

SMART METERS – What you need to know

- The installation of smart meters is a province wide government initiative for energy conservation across Ontario which will see a smart meter installed for every consumer by the end of 2010. Every local utility must comply with this government legislation.
- This technology will allow more fair and realistic energy prices to be associated with the time that it is consumed. Current meters can only measure the total amount of electricity used over an entire billing period and have to be read manually. This results in some consumers subsidizing others. Smart meters will record consumption hour by hour and automatically send that consumption to Orillia Power so that you will be billed for the power you use based on the time of use.
- The smart meter will allow the consumer to monitor their own usage. The time of use billing structure will encourage residents to shift their electrical demands to less expensive, off-peak times such as weekends which will reduce Ontario's reliance on generation from other forms of generation such as coal.
- Smart meters can save you money. How much, depends on how much you reduce your consumption during peak times. If you are energy conscious, your conservation will reward you with lower electricity bills.
- Shifting usage patterns and reducing demand has the potential to reduce the amount of capital intensive new generation that must be built.

Orillia Power will be commencing installation of smart meters in the summer of 2009. Investigation of various technologies being offered to select the most cost effective installation is currently being undertaken. Further updates will be available as the project progresses.

Further information on smart meters:

www.oeb.gov.on.ca
www.energy.gov.on.ca
www.smartmetersontario.ca
www.ieso.ca
www.powerwise.ca

Did you know...

When you use reduce your electricity use, you save twice?

When you reduce the amount of electricity you use, you save two times. You not only save on the cost of electricity, but also on the cost of delivery.

Each kilowatt hour you consume has a delivery charge that goes along with it. When you conserve your electricity usage, you also benefit from a lower delivery charge.

For no cost/low cost energy saving tips, go to www.PowerSaver.ca

A little piece of history



Swift Rapids Generating Station, located at Lock 43 on the Trent Severn Waterway is the oldest and largest of Orillia Power Corporations' generating stations.

Construction began in 1913 and the first power was transmitted in November of 1917. With full load water flows, this plant is able to produce 8,000 kW of electricity.

Over the years, numerous upgrades have been performed on this plant to preserve its integrity and keep the current flowing.

NEW REGULATED PRICE PLAN (RPP)

Starting November 1st, consumers who buy their electricity from their utility will pay 5.0 cents per kilowatt hours for consumption below the threshold each month, then 5.9 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity used above the threshold each month. These prices are reflected on the "Electricity" line of the consumers' bills.

For residential consumers, the monthly threshold for the lower price is set at 1,000 kWh per month during the winter season from November 1st to April 30th and at 600 kWh per month for the summer season of May 1st to October 31st.

On average, this represents a 4.8% decrease in electricity commodity prices.

For non-residential consumers eligible for the price plan, the threshold remains at 750 kWh per month for the entire year.

Consumers who currently buy their electricity from a retailer (or who recently signed a new contract) and are paying their contract price will continue to do so.

The Regulated Price Plan applies to residential and small business consumers who use under 250,000 kWh/year and who buy their electricity from a utility. The OEB set these prices based on a forecast of the expected cost to supply RPP consumers from November 1, 2007 to October 31, 2008.

A safety message ...

WINTER POWER FAILURES

Winter power failures, often caused by freezing rain, sleet storms and/or high winds can damage power lines and equipment. If there is a power failure, check your own circuit breaker panel or fuse box. If the problem is not in the breaker or fuse box, check to see if the service wires leading to the house are damaged or down. If there are wires down, stay well back and immediately call Orillia Power.

Turn off all tools, appliances and electronic equipment and turn the thermostat for the home heating system down for the following reasons:

- tools and appliances left on will start up immediately upon restoration of service. Turning them off will prevent injury, damage or fire.
- If a power surge follows startup, it could damage sensitive electronic equipment such as computers, microwaves and VCR's. Protecting these appliances with a surge-proof power bar is a smart and inexpensive precaution.
- Power can be restored more easily when there is not a heavy load on the electrical system.
- Leave one light switch on, so you will know when the power is restored.
- Don't use charcoal or gas barbecues, camping heaters or home generators indoors as they give off deadly carbon monoxide gases.
- Use proper candle holders & never leave candles unattended. Keep a supply of batteries on hand.

ELECTRICITY IS A PART OF OUR EVERYDAY LIFE AND MUST BE TREATED WITH RESPECT.

REMEMBER THAT ELECTRICITY ALWAYS TAKES THE EASIEST PATH TO THE GROUND & WE DON'T WANT THAT PATH TO BE YOU!

THE SAFE WAY IS THE RIGHT WAY!

**ORILLIA POWER
CELEBRATES 5 YEARS OF
NO LOST TIME INJURIES –
NOV 15, 2007**



Energy Saving Tips

Orillia Power is committed to helping customers to become more energy efficient.

New Energy-Efficient Ideas

- A power bar with a timer automatically stops the flow of electricity on devices you don't use throughout the day. It reduces the phantom load for computers, kitchen appliances and even chargers for cell phones, cameras and MP3 players. Why draw electricity when you don't need it?
- Programmable thermostats for baseboard heaters allow the control the comfort zone in each room separately. You can also program the thermostat to lower the temperature when you are away or at night. Properly programmed thermostats can easily pay for themselves within the first year of use.
- Make a permanent change for the better with ENERGY STAR[®] fixtures. Available in a variety of designs from floor lamps to wall sconces, there's a fixture for virtually every room in your home. Most fixtures come complete with a bulb that lasts 10,000 hours.
- T8 fluorescent tube lighting uses 1/3 less electricity than old fluorescent fixtures.

Taking Control

- Dimmer switches help you save electricity while increasing the span of your lighting fixture. Be sure to check older existing dimmers. If they are warm to the touch, they should be replaced as they're not saving any electricity at all.
- Motion sensors – an effortless way to save money. Outdoors, they are great for security. Indoors, they're perfect for playrooms, closets, laundry rooms – areas where you may accidentally leave lights on.
- Timers – can be installed as wall switches with a countdown function, or use them to control decorative outdoor lighting, block engine heaters, hot tubs and more.

Source: Ontario Power Authority
www.everykilowattcounts.com

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