



Flipping Physics Lecture Notes:  
Electric Power

<http://www.flippingphysics.com/electric-power.html>

Now we get to discuss *electric power*, which is the rate at which electric potential energy is converted to other types of energy such as heat, light, and sound.

$$P = \frac{dU}{dt} \Rightarrow P_{\text{elec}} = \frac{dU_{\text{elec}}}{dt} = \frac{d(q\Delta V)}{dt} = \frac{dq}{dt}\Delta V \Rightarrow P = I\Delta V$$

$$\& \Delta V = IR \Rightarrow P = I(IR) = I^2R$$

$$\& I = \frac{\Delta V}{R} \Rightarrow P = \left(\frac{\Delta V}{R}\right)^2 R = \frac{\Delta V^2}{R}$$

$$\Rightarrow P = I\Delta V = I^2R = \frac{\Delta V^2}{R}$$

A unit which is often used when it comes to electricity is the kilowatt-hour:

$$1kW \cdot hr \left( \frac{1W}{1000kW} \right) = 1000W \cdot hr = 1000 \left( \frac{J}{s} \right) hr \left( \frac{3600s}{1hr} \right) = 3.6 \times 10^6 J$$

In other words, the kilowatt-hour is a misnomer (or maybe just misleading). It sounds like a unit of power;

however, it is a unit of energy. And we know:  $1kW \cdot hr = 3.6MJ$

A light bulb is a common item used in physics. It is a resistor which converts electric potential energy to light, heat, and sound energy. The brightness of a light bulb increases with increasing power; therefore, the brightness of a light bulb is often used to demonstrate the power in an electric circuit. Speaking of electric circuits...