Home Energy Savings

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CUB Facts

ComEd’s Peak Time Savings Program

Most of us pay a rigid rate for electricity that hardly ever changes. But new advanced meters open the door for flexible, money-saving electricity plans such as Peak Time Savings (PTS). It gives participants a credit for reducing electricity use during certain high-demand “peak” times on hot summer days. CUB supports the program because it carries no risk, and customers can earn money off their bill while positively impacting the entire grid.

Who can enroll in Peak Time Savings?
Any ComEd customer with a new digital meter can enroll, with two exceptions. Customers enrolled in the Smart Ideas Central AC Cycling or on a net metering program CANNOT participate.

How does it work?
Under the program, ComEd gives you a bill credit for reducing electricity use during “peak times” on a few summer days when power demand is highest. The Peak Time Savings credit will appear as dollars off your total amount due in the “Miscellaneous” section of your bill (see image below). The amount you earn back will be based on your typical usage compared with what you used during one of these peak times.

How do I enroll in Peak Time Savings?
Call ComEd at 1-844-852-0347, or visit the “Peak Time Savings” page at www.ComEd.com/pts

What are “Peak Time Savings Hours” and when will they happen?
“Peak Time Savings Hours” are periods on hot summer days when ComEd will give participants the option of delaying heavy power usage to earn bill credits. ComEd says that typically a utility will call three to five Peak Time Savings periods per year. These savings periods will typically occur on summer days, usually for a few hours between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

How will I know when Peak Time Savings Hours occur?
Once enrolled, you will choose to have notifications sent to you by phone call, text message or email. You will receive a message from ComEd on the day Peak Time Savings hours occur—no earlier than 9 a.m. and at least 30 minutes before the period begins.

When does Peak Time Savings begin?
You may call now and enroll for the summer of 2016. There is no cost to enroll and no penalty for exiting early.

Can I enroll in Peak Time Savings even if I have an alternative supplier for electricity?
Yes, if you have enrolled with an alternative supplier for your electricity supply, you are still eligible to enroll in ComEd’s Peak Time Savings program.

Are there any ComEd customers who cannot participate?
At this time, customers on ComEd’s AC Cycling program and those participating in net metering can-
not also join the Peak Time Savings Program. AC Cycling rewards customers with bill credits for allowing the utility to remotely cycle their central air conditioner on and off. Net metering allows consumers to sell renewable energy they generate back to the utility.

Customers without a digital smart meter also cannot participate in PTS.

**How much money can I save through Peak Time Savings?**

The program rewards participants with a $1 credit for every kilowatt-hour they reduce their power usage. ComEd will determine the total amount of a customer’s credit using a formula based on his or her typical usage history versus what the customer actually used during a designated “peak time” period.

While exact savings estimates are not available in the first year of the program, ComEd said customers could earn a credit of $1 to $12 during a peak period by combining several simple actions, such as setting the thermostat 4 degrees higher and delaying use of the dishwasher, clothes dryer, vacuum, lights or electronics. (See ComEd chart below.)

**What if I don’t reduce my electricity usage during Peak Time Savings Hours?**

Customers who choose not to reduce their power usage won’t be penalized. They simply won’t get a credit that day. However they can participate in future “peak time” periods.

**How is Peak Time Savings different than Hourly Pricing and Time of Use rates?**

ComEd’s Hourly Pricing program and Time of Use Rates offered by some alternative suppliers are other examples of pricing plans that take advantage of digital smart meters. Customers enrolled in Hourly Pricing pay an electricity rate that can change by the hour, based on the wholesale electricity market. Time of Use customers pay rates that may change for certain set periods of the day or week.

Under these programs, if you can shift heavy electricity usage to lower-demand periods when prices are lower, you have the potential to save money. These could be excellent programs for households that have the flexibility to shift their power usage to certain times. However, there is some risk, since you pay for electricity used during higher-priced times, as well.

Peak Times savings customers aren’t given special rates according to time of day or the day of the week. They just receive a credit if they are able to shift their usage on certain summer days to lower-demand times. If they choose not to do that, they are not penalized with a higher rate. They just don’t get the credit.

Hourly Pricing and Time of Use customers can take part in the Peak Time Savings program, provided they are not also part of AC Cycling or net metering programs.

**What can I do to lower my electricity usage?**

You can find a variety of tips at CUBEnergySaver.com, CUB’s free online tool that helps consumers build a money-saving energy plan customized for their home. The service tracks actual savings and rewards participants with gift cards if they are able to reduce their energy usage and save money.
ComEd’s Hourly Pricing Program

What is the “Hourly Pricing” program?
Illinois is first in the nation to launch a statewide residential hourly pricing program, which offers Ameren and ComEd customers a new way to pay for electricity. While it’s not right for everyone, the program could help cut power costs for those willing and able to change how and when they use major appliances, such as the air conditioner, dishwasher, clothes dryer, and dehumidifier. The program also helps reduce demand for pollution-causing coal-fired power plants and it can help prevent blackouts by reducing stress on the electricity system during “peak” times, when power usage and prices are at their highest. While savings aren’t guaranteed, participants in the program have cut the supply portion of their power bills by an average of about 15 percent.

How do I learn more about Hourly Pricing?
ComEd’s hourly pricing program: Goto https://hourlypricing.comed.com, or call 1-888-207-7787. The program is managed by Elevate Energy, a Chicago-based nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people save energy and money.

How does hourly pricing work?
ComEd traditionally charges their residential customers a fixed electric rate that changes only by the season (winter or summer). However, the hourly pricing program bills customers at a price that changes each hour according to the actual market price.
For example, the summer market price may dip to about 2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) just after midnight, when electricity usage is at its lowest. However, as the day progresses, demand for power could push the price to 13 cents per kWh—or much more— during “peak” electricity-usage times in the late afternoon and early evening. (Winter prices tend to be highest later in the evening.)
Typically, the average hourly market price over a year is lower than the standard utility flat rates. (See the chart on the next page.) The key to saving money in the hourly pricing program is reducing your electricity usage during those “peak” times, when market power prices are at their highest.

How can I save money in the program?
The Hourly Pricing program gives you a number of tools to help you adjust your electricity-usage habits. If the price is expected to climb above a certain predetermined level (14 cents per kWh), you will be called or e-mailed the night before, allowing you to change your power usage the next day to avoid any high-price times. You can also lower your price alert threshold to 10 cents per kWh if preferred.
On a regular basis, you can plan your energy usage by checking the “day-ahead” prices—a highly accurate estimate of the approaching day’s hourly prices—either by phone or via the Internet.
The program also will provide tips on cutting your energy costs and personalized online account information to track whether or not you are saving under the program.
**Hourly vs. Fixed-rate Prices**

This is a snapshot of a random summer day. It shows how the market-based hourly price of electricity shoots high above or dips far below the traditional utility fixed rate. Typically, the average hourly market price over the year is lower than the standard utility fixed rate.

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**What is “Load Guard”?**

Load Guard is a free, optional program for a limited number of hourly pricing customers who own their homes and have central air conditioning. With “Load Guard,” customers are able to automate their central air conditioners to turn off for 15 minutes, then on for 15 minutes, and so on during two-hour periods of high prices. Customers can choose to enter into this “conservation mode” when power prices hit either 10 cents per kWh (called the Green Level, for people who want to make more of an environmental impact) or 14 cents per kWh (called the Blue Level). Once you enroll in Load Guard, you can just choose a price level and stick with it, or you can change the setting for the next day. (In fact, you even can choose not to activate the program for the next day.)

Typically, Load Guard isn’t expected to change a home’s temperature dramatically—maybe as little as 1-3 degrees. It uses the same technology as ComEd’s central air conditioning cycling program. In this program, a special device is attached to the central air conditioner, allowing the utility to send remote signals to a home to “cycle” the flow of power to the cooling unit (i.e., to turn the cooling on and off) at peak times of energy usage.

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**Is the hourly pricing program right for my household?**

If you consistently use above 400 kWh in a month or have a monthly electric bill that is more than $40, this program could be right for you. It’s perfect for people who want to take more responsibility for their electricity usage and are curious about how to cut their power bills by changing when they use their electricity.

The program isn’t right for people with relatively small bills, people who rely on medical equipment, and those who prefer the simplicity of paying a fixed rate for power. Others, such as senior citizens or families with small children may not be willing or able to change their electricity usage patterns because of family responsibilities or health concerns. Such customers may need to...
use their dishwasher or air conditioning often during peak power-usage times, when the market price of power at that moment could be well beyond the regular utility flat rate.

**What are the requirements of the program?**
The program requires a minimum 12-month commitment. It also requires a special meter that reads electricity usage on an hourly basis. The meter, which has to be accessible to the power company, will be installed at no charge. ComEd is currently authorized to accept 110,000 customers into the program.

**How will my electric bill look different?**
You will pay all the charges on your electric bill now, with one difference: You won’t pay ComEd’s standard per-kilowatt-hour electricity rate. Remember, under hourly pricing, you could be charged a vastly different rate for each hour of electricity usage over the course of a month. Your bill will include the number of kilowatt-hours you used over the course of the billing period and a total cost for that electricity. ComEd customers who want more detail will be able to find an online breakdown of how much electricity they used and the rate they paid each hour over that period at [https://hourlypricing.comed.com](https://hourlypricing.comed.com). On the website, you can also view a comparison of what you would have paid on your utility’s standard rates versus what you paid in the hourly pricing program. You can also request this bill comparison by mail.

**Hourly Tips for Saving**
Things you can do to save money and energy during expensive peak hours.

- Temporarily change your central air conditioner to a warmer temperature. If you have a window air conditioner, turn it off or put it on a warmer setting.
- If the swimming pool is off-limits, you can go for a walk or take a nap.
- If the swimming pool is already open to you, plan a trip to the beach or a pool during the peak hours.
- You also can go to an air conditioned public space such as a movie house, museum, an art gallery, a shopping mall, or library.
- If you have an electric stove or oven, grill or enjoy a cool meal like a sandwich or salad.
- If possible, use energy-guzzling appliances like the dishwasher, washer, and dryer and basement dehumidifier, in the morning or evening when prices are lower.

CUBFacts

Smart Ideas(R) Energy Efficiency Program for ComEd Customers

**New Appliance and Smart Thermostat Rebates Available!**

Discounts on Energy Efficient Lighting
You can receive instant in-store discounts on select ENERGY STAR® certified CFLs and LEDs. Look for the ComEd “Lower Price” sticker to save on a variety of energy-efficient light bulbs at participating retail stores. No coupon is required—prices shown reflect the instant discount.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abt Electronics</th>
<th>Lowe’s</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ace Hardware</td>
<td>Meijer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Batteries Plus Bulbs</td>
<td>Menards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costco (members only)</td>
<td>Sam’s Club (members only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deals</td>
<td>Schnucks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dollar Tree</td>
<td>Target</td>
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<td>Family Dollar</td>
<td>True Value</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodwill</td>
<td>Walgreens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Habit for Humanity</td>
<td>Walmart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Depot</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewel Osco</td>
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</table>

For specific retailer locations, visit ComEd.com/LightingRetailers. Limit of 16 bulbs per customer.

Fridge & Freezer Recycling
ComEd is no longer accepting Fridge & Freezer Recycling appointments for the indefinite future. If you have questions, call 855-433-2700. Other options for disposing of an old appliance include contacting the local waste management company for your area, or contacting a private garbage hauler or scrap metal dealer for assistance.

Energy Efficiency Loans
Qualify for special financing on the purchase and installation of approved high efficiency products. Utility Energy Efficiency Loans provide financing for eligible homeowners, owners of residential buildings of 50 units or less and owners of small business buildings. Your loan payment is conveniently added to your monthly ComEd bill.

Eligibility
- Be a ComEd homeowner, duplex owner, condominium owner or residential building (with up to four units) owner.
- Be a current ComEd customer with an active ComEd account number.
- Purchase an eligible product from a participating contractor or retailer.
- Have a credit score of 640 or greater if you are a residential customer.

Program Details
You must pre-qualify for your loan prior to the purchase of qualifying products. The interest rate is currently at 5.74% and 5.99% for multi-family and small business loans. Find out more information and pre-qualify for your loan by applying at ILEnergyLoan.com.

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www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org
Residential Financing is currently available for Energy Star Refrigerators, High Efficiency Central Air Conditioners, and Weatherization (*all-electric homes only)

**Central AC Cycling**
ComEd will give you $5 or $10 off your monthly electric bill between June and September for allowing the utility to remotely cycle your central air-conditioner off and on during the hottest days of the year.

Only the compressor gets cycled off. The fan will continue to circulate already cooled air, so you may not even notice a difference in your home. But such programs can make a big difference by reducing electricity demand on hot summer days to prevent power outages, lower rates, and help improve the environment.

You can choose between two cycling options:

1.) 50 percent
   Time: Weekdays (excluding holidays), 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
   Unit cycles off: Maximum of 15 minutes every half hour (if needed)
   You receive: $5 credit/month per household, June 1 through September 30. The total credit will be $20.

2.) 100 percent (if someone in your household is home during most of the day or has a medical condition this option is not recommended).
   Time: Weekdays (excluding holidays), 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
   Unit cycles off: One continuous 3-hour period during any weekday (if needed).
   You receive: $10 credit per month per household, June 1 through September 30. The total credit will be $40.

To participate in the program, call 800-986-0070 or enroll online at [www.comed.com/accycling](http://www.comed.com/accycling).

**Rebates**
ComEd offers rebates for qualifying, energy-efficient appliances, high-efficiency central air conditioners and heat pumps, weatherization improvements and more.

Review eligibility requirements and complete rebate applications (online and printable) at [comed.com/home-savings/rebates](http://comed.com/home-savings/rebates).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rebate Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Air Conditioner</td>
<td>≥ 16 Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER)</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Air Conditioner</td>
<td>≥ 14.5 SEER</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Source Heat Pump</td>
<td>≥16 SEER</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Source Heat Pump</td>
<td>≥14.5 SEER</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump</td>
<td>≥ 17 SEER and ≥ 9.5 HSPF supplementing an electric resistance heating system</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump</td>
<td>≥ 17 SEER and ≥ 9.5 HSPF supplementing an air source heat pump</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace Blower Motor (ECM)</td>
<td>Factory-Installed</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace Blower Motor (ECM)</td>
<td>Upgraded fan in an existing furnace or air handler</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat Pump Water Heater (when purchased through your contractor)</td>
<td>&lt; 55 Gallons</td>
<td>$500</td>
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</table>
## Appliance Rebates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENERGY STAR® Appliance</th>
<th>Size Requirement</th>
<th>Rebate Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
<td>≥ 7.75 Cubic Feet</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freezer</td>
<td>≥ 7.75 Cubic Feet</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes Washer</td>
<td>No size restriction</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Clothes Dryer</td>
<td>≥ 4.4 Cubic Feet</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Purifier</td>
<td>No size restriction</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Thermostat Rebates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rebate Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Contractor-Installed Smart Thermostat  | Rebate is limited to these products: ecobee3, Honeywell Lyric, Nest Learning Thermostat | $100 or $125  
*Additional $20 Rebate available for qualifying Nicor, Peoples Gas, & North Shore Gas customers |
|                                        | Qualifying product must be installed by a professional contractor and registered with the manufacturer July 6, 2015 through May 31, 2016. If purchased and installed July 6, 2015 – October 4, 2015 qualifies for $100 rebate. If purchased and installed October 5, 2015 – May 31, 2016 qualifies for $125 rebate. |
| Self-Installed Smart Thermostat        | Rebate is limited to these two products: ecobee3 and Nest Learning Thermostat | $100  
*Additional $20 rebate for qualifying Nicor, Peoples Gas, & North Gas customers |
|                                        | Smart thermostat must be purchased, installed and registered with the manufacturer October 5, 2015 through May 31, 2016. | |

## Other Rebates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improvement</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Maximum Rebate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attic Insulation</td>
<td>$0.30–$0.50/square foot</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Sealing</td>
<td>$0.40/CFM50</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duct Sealing</td>
<td>$300/system</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior Walls</td>
<td>$0.50/square foot</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on the above rebates, call 855-433-2700.

**Residential Real-Time Pricing**

The ComEd Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) program is a supply option that gives you power to take more control over your electricity usage and costs. While savings are not guaranteed, typical program participants have saved an average of more than 15% on their electricity supply costs compared to what they would have paid on the standard ComEd fixed-price rate.

### How does the program work?

Participants pay wholesale market prices, which fluctuate hourly, instead of the traditional averaged "flat" rate. Individual bills will vary month to month, based on weather, market conditions and your usage habits. Generally, the more you avoid using electricity when prices are high, the more you potentially could save.

### What are the program benefits?

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www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org
- Participants have more control over electricity use, and consequently, more opportunity to save.
- The program eases stress on the electric grid, especially during high demand periods, leading to more reliable service, lower carbon emissions, and less negative impact on the environment.

Who benefits from the program?
- If your monthly electric usage is greater than 350 kWh for apartment/condo or 500 kWh for a house
- If you heat your home with electricity
- If you own an electric vehicle
- If you are able to shift electricity use to off-peak times

What is Load Guard Automated Price Response Service?
Load Guard is an optional program for customers on real-time pricing. It switches your central air conditioner into “conservation mode” for two hours when prices reach a certain high level, which you set at either 10¢ or 14¢ per kWh. You can change your settings each day, if desired. (Please note: You must be enrolled in ComEd’s Central Air Conditioning Cycling program to enroll in Load Guard.)

For more information or to sign up, visit www.rrtp.comed.com or call 1-888-202-RRTP (1-888-202-7787).

Peak Time Savings
If your home has a smart meter, you’ll be eligible to enroll in ComEd’s new Peak Time Savings program and earn a credit on your electric bill when you participate voluntarily on days with Peak Time Savings Hours. There is no cost to enroll and you can remain in the program for as long as you like.

Peak Time Savings Hours:
Peak Time Savings Hours will typically occur for a few hours between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the summer. ComEd will announce three to five days with Peak Time Savings Hours during the summer of 2015.

Act and Save
The amount of credits you earn on your electric bill will be based on your current electricity usage. For every kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity you save, you will earn a credit of $1.

For more information or to sign up, visit www.comed.com/pts or call 844-852-0347.

Multi-Family Efficiency
Tenants who live in multi-family residences are encouraged to let their landlord or property manager know about the multi-family energy savings opportunities offered by ComEd, Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas, and Peoples Gas.

Once the property is enrolled and a FREE assessment is completed, trained technicians will install FREE energy-saving products throughout the tenant spaces. These products may include:

- ENERGY STAR® certified CFLs
- Programmable thermostats
- WaterSense® certified showerheads
- Faucet aerators for bathrooms and kitchens
- Hot water pipe insulation

Additional energy efficiency recommendations and incentives within common area spaces are available to multi-family building owners and managers. Call 855-433-2700 to schedule an appointment for a free energy efficiency assessment.

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www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org
assessment and installation of free energy-saving products.

**Home Energy Assessment**
ComEd customers have opportunities to reduce the energy usage in their home through a FREE Home Energy Assessment. To bring you both electric and natural gas savings, ComEd has partnered with your natural gas utility.

Reduce energy and water use with FREE installation of the following FREE products:
- ENERGY STAR® certified CFLs
- Programmable thermostat
- WaterSense® certified showerheads
- Faucet aerators in bathroom & kitchen sinks
- Hot water pipe insulation
- Smart power strips

FREE!

ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs and select smart thermostats are available for purchase at a discount and include FREE installation.

During your FREE assessment, you will also receive a personalized report identifying additional ways to save.

**Participate**

Owners of single-family homes, two-flats, condos and townhomes are eligible. Some three and four unit buildings may be eligible; please call 1-855-433-2700 to verify. Renters in these building types are also eligible, with permission from their landlord.

If you have any additional questions about these programs, please call CUB, 1-800-669-5556, and ask for Laura Goldberg, environmental outreach coordinator. CUB works hard to maintain the accuracy and timeliness of this information, but programs often change and/or run out of money. CUB is not responsible for the administration of any of the programs described in this fact sheet. If you are having trouble applying for or receiving benefits from any of the programs described above, please contact the administrator of that program. Please notify CUB if you find any inaccuracies here.