



**POWER.
SMARTER.**



Smart Meters and Time-of-Use Pricing

Ontario has introduced smart meters – along with a “time-of-use” electricity price structure – to help you manage your electricity costs, while helping Ontario to build a more efficient, more environmentally sound electricity system. Smart meters have been installed in residences and small businesses across Ontario and make it possible to introduce time-of-use pricing to our customers.

A smart meter electronically tracks how much electricity a home or small business uses and when it is used. With that information, electricity prices can vary at different times of the day, encouraging you to think more about how and when you use electricity. This detailed information appears on your electricity bill to help you manage your electricity costs.

Time-of-use pricing encourages Ontarians to shift some electricity use to off-peak hours. By reducing peak demand, the province can reduce its use of the less environmentally attractive resources that are called on when demand is high. In the long run, lower peak demand will mean less need for new generating facilities and transmission and distribution infrastructure, lowering costs for all Ontarians.



**Peterborough
Distribution Inc.**

Your Partner in Energy Conservation

705-748-6900

www.peterboroughutilities.ca

www.PDIconserves.ca

INTRODUCING TIME-OF-USE RATES

*A Quick Guide
for Business*



www.ontario.ca/powersmarter

www.ieso.ca/house



Time-of-Use Rates

Time-of-use pricing is a rate structure that reflects the costs associated with electricity production throughout the day. Prices rise and fall over the course of the day and tend to drop overnight and on weekends, depending on demand and the availability of supply:

- Off-peak is when demand is low and less expensive sources of electricity are used.
- Mid-peak is when the cost of energy and demand are moderate.
- On-peak is when demand is highest and more expensive forms of electricity production are required.

Time-of-use pricing provides you with a new way to manage energy costs. For example, you may be able to shift some of your electricity use to mid-peak and off-peak times when it is less expensive.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) sets the daily and seasonal time-of-use prices and periods and reviews the prices every May 1 and November 1. You can see current prices at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca.

NOTE: If you purchase your electricity through a retailer, you will continue to pay the price outlined in your contract.

Changes to your Bill

Bill changes under time-of-use prices are dependent on your electricity usage characteristics (both how much and when you use electricity). It's impossible to generalize what the effects to businesses will be given that there are so many different types of businesses.

Studies show that most customers' bills will change by only a small percentage based on their current consumption patterns. Some will pay a bit less and some a bit more, depending on when they use electricity the most.

If you consume electricity primarily in on-peak and mid-peak periods during weekdays and have no opportunity to shift your usage, there will likely be an increase in the electricity line item of your bill. However, if your business has equipment that operates 24/7 (such as refrigeration, lighting or exhaust fans), electricity costs would tend to balance out relative to today's prices, given that overnight and on weekends time-of-use prices are lower.

The electricity line on your bill will show the electricity you consumed in each of the three time-of-use periods: on-peak, mid-peak and off-peak. A comparison chart will show the average electricity you used per day in each of the time-of-use periods.

Managing your Costs

With a smart meter and time-of-use rates, you may be able to take advantage of lower rates by switching some of your energy use to mid- and off-peak periods. There are three main strategies for reducing your energy costs:

- First, learn about your electricity consumption patterns by viewing your electricity usage on our website – you may be surprised at how much electricity you use and when.
- Second, focus on getting more efficient and conserving electricity across all time-of-use periods if possible.
- Third, take action to shift your electricity use from on-peak to off-peak or mid-peak periods when possible. The most energy-intensive appliances are those that heat or cool air or water – focus on shifting them first.

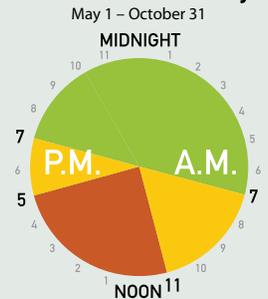
Visit www.PDIconserves.ca to find out more about our energy efficiency programs for business.

Time-of-Use Periods

With time-of-use pricing, electricity prices vary by time of day, day of week (weekday or weekend), and season (winter or summer). There are three time-of-use periods:

- On-peak (highest cost)
- Mid-peak
- Off-peak (lowest cost)

Summer-Weekdays



Weekends & Holidays



Winter-Weekdays



The highest energy prices in Summer occur over the afternoon, largely due to greater air-conditioning use.

Demand is lower on weekends and statutory holidays – as well as overnight – so these periods are always off-peak.

Energy prices peak twice during the day mainly due to space heating, plus increased lighting and appliance use.

We can help

Our online tools are designed to help you make decisions about shifting your consumption, conserving energy and controlling costs. These tools can be accessed through the customer self-service web portal at www.peterboroughutilities.ca, which gives you secure access to your consumption data, account balances, payment history, and e-billing. As of April 2012, you will also be able to view your electricity usage in hourly, daily and monthly increments.

