

Tips for Shifting Your Energy Use

Overview

Customers who save the most money on Time of Use are those who can shift day and evening electricity use (On-Peak and Mid-Peak) to nights or other Off-Peak hours.

To save money versus the Basic Service rate, plan to use at least 50 percent of your electricity during the Off-Peak period, and no more than 20 percent during the On-Peak period.

How to shift

The amount of electricity you purchase each month is the result of how much each appliance or system in your home uses (watts) times the length of time you use them (hours). For example, a typical washing machine will use 1 kilowatt for about an hour, or 1kWh.

The biggest energy users in a typical month are water heaters and heating & cooling systems (depending on season), which can account for as much as 50 percent of your energy use.

Shift these and as many of your other major energy-using activities as possible to off-peak hours, either manually or by using programmable thermostats and timers:

- Heating and cooling – Use smart thermostats to set your system to pre-heat or pre-cool your home during off-peak hours. For example, set your heat to warm your home before 6 a.m., then turn it down until 10 p.m.
- Dishwashing and laundry – Use the delay function to start loads after 10 p.m., or save laundry for Sundays. Wash laundry in cold. (Worried it won't clean your clothes? [Watch this video.](#)) In summer, dry laundry on lines.
- Water heaters – Install a timer on your water heater. During winter set it to turn off at 6 a.m. and on again at 10 a.m. You will still have plenty of hot water for your morning shower; it just won't reheat until 10 a.m.
- Electric vehicles – set the time to charge after 10 p.m. and save even more over gasoline vehicles.



Biggest electricity users (Average monthly usage in kWh.)

Heating and cooling

- Electric heat pump (530-775)
- Electric furnace (1463)
- Baseboard, ceiling or in-wall heat in a home (1102)
- Baseboard, ceiling or in-wall, apts./condos/townhomes (800 x each outside wall)
- Central air (300)
- High-efficiency room A/C (99)

Electric water heaters

- Standard (300)
- Heat Pump (180)

Other

- Swimming pool pump (336)
- 400 gallon hot tub (260)
- Refrigerator (59-120)
- Standalone freezer (55-110)
- Dehumidifier (99)
- Clothes dryer (80)