

Waterford Energy Bureau - Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Fact Sheet No.6

THE ENERGY LABEL: How to choose energy efficient appliances that will save you money



Energy Efficient Appliances

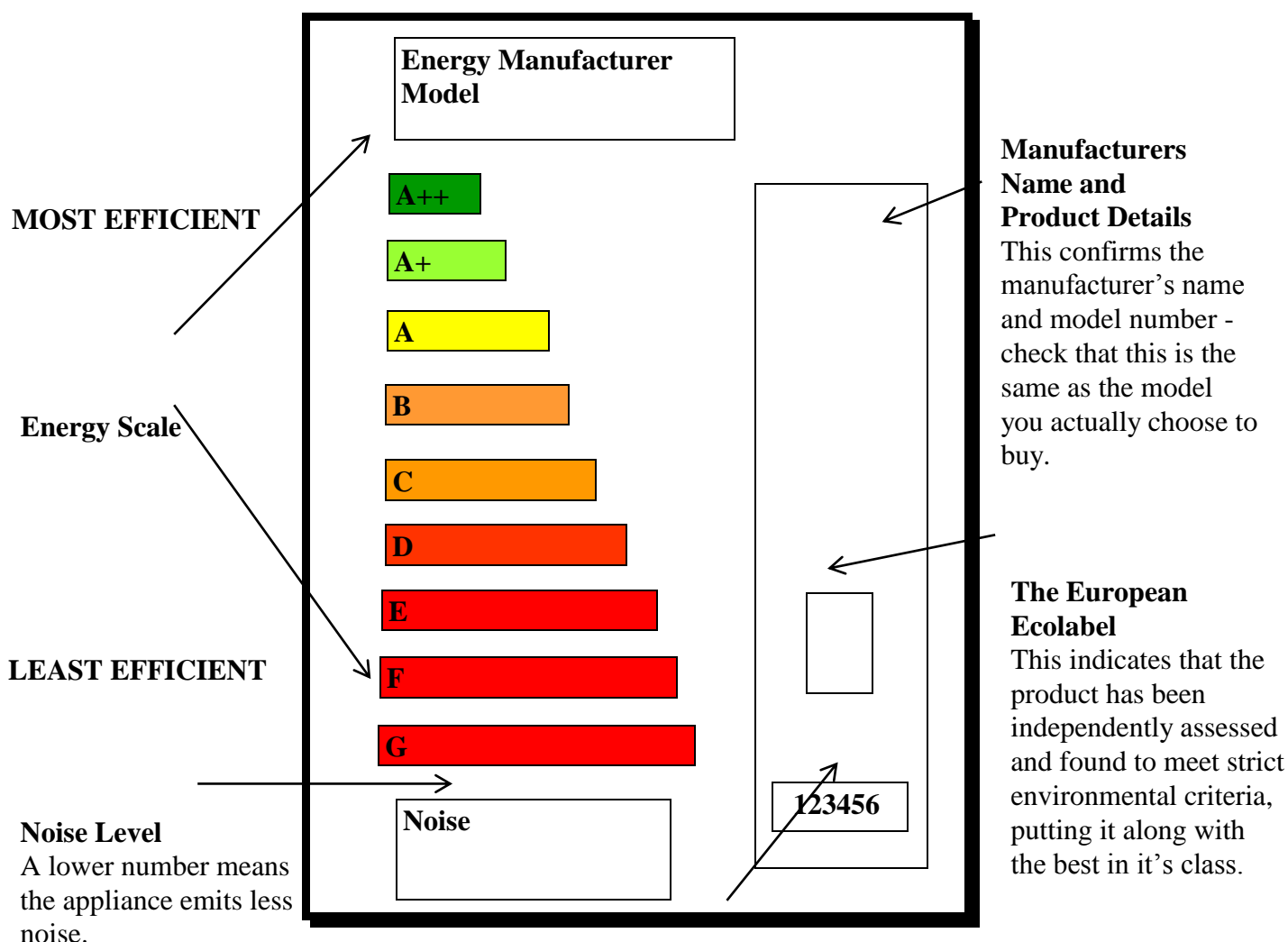
It is now possible to be selective when purchasing certain new appliances. By taking note of the energy label when making your purchase, you can choose products which have a lighter operating efficiency, saving you money on fuel bills.

The Energy Label

Energy efficiency - what do you get for your money? The more efficient the product, the less energy it needs to do the same job, and the more you get for your money.

This label is the highest achievable in Energy Saving Efforts for buildings.

Energy class A++ saves 40% more energy compared to "A" rated appliances



Running Cost of Appliance

This is shown as kWh per year (for refrigerators & freezers etc.) or as kWh per cycle (for washing machines and tumble driers). It is an estimate of how much electricity the product uses on standard settings. However, *actual* consumption will depend on how you use the appliance. For example, energy use may be reduced by selecting 'Economy' or 'Low Temperature' settings.

On the energy scale on the label “A” rated products are the most efficient and “G” rated products are the least efficient. So use the main “A-G” scale to find the best buy. For example, if you were buying a large fridge-freezer, choosing a “B” rated model instead of a similar “E” rated model could mean:-

- In one year - you save €35 in electricity
- In ten years - you save €350 in electricity

So, by choosing the most efficient model, you can save money on your electricity bills! Actual savings will, of course, depend on how you use the appliance and how much you pay for your electricity (the above example assumes you pay 19c per kWh - but check your electricity bill). Savings on running costs can be made on ALL energy efficient appliances, so you do your homework when buying appliances such as Television sets and Video recorders, even small items such as kettles etc.

You can save money by using economy and low temperature settings on washing machines, by spin-drying clothes well before you tumble dry, and by ensuring fridges and freezers are properly installed away from cookers and other sources of heat (see the manufacturer’s advice as well).

The Energy Labelling Regulations set out the national rules which implement the EU Directive on Energy Labelling (SI 366 of 2011 - European Union (Energy Labelling) Regulations 2011 and SI 261 of 2013 - European Union (Energy Labelling) (Amendment) Regulations 2013). The law applies to all Shops, Mail Order outlets and Rental/Hire operators. The scheme is policed by Trading Standards. Appliances that are covered by the law at present include: Fridges, Freezers, Washing Machines, Tumble Dryers and Washer/Dryers. The scheme also now includes Dishwashers and Low-energy lamps. Many gas appliance Retailers advertise running costs on Gas Fires and Water Heaters. These energy costs are again shown in kWh.

The following table gives some examples of the energy usage of household appliances
By using the Energy Label System you should do better than these

Fridge/Freezer	About 2kWh per day
Kettle	About 1kWh for every 8 litres of water boiled
22” Colour TV	About 1kWh for every 6 hours viewing
Automatic Washing Machine	A full cotton wash uses around 2½ kWh (at 90°C) A half-load synthetic wash uses less than 1 kWh (at 50°C)
Tumble Drier	A full load of synthetics can be dried for around 2kWh

The labels enable retailers to explain to their customers the differences in energy efficiency between product bands. This helps customers to make the choice that suits them.

The scheme also helps retailers to make their own selection from manufacturers who, under law, must provide this information.

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