

PowerCost User Guide

A quick-start reference for installing, configuring, and using PowerCost to monitor electricity expenses.

Product overview

PowerCost allows you to view the real-time running electricity cost of your PC or Mac directly on your Stream Deck or Stream Deck Neo. By securely accessing native hardware sensors (such as Apple IOKit on macOS and equivalent low-level APIs on Windows), the plugin reads your live system wattage in the background and cross-references it with your chosen electricity rate.

Key benefits

- See your running costs continuously updated directly on a Stream Deck key.
- Stream Deck Neo support: display your running cost elegantly on the Neo Infobar.
- Global Pricing Engine: use pre-programmed national averages for 16 countries or enter your exact custom rate.
- Deep historical tracking: view projected hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly costs based on averaged historical usage, not just transient spikes.
- Data export: hold the export button to dump your live telemetry data to a CSV for spreadsheet analysis.
- Privacy-first: all processing and hardware monitoring happens entirely locally.

Requirements

- Windows 10 (version 1903 or later) or macOS 13 or later.
- Stream Deck 6.5 or later (Stream Deck 7.6 or later required for Neo Infobar support).
- Hardware sensor availability depends on your PC motherboard, Windows drivers/permissions, and specific Mac silicon.

Quick start

1. Install PowerCost and open the Stream Deck application.
2. Find the **PowerCost** category in the actions list.
3. Drag the **Power Cost** tile onto a Stream Deck key or onto the Stream Deck Neo Infobar area.
4. Select the key to open the Property Inspector.
5. In the **Pricing Mode** section, choose either **Country Average** (to pick from 16 built-in regional averages) or **Manual Price** to enter your exact electricity rate.
6. Set your **Time Period** (Hourly, Daily, Weekly, Monthly).
7. Configure the **Decimal Places** (default 4) for optimal readability based on your currency scale.

The tile will automatically begin polling your hardware wattage and update its title and/or the Infobar in real-time.

Using the Historical Exporter

PowerCost constantly logs your live wattage in the background to provide accurate time-period averages. You can export this raw data at any time:

1. Click on the Power Cost key in the Stream Deck app to open the Property Inspector.
2. Scroll to the bottom and click the **Export to Desktop** button.
3. A powercost_history.csv file will be generated on your desktop containing timestamps, raw wattage readings, applied prices, and calculated costs.
4. (Optional) Click **Clear History** to purge the local logs and start fresh.

Troubleshooting

The wattage seems stuck at 0 or is inaccurate:

Ensure you are running Stream Deck as an Administrator (on Windows) if your motherboard requires elevated permissions to read CPU package power. On macOS, no extra permissions are required for AppleSMC.

I don't see my country in the list:

The Global Pricing Engine includes averages for 16 major regions. If your country isn't listed, simply switch the **Pricing Mode** to **Manual** and input your exact cost per kWh from your utility provider.

The Stream Deck Neo Infobar isn't updating:

Ensure you are running Stream Deck desktop version 7.6 or later.