



DON'T FORGET THE FISH TANK

Next to food and maintenance products, the biggest cost of maintaining an aquarium is the energy consumption required to run the equipment.

Filters, lights, power heads, heaters, protein skimmers, air pumps, water pumps, uv-filters etc., more or less constantly consume energy.

General Consumption

Based on a freshwater fish only aquarium at about 72F (22°C), the total consumption for a small tank (10 Gallons) is about 150 kWh a year (**around £24.50**). A medium tank (30 Gallons) will run between 150 - 200 kWh per year (**around £32.00**), while a large aquarium (55 Gallons) needs 200 - 400 kWh per year (**around £64.00**). These values are calculated while considering the basic equipment required and serve as an average only.

Heating The Aquarium

Heating an aquarium can be expensive. The larger the tank the more heat is required. A tropical fish environment usually requires a higher water temperature making it more expensive to heat compared to non-tropical fish tanks. For example, a 30 Gallon tank heated at 72F (22°C) will consume approx. 110 kWh per year (**around £17.50**). The same tank heated at 82F (28°C) will consume about 440 kWh per year (**around £70.00**), 4 times as much!

Aquarium Lighting

Lighting is the only component in the aquarium that doesn't run on a 24-hour shift. Furthermore, the lighting expenses can easily be controlled by the lighting time as well as the equipment used. The common fluorescent light bulb (15 - 40 Watts) that is provided with most hoods doesn't significantly add much cost (**2p to 7p for 10 hours per day**).

Planted and reef tanks with higher lighting requirements, can push running costs up considerably.

Additional Equipment

Water pumps start at 3 Watts and go up to 400 Watts (**from 1p to £1.50 per day**) depending on the gallon per hour (gph) rate.




Powerheads, air pumps and filters are low in consumption starting at only 3 Watts and generally not exceeding 25 - 50 Watts for the heavy duty models (**from 10p to 19p per day**).

Ways To Save

- Ask your Aquarium Supplier for advice on the minimum lighting and heating requirements for your set up. A planted tank may do just as well with a 100 watt bulb as a 150 watt bulb, saving a third on the total lighting cost.
- Use a timer for your lighting.
- It may be possible that the heater could be turned down by a degree or two without affecting the fish. In well heated environments a heater might not be necessary during the day or central-heating period.
- Water pumps and uv-filters can be reduced.
- Choosing energy efficient equipment can yield substantial savings in the long and sometimes even in the short run.

How do I contact the MEA to get further information or advice?

Office Hours: 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 4.30pm Friday

 Tel: (01624) 687687 or Fax: (01624) 687612
 www.manxelectricity.com or E-mail us at mea@gov.im
 Write to us at Manx Electricity Authority, PO Box 177, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM99 1PS



Save Energy, Save Money, Save the Environment

November 2010

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