

Make Time-of-Use rates work for your business.

Have you noticed recent changes to your electricity bill? This brochure will help you understand how Time-of-Use rates may have changed your bill and the steps you can take to manage your energy costs.

If you have received a higher than usual electricity bill, it may be because you use more electricity during on-peak price periods. Any steps you can take to reduce electricity use during those hours will help reduce your overall costs.

Be aware of the ways you use electricity:

- Go online to your local distribution company's website to view your hourly consumption data. Here you'll see when you use energy the most.
- Think about how you use electricity. What can be done at different times of the day or week when prices are lower? Are there simple ways to reduce electricity use without impacting your business?
- It's important for you and your employees to be aware of the various Time-of-Use periods. Display them for everyone to see.
- Review the checklist inside this brochure for more energy saving ideas.

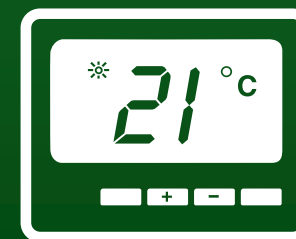


To find out more about Time-of-Use rates and Ontario's smart meter program, visit: www.eriethamespowerlines.com or www.ontario.ca/powersmarter

Power. Smarter.



MANAGING YOUR ELECTRICITY COSTS *For Small Businesses*

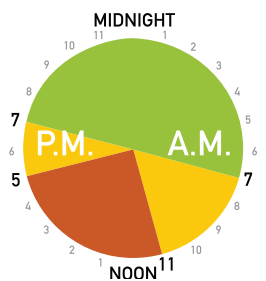


Why Time-of-Use rates?

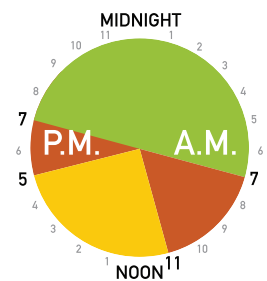
What you can do to reduce electricity costs.

Time-of-Use prices reflect the fact that the cost to produce electricity changes throughout the day and the week. When demand is low, less expensive generators can be used, leading to the off-peak electricity price. When demand rises, more expensive forms of electricity production are called upon, making prices higher.

Time-of-Use pricing encourages consumers to conserve or shift electricity use during peak hours.



Summer - Weekdays
(May 1 - October 31)



Winter - Weekdays
(November 1 - April 30)



Weekends and Statutory Holidays

☹ **Off-peak**

☹☹ **Mid-peak**

☹☹☹ **On-peak**

Note: Visit the Ontario Energy Board at www.ontarioenergyboard.ca for current pricing.

First Steps

All small businesses are different, but most can lower their costs by improving energy efficiency and conserving electricity. You may also want to look for opportunities to shift electricity use from on-peak to mid- and off-peak periods.

Switch off unnecessary lights or use a motion sensor. Use windows to let in natural light.

- Use a programmable thermostat or an occupancy sensor to ensure heating or air conditioning is only on when needed. Air filters should also be replaced regularly to reduce the energy needed to move air.
- Make use of energy-saving features on equipment such as standby and sleep mode.
- Turn off computers and monitors when not in use.
- To battle “phantom load,” use a power bar to operate equipment and switch it off when the equipment is not in use.

If you have heavy equipment:

- Ensure equipment is properly maintained to avoid energy loss. For example, clean refrigeration unit condenser and evaporator coils regularly.
- Use the correct equipment settings for the job. Air compressors usually run at high settings, which is often unnecessary.
- Outside business hours, ensure everything is shut off (excluding security and safety equipment).
- Invest in adjustable speed drives on pumps, fans and other motors. Adjustable speed drives can reduce energy consumption and prolong motor life.
- See if you can change production processes to run during off-peak or even mid-peak hours.

Financial Incentives

- Contact your local distribution company to sign up for the Direct Install Initiative, a program that provides small businesses with up to \$1,000 in energy-efficient lighting upgrades. Visit: www.saveonenergy.ca.

Next Steps

Develop a long-term energy strategy for your business:

- Start with an energy audit to identify areas where you’re wasting energy.
- Hire an energy-efficiency professional to help find new ways to use less electricity.
- Train staff to understand and identify ways to use less electricity in the workplace.
- Monitor your progress and share results with staff.
- The Equipment Replacement Incentive Initiative (ERII), provides financial incentives based on energy efficient upgrades for all commercial businesses. For more information, contact Erie Thames Powerlines, or visit: www.saveonenergy.ca.

Understanding your electricity bill

A lot of factors can impact your electricity costs. Aside from new Time-of-Use rates, there may be other reasons your bill may have changed.

- Compare your current and past electricity bills online. Has your usage pattern changed over time? This may be due to:
 - New electrical equipment or recent renovations.
 - Increased sales or production.
 - Extreme weather conditions – such as cold snaps and heat waves – which require additional heating or air conditioning.
- For some customers who are used to receiving estimated bills, note that with a smart meter tracking your consumption, your bill is now based on actual data.

The electricity or commodity cost accounts for about half of your total bill. Other costs include delivery, regulatory and debt retirement charges, some of which are based on the amount of electricity used or on a fixed monthly fee. Since most charges depend on the amount of electricity consumed, conserving electricity will help you save.