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Energy Rated Small Appliances Save Money

Submitted by [WUSA9 Web Staff](#) ([profile/54581/wusa9-web-staff](#))
Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011, 8:36am

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BETHESDA, Md., (WUSA) -- Susan Marinelli wants to change the energy in her kitchen.

She starts with a trip to her local hardware store.

"I've had the same coffee maker for about 15 years. It's time for an upgrade," she says.

That upgrade is easier now, thanks to a first of its kind rating labels for small appliances.

"Up to know, there has never been any information on how much it costs to run a microwave oven, a coffee maker, a toaster oven and many other itmes," says John Jabara.

To get those numbers, his Bethesda-based [Savenia Labs](http://www.savenialabs.com/) teamed up with the world's largest electronic products and research center focused on electronics reliability house at the [University of Maryland](http://www.umd.edu/).

"You can look at an appliance and notice it's features, but it's very hard to know how much energy it's going to use," says the university's Center For Advanced Live Cycle Engineering Dr. Michael H. Azarian.

Researchers test everyday items in the same way you might use them. Testing coffee makers to see how much money it's costing you to percolate a full or half pot.

Results are clearly marked onthe products' labels to help people, like Susan, make a more informed decision.

Susan has already traded out her toaster oven, which will save her \$100 in energy costs. And, she plans to use the labels to replace all the small appliances in her house. That's \$1700 in savings over six years.

Savenia Lab's Jabara says, "A lot of the items, the energy cost is actually more than the item itself. And, then when you start to add them up, it really gets to be very significant."

And here is an example. The Mr. Coffee pot cost \$32.99. But the energy costs over five years add up to \$54.

Susan opts to pay more a Cuisinar model, \$99, to pay less in energy costs, just \$37.

"To know the full price of a product, not just what it cost me today, but what I'm still gonna be shelling out over time, I think this is really helpful," she says.

Keeping hundreds of dollars in her wallet, just by shopping smart.

Right now, you'll only find the energy rated tags in the Bethesda and Silver Spring Stronsniders stores.

[Savenia](http://www.savenialabs.com/) plans to roll them out natinowide next year.