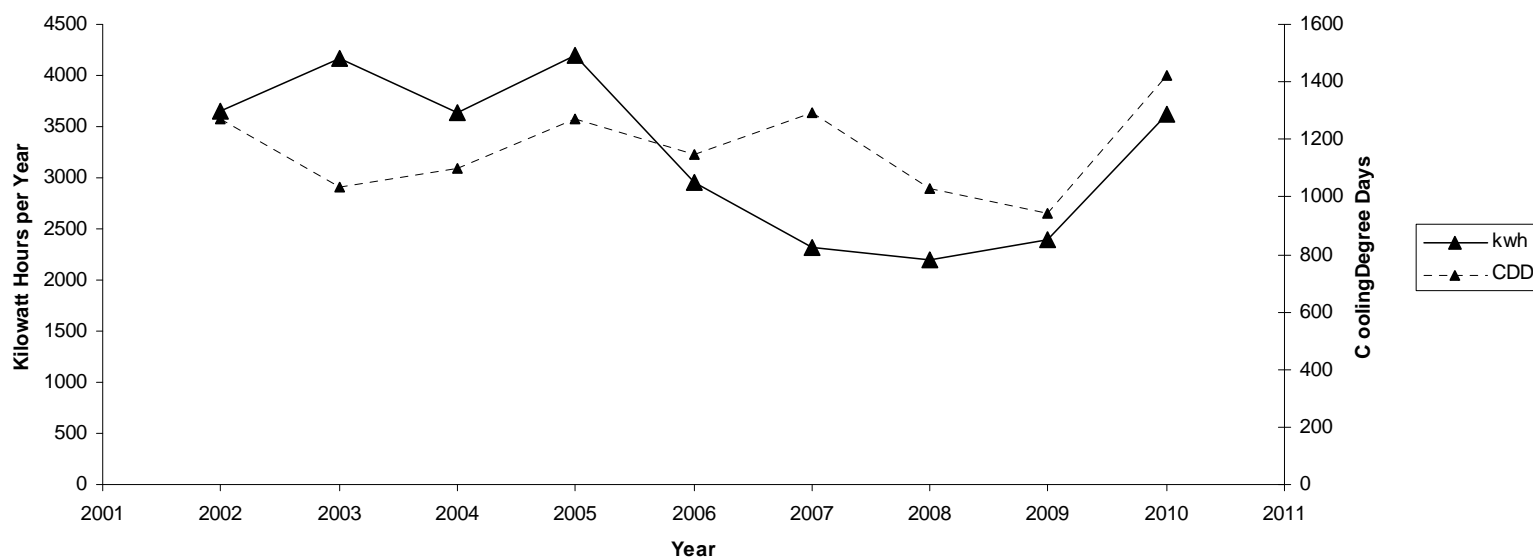


### Betsy's Electricity savings



#### Energy Trailblazer of the Month.

Betsy Johnson has reduced her electricity consumption dramatically since 2002. When she retired in 2003 she thought her energy consumption would go up but thanks to a number of easy steps and tracking her energy consumption, it has fallen. As you can see from the chart (based on Betsy's PEPCO bills and data from NOAA), Betsy reduced her electricity use by 43% between 2005 and 2009, even though cooling degree days stayed steady.

- She installed programmable thermostats with four set points for both heat and air conditioning and keeps her house comfortable when she's home,
- She sets her thermostat in winter to 62 in the mornings and gradually increases the temperature to 65
- When she uses air-conditioning she sets the temperature at 79 or 80.
- She replaced all her incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents,
- She put all her electronic devices on power strips and turns the power off when the devices aren't in use
- She hangs out her clothes to dry instead of using the dryer,
- She religiously turns off lights, and
- She has an ingenious way to minimize her air conditioning use in summer. When the air conditioning is off, she uses a large window exhaust fan in the morning to cool down the house then shuts all the windows to keep the heat out. In the evenings, she opens the windows again and uses the exhaust fan to cool her bedroom. Only on the hottest and most humid days does she use air conditioning.

This strategy keeps her energy use and her bills low. You can see how effective she is by looking at the 2010 data. That summer, someone house-sat for her while she was away all summer. The summer resident clearly didn't hew to Betsy's natural air

conditioning program and the rise in energy use is reflected fully in the annual tally. This guest cost Betsy around \$130 in excess electricity.

Betsy carefully tracks her monthly utilities bills and recently noticed a spike in the electricity bill. After investigating she discovered her refrigerator was not working properly. She immediately called a repairman who diagnosed the problem, saving Betsy enough over several months to cover his bill. Betsy's current challenge is to reduce her natural gas use which hasn't fallen nearly as much as her electricity use. She's gotten an on-demand water heater, for instance. She recommends that others in Town take the simple step of recording their gas and electricity use each month. It takes very little time and can result in tremendous savings.