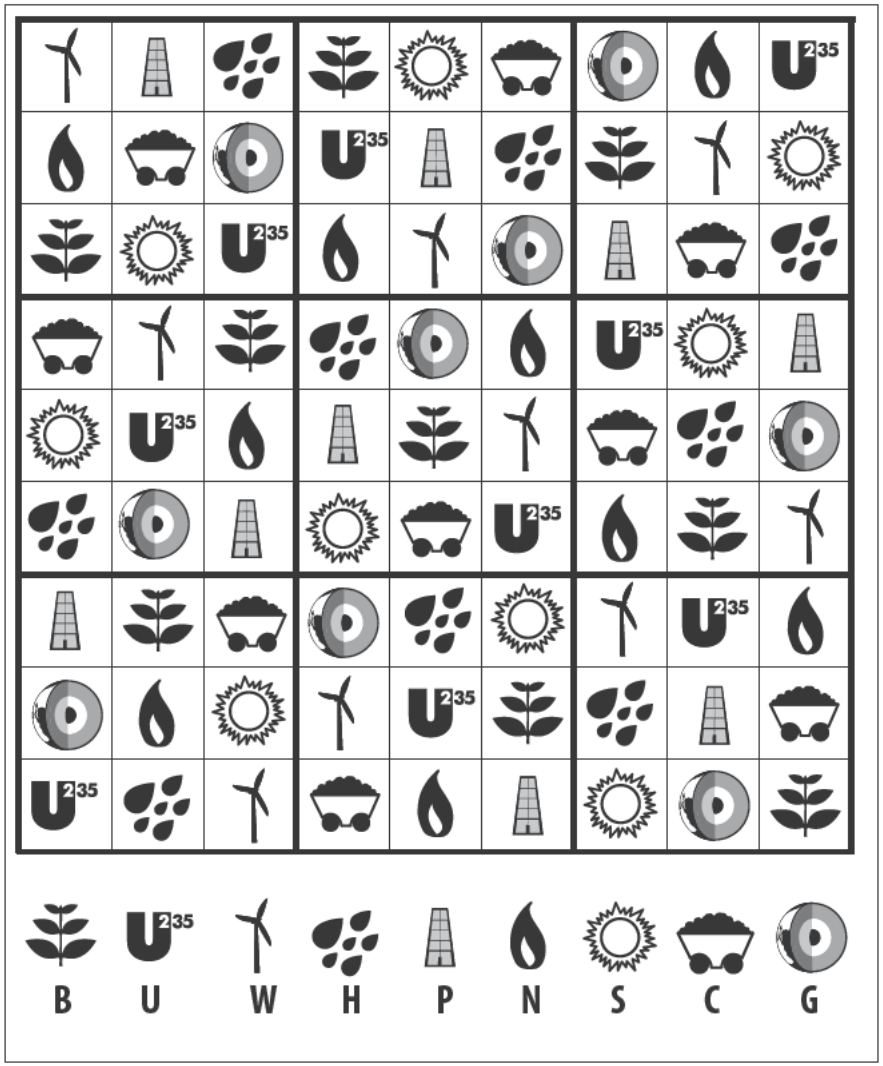
How We Use Our Energy Sources

In the boxes, number the main uses of each energy source from 1 to 5 with 1 as the most important use. Some sources may be used in only one or two ways.

	TRANSPORTATION	MAKE PRODUCTS	HEATING/COOLING	LIGHTING	MAKE ELECTRICITY
	turned into ethanol and mixed with gasoline to make gasohol	***burned to make heat to manufacture products***	*burned to heat homes; converted to biogas to heat homes*	*burned to produce light (candles and biogas)*	*burned in waste-to-energy plants to produce electricity*
	turned into methanol	*burned to make heat to manufacture products*	*burned to heat homes*		***burned to make heat to produce electricity***
			used in geothermal exchange systems to heat and cool homes		***heat used to produce electricity***
					mechanical energy used to produce electricity
	compressed to make CNG for fleet vehicles	***burned to make heat to manufacture products***	*burned to heat homes and commercial buildings*	*burned in some lanterns and street lights*	*burned to make heat to produce electricity*
	refined into gasoline, jet fuel, diesel fuel	*burned to make heat to manufacture products and as a feedstock*	*refined into heating oil and burned to heat homes*	*refined into kerosene and burned in lanterns*	*burned to make heat to product electricity*
	pressurized for fleet and indoor vehicles	***burned to make heat to manufacture products***	*pressurized and burned to heat homes, barns, and buildings*	*pressurized and burned in lanterns*	
			used to heat homes and buildings	*provides daylighting*	***converted into electricty with PV cells***
					fissioned to make heat to produce electricity
					mechanical energy turned into electricty

Energy Source Puzzle

By a process of elimination, fill in the blank squares so that each large square contains one of each energy source icon, using the letters that represent the icons as shown at the bottom of the puzzle. Each row and each column must also contain one of each icon. There is only one possible solution to the puzzle.



Electricity

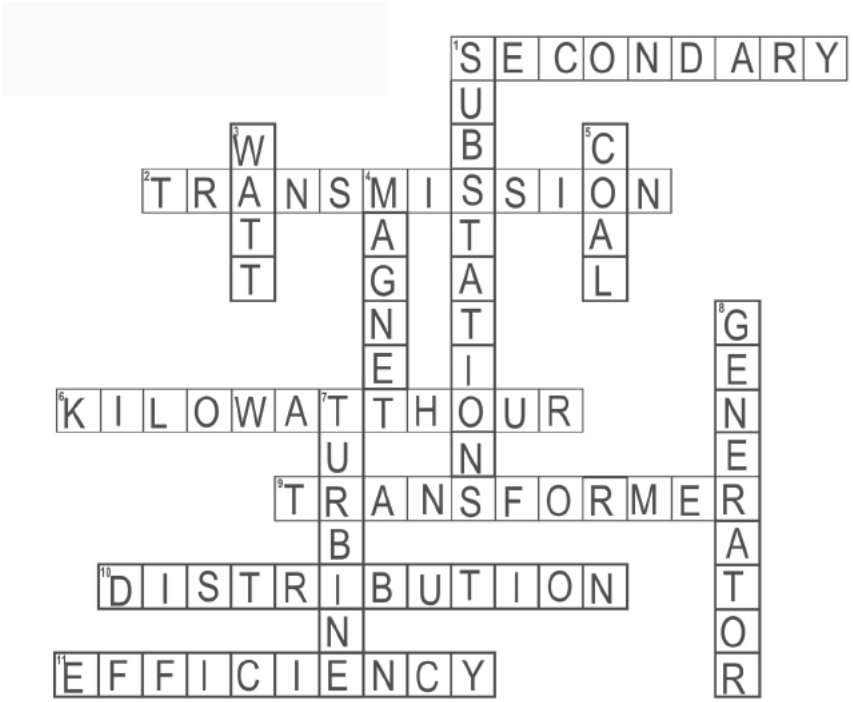
Write the correct word for each definition in the blank space. Use each word only once.

1. A device that changes voltage. *transformer*
2. A device that changes linear motion into circular motion. *turbine*
3. Allowing competition in the power industry. *deregulation*
4. Managing how and when consumers use electricity. *demand-side management*
5. The total amount of electricity a power plant can deliver. *capacity*
6. Times when many customers need electricity. *peak demand*
7. How well a utility delivers electricity at all times. *generator*
8. Electricity produced at all times to meet basic demand. *base-load*
9. A merged network of electric utilities. *power pool*
10. Reducing energy usage through behavioral changes. *conservation*
11. A measurement of the amount of electricity by consumers. *kilowatt-hour*
12. Power plants that burn fuel to produce electricity. *thermal*
13. A material with little resistance to electric current. *superconductor*
14. Combining the nuclei of atoms to produce energy. *fusion*
15. A source of energy that requires another source to produce it. *secondary*
16. Manufacturing a product and producing electricity. *cogeneration*
17. Reducing the amount of energy consumed by devices through advances in technology. *efficiency*

Word Bank

- Capacity
- Reliability
- Base-load
- Peak demand
- Secondary
- Transformer
- Fusion
- Turbine
- Generator
- Conservation
- Effidency
- Demand-side management
- Kilowatt-hour
- Deregulation
- Cogeneration
- Superconductor
- Thermal
- Power pool

Electricity Crossword



Famous Words Answer Key

1. Faraday
2. Westinghouse
3. Franklin
4. Volta
5. Edison
6. Niagara Falls

Electric Math Answer Key

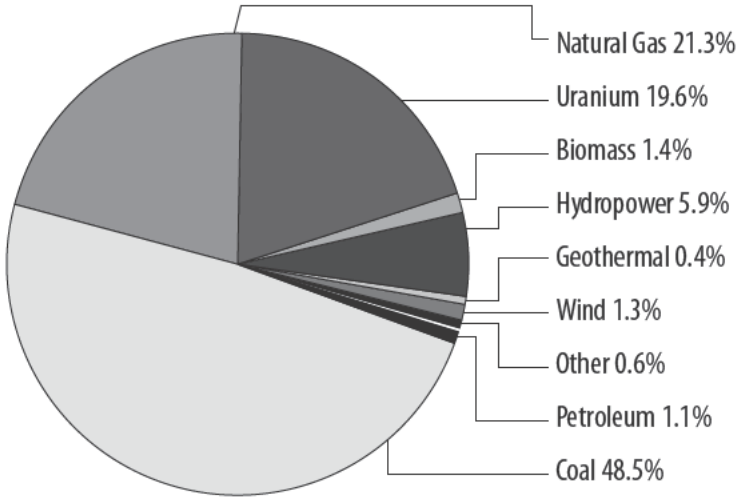
Left Column: 120, 9, 35, 1879, 1000, 1882

Right Column: 13.3, 465.5, 2344.5, 2.3, 4328.6

Electric Power Generation

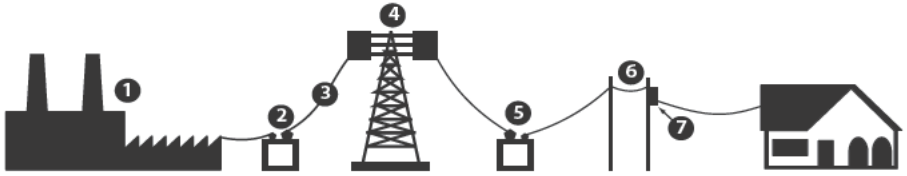
Convert the bkWh into percentages and make a pie chart showing how much of the electricity the U.S. consumed in 2009 came from each energy source (bkWh = billion kilowatt-hours). Round to the nearest tenth.

Petroleum	**39 bkWh**	**= 1.1%**
Coal	**1,764 bkWh = 48.5%**	
Natural Gas	**920 bkWh**	**= 21.3%**
Uranium	**799 bkWh**	**= 19.6%**
Biomass	**50 bkWh**	**= 1.4%**
Hydropower	**272 bkWh**	**= 5.9%**
Geothermal	**15 bkWh**	**= 0.4%**
Wind	**71 bkWh**	**= 1.3%**
Other	**22 bkWh**	**= 0.6%**



Transporting Electricity

Explain what each of the components numbered below does to get electricity from the generator to the consumer.



1. **Power plant:** *generates electricity*
2. **Step-up transformer:** *increase voltage to reduce transmission loss*
3. **Transmission line:** *transports high-voltage electricty over long distances*
4. **Power tower:** *carries transmission lines*
5. **Step-down transformer:** *lowers voltage for smaller distribution lines*
6. **Distribution line:** *carries lower voltage electricty to homes and businesses*
7. **Neighborhood transformer:** *lowers voltage used by appliances in homes and businesses (120 & 140 volts)*

Measuring Electricity

Directions: Fill in the blanks in the tables below.

TABLE 1

VOLTAGE	=	CURRENT	X	RESISTANCE
1.5 V	=	**0.5 A**	x	3 Ω
12 V	=	3 A	x	4 Ω
120 V	=	4 A	x	**30 Ω**
240 V	=	**20 A**	x	12 Ω

TABLE 2

POWER	=	VOLTAGE	X	CURRENT
27 W	=	9 V	x	**3 A**
180 W	=	120 V	x	1.5 A
45 W	=	**15 V**	x	3 A
240 W	=	120 V	x	2 A

TABLE 3

APPLIANCE		POWER	=	VOLTAGE	X	CURRENT
TV		180 W	=	120 V	x	**1.5 A**
COMPUTER		40 W	=	120 V	x	**0.33 A**
PRINTER		120 W	=	120 V	x	**1 A**
HAIR DRYER		1,000 W	=	120 V	x	**8.33 A**

TABLE 4

POWER		TIME	=	ELECTRICAL ENERGY (kWh)	X	PRICE	=	COST
5 kW	x	100 h	=	**500 kWh**	x	$ 0.12	=	**$ 60.00**
25 kW	x	4 h	=	**1000 Wh = 1 kWh**	x	$ 0.12	=	**$ 0.12**
1,000 W	x	1 h	=	**100 kWh**	x	$0.12	=	**$ 12.00**