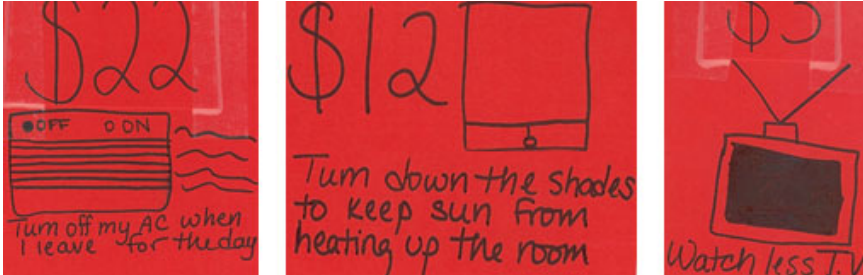




## Reading an Electricity Bill



This lesson plan focuses on helping residents understand electricity bills and their connection to electricity use. Tenants also learn ways to reduce bills. In the lesson, tenants walk through the various components of an electric bill, discuss what actions may have led to the given pattern of electrical consumption from month-to-month and play a simple game to discover energy-saving actions. It may be ideal for transitional supportive housing, where tenants do not currently pay their own electricity bills but where they one day might.

### Specific Messages

- Independent living will involve paying an electricity bill
- The bill will cost money and there is a relationship between consumption and cost (though there will always be a flat-rate fee as well)
- You can choose to take actions that reduce the cost

### Lesson Plan

- Introductions and icebreaker: Introduce yourself and name something that you pay more for depending on how much you use: 5 minutes
- Activity 1: Hand out sample electricity bill, identify the cost and consumption patterns: 10 minutes
- Activity 2: One at a time, uncover conservation tip cards and discover how much each one can save: 15 minutes
- Closure: Review lesson -- talk about what residents have learned and ask them to pick at least one action to commit to: 5 minutes

### Supplies Needed

- Sample electricity bill (this can be one from your home or from the supportive housing building. Remember to black out personal information like addresses and account numbers)
- Conservation tip cards (illustrations optional) and labels with the amount of money each tip saves

### A Note on Conservation Tip Cards

Conservation tip cards can be designed in lots of different ways -- hand-written or printed, on hard-stock paper or regular, with illustrations or without. They should be small cards that each refer to a specific energy-saving action and estimate the amount of money that the action could save in one month. See the sample cards above. In the samples, money savings are imprecise. The overall point is not to stress the exact amount of savings possible from each action, but to demonstrate that the actions can reduce your bill, and that some actions will save much more than others -- notably actions that reduce the use of air conditioning units.