

- Electricity Bill Forecaster -

This cost analysis program is based on MS Excel

Program Operating Information:

"Electricity Bill Forecaster" provides an accurate forecast for your next bill by progressively applying meter readings across a known billing period. The program has provision for 44 entries, however any lesser number of entries may be made, with the minimum requirement being just 2.

Billing structures for electricity supply commonly incorporate a service charge together with a 2 stage consumption charge for General Supply and one separate OP Hot Water rate. Billing periods are typically 90 days but any period (10 ~ 366 days) may be nominated. This format is accommodated.

Pricing structures are undergoing substantial revision by the various billing authorities at the present time with some 2 step tariffs being replaced with a single step. This program accommodates both situations. If a single step tariff applies, simply input the same amount in the step 1 and step 2 data boxes

Program integrity is secure with the white data input cells being the only user accessible areas of the program.

New entries may be added at any time, there is no requirement to follow a regular schedule.

Quick Start:

Commence by filling out the 6 data boxes (upper left with white background). Message text is displayed as a mouse-over function for each of these data boxes. Do not include GST (GST does apply and is automatically added in the display).

Use only "/" for date and ":" for time as separators.

Leading zeros are not necessary, example; 1/7/10 will automatically format to 01/07/2010.

Enter time using either the 24 hour format (16:07:23) or 12 hour format (4:07:23 PM).

When using the 12 hour format, use the appropriate AM or PM designator and ensure a single space after the last digit (4:07:23 PM).

Enter the commencement date and time in cells A28 ~ B28.

Enter the initial meter readings in cells C28 ~ D28.

Commence new entries in row 29 then continue using consecutive rows.

For expediency when entering data, the Tab key may be used to step to the right.

General Information:

For a more accurate bill forecast, refer to the previous bill to determine the commencement date for the current billing period, and the previous meter readings to be brought forward. If the previous bill is not available, simply start with current values.

Averages and projections vary more during the early stages of filling out the meter readings, however, the trend line steadies significantly as the date span increases.

The number of billing days nominated may be changed at any time (on the fly) to generate "what if scenarios". Dates, times and meter readings may also be varied to experiment and sample different scenarios. Error traps with prompts are provided to manage data entry and ensure program conformity.

When actual data is used, the program charts display precise and meaningful consumption patterns together with a very accurate bill forecast.

The trend line will vary in accordance with the combined effect of the following three factors;

- 1) The frequency of samples provided,
- 2) The distribution of samples across the billing period,
- 3) The deviation of each sample from the mean.

Off Peak Hot Water Service (OPHWS) is sometimes referred to as "Controlled Load" by billing authorities. The 'application' of this supply occurs automatically and routinely but may involve irregular blocks of time and so, in circumstances where multiple readings of the 'general consumption' meter have been entered during the same inactive OPHWS meter period, the effect will be to temporarily reduce the overall forecast amounts.

The demarcation point between Step1 and Step 2 in the pricing structure is automatically determined from the number of days in the billing period factored to a set index value of 3.296666666666667. This method of determining the demarcation point is used by a major energy billing authority and has been accommodated in this program. If it found necessary to alter this factor, please contact me (details below).

'Arial Narrow' fonts are required (standard with Windows).

If this Excel file has been saved using a later version of Excel than currently being used, the following caution may be displayed if saving to the same file name ... "This file was created using a later version of Microsoft Excel" etc. This situation is not likely to occur as a new file name would normally be used, however, if there is a need to save to the same original file name, the caution may be ignored as no incompatibility exists with this program and versions of Microsoft Excel dating back to "Excel 97 SR-1". This consideration exists with all Excel files.

Please note if cross-referencing:

Forecast bill costs may comprise 'projected' consumption at both stage 1 and stage 2 rates even though the "Total To Date \$" for consumption may not have yet reached the price demarcation point. Also, the 'Forecast Bill' and the 'Forecast Annual Cost' will not be in 'lock-step' as each will comprise a different mix of 'Stage 1' and 'Stage 2' costs, that is, you cannot simply project a 'bill period' to an 'annual period'. The program calculates both scenarios separately to obtain correct values for each.

Displayed values are rounded (5/4) and may subsequently return variations of a cent or two if later used in external cross referencing.

For further information please contact:

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