Co-op Residential Electricity Usage

The following section contains charts and maps depicting co-op residential kWh usage trends and comparisons.
Co-op Residential Electric Usage
kWh/month

- >1,220 kWh
- 1,000 to 1,220 kWh
- <1,000 kWh

Map showing Co-op Residential Electric Usage across the United States with color coding for different usage levels.
High Residential Electric Usage
over 1,220 kWh/month

Co-ops in these areas have higher usage than most co-ops. They include the Dakotas where electricity is actively marketed; areas in the South where there is a great deal of summer air conditioning and areas of the country that have had traditionally low electric rates (TVA and the Pacific Northwest.)
Moderate Usage
from 1,000 to 1,220 kWh/month

median = 1,115 kWh
Lowest Usage
under 1,000 kWh/month

Low electricity usage may be due to less need for air conditioning in the summer or electric heat in the winter (availability of natural gas and other fuels). Less affluent households also tend to use less electricity as do areas with mostly seasonal sales.
Residential Electricity Usage is Higher in Co-op Areas

Electricity usage is much higher for co-ops than for other utilities because alternative heating fuels are often unavailable in rural areas.

Source: Form 7 data for 783 distribution co-ops and 2002 EIA data for IOUs and Municipals
The early years of the rural electric program saw huge gains in electricity usage as consumers added appliances and air conditioning to their homes. From 1948 to 1978, the average annual increase was over 7%. Since 1978 it has been under 1%. Though consumers continue to add great numbers of devices to their homes, today’s appliances continue to increase in efficiency.

Source: RUS data