

# Glossary

## Word - Definition

**appliance** -A device or machine for performing a specific task.

**bill** - An itemized statement of goods or services

**blades** -A broad flat surface; found on turbines and windmills

**boiler** -A tank in which water is turned to steam for heating or power generation

**check sheet** -Form used during Watt Watchers of Texas patrols to record energy usage data

**coal** - A black combustible solid used to provide heat during power generation

**compact fluorescent bulb**- A type of fluorescent lamp which screws into a regular socket or plugs into a small light fixture, that uses less energy than a typical incandescent bulb

**conserve** - To keep from being lost, damaged or wasted; saved

**cost benefit analysis** - The process of weighing the total expected costs vs. the total expected benefits of one of more actions in order to choose the most profitable option.

**crisis** - A time of great danger whose outcome decides whether possible bad consequences will follow

**dial** - The face of a meter or gauge on which a pointer indicates an amount

**draft** - Breeze that occurs in a closed space. Air is leaking in from the outside causing the space to be less efficient.

**efficiency** - Ability to produce a desired effect or product with a minimum of effort, expense, or waste

**electric outlets** - Areas where appliances can be plugged in to receive electricity

**electricity** - An electric current supplied by a public utility for lighting or heating

**energy** - The capacity of a physical system doing work

**Energy Star** - A voluntary partnership with equipment manufacturers across a variety of industries to reduce the power consumption and the pollution associated with the use of electricity

**EZ Save** - A program for implementing monitor power management over a network using a server

**EZ Wizard** - A Department of Energy program that will enable power management on your workstation automatically

**fluorescent light** - A glass tube/bulb that is coated with a fluorescent substance that gives off light when the mercury vapor inside the tube is acted upon by a current

**gas** - The fluid form of a substance which can expand indefinitely (not a solid or a liquid)

**generator** - A machine for producing gas or steam

**high pressure steam** - Water is heated to create steam and is then forced against the blades of a turbine at high pressure to produce electricity

**incandescent** - Glowing with intense heat; shining brightly; a lamp in which the light is produced by a filament of conducting material contained in a vacuum and heated to incandescence by an electric current

**insulate** - To cover with a non-conductive material in order to prevent the passage or leakage of electricity or heat

**insulation** - Any material used to insulate

**kilowatts** - A unit of electrical power equal to 1000 watts

**kWh** - A unit of electrical energy or work equal to the power supplied by one kilowatt for one hour



**lifetime cost** - The cost of an appliance over the lifetime of the appliance

**meter** - An instrument for measuring and recording the quantity or rate of flow of gas, electricity or water

**mpg** - Miles per gallon; the number of miles a vehicle can drive using one gallon of gas

**oil** - Any of various kinds of greasy combustible substances obtained from mineral sources; petroleum

**organize** - To provide with structure

**periodic appliance** - An appliance that is used once in a while such as the washing machine or dishwasher

**plug sealer** - Used to insulate the opening around a switch or plug so that air cannot escape into the walls.

**power generation** - The process of creating electricity from an energy resource

**power management** - A process that allows monitors and computers to enter low power states when they are sitting idle

**psi** - Pounds per square inch; a unit of measure

**rate of return** - The quotient of the annual dollar savings divided by the system's total installed dollar cost. Expressed as a percent.

**save** - To preserve for future use; to avoid expense

**screen saver** - A program used on a monitor to protect the screen from burn in. No longer necessary with newer computers

**simple payback** - The quotient of the total installed cost divided by the first year's dollar savings of an appliance

**spend** - To use up, consume, exhaust or wear out

**strategy** - A plan or action

**survey** - A detailed inspection by gathering information through observations

**switch plate** - The cover over an electrical switch such as to turn on the lights

**tally** - An account or score

**temperature** - A measurement of hotness or coldness

**thermostat** - Apparatus for regulating temperature

**tire pressure gauge** - Apparatus used to measure the pressure inside a tire

**turbine** - An engine or motor having a drive shaft driven by the impulse of steam against the curved blades of a wheel

**under-inflated** - Not enough air inside an object

**utility** - A company providing services such as water, electricity or gas

**waste** - To use up or spend without real need

**windmill** - A mill operated by the winds rotation of large blades; used as a source of power



