

## Inside

### Rate Relief & Power Smart Pricing

In late August Governor Blagojevich signed a \$1 billion electricity-rate relief package. The settlement will provide bill credits to Ameren residential electricity customers—including Power Smart Pricing participants.

### Changes to the Capacity Charge

The Ameren Illinois Utilities have changed and streamlined the method used to calculate the Contract Capacity Charge on customers' bills. The new method should lower this charge and make your bill easier to understand.

### New Online Tools Launched

Power Smart Pricing participants now have access to new online tools to help you manage your electricity usage and costs.

### Your Feedback Matters!

Fill out your customer satisfaction survey and help us improve the services that we provide.

**Read more inside!**

## We're Here to Help

If you have any questions about your participation in Power Smart Pricing, please feel free to contact CNT Energy at (877) 655-6028 or [info@powersmartpricing.org](mailto:info@powersmartpricing.org).

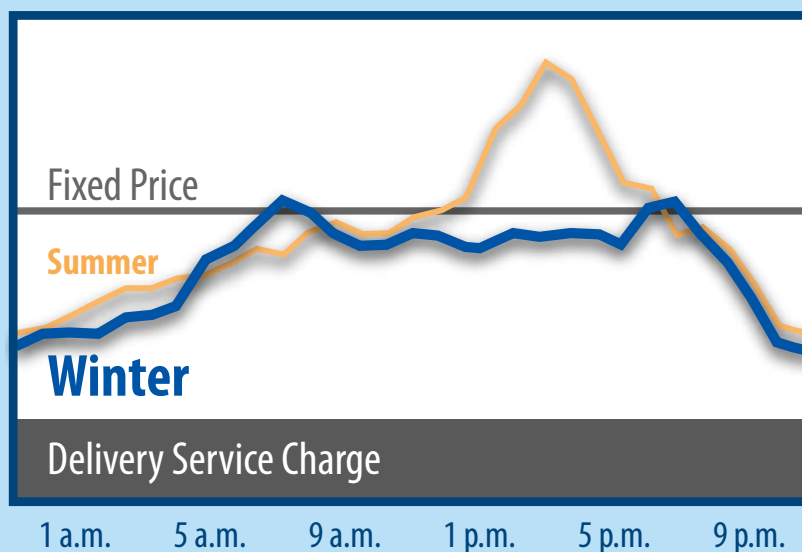
## Changing Seasons, Changing Price Patterns

As the weather cools off this fall, Power Smart Pricing participants may notice changes in electricity price patterns. Compared with summer prices, fall and winter prices are generally lower, and the winter price pattern is more stable. This is because overall demand is not driven by air conditioning as it is during the summer. The fall and winter price patterns may make it easier to save money with Power Smart Pricing.

In the winter, there are two times of the day when prices can increase. Typically, there will be a small price spike in the morning and another in the evening. However, the highest prices of the day are generally lower than the highest prices during the summer. The graph below illustrates the typical electricity price pattern for an average fall or winter day.

Keep in mind that market prices tend to increase somewhat in December and January, usually due to the holidays and the demand for electricity associated with decorative lighting and retail business activity. Electricity prices can also spike when sudden and significant temperature drops or extended cold snaps push up natural gas prices, increasing the cost of operating gas-burning power plants. As always, you will receive a message in advance any time prices are expected to be above 13 cents per kWh. To update your contact information for these high price alerts, contact CNT Energy at [info@powersmartpricing.org](mailto:info@powersmartpricing.org) or (877) 655-6028.

## Typical Electricity Price Patterns





## Rate Relief Includes Power Smart Pricing Participants

In late August Governor Blagojevich signed a \$1 billion electricity-rate relief package. **The settlement will provide bill credits to Ameren residential electricity customers—including Power Smart Pricing participants.**

Participating in Power Smart Pricing will not impact the amount of your credit. You will receive the same amount that you would receive under the standard residential rate. The average customer who does not have electric space heating can expect to receive a credit of around \$132.

As a part of the rate relief settlement, the Ameren Illinois Utilities will also change their method of buying power for customers on the standard residential BGS-1 rate. The new energy prices effective in June 2008 are not yet available. However, we believe Power Smart Pricing will still be valuable for customers, particularly those who are able to be flexible about how and when they use electricity.

## Changes to the Capacity Charge Portion of Your Bill

As a result of feedback from customers on real-time pricing, the Ameren Illinois Utilities have changed and streamlined the method used to calculate the Contract Capacity Charge on customers' bills. **The new method should lower this charge and make your bill easier to understand.**

A single "RTP Supplier Charge" will replace both the Contract Capacity Charge and Ancillary Services Charge line items on your future bills. This should result in a lower charge going forward. In addition, if the new method of calculating the charge would have reduced your previous bills, your Ameren Illinois utility will credit your account for the difference.

## Managing Your Costs

The new method of calculating the RTP Supplier Charge will allow you to use a single strategy for managing both this charge and the Electric Supply portion of your bill. **You can lower both by parts of your bill by conserving electricity during hours when prices are high.**

The new RTP Supplier Charge will be based on your demand when the peak system load occurs during the billing period. In general, the price of electricity goes up when demand is high, so the peak system load is likely to correspond with higher real-time prices. This means that if you can reduce your electricity use when prices are high, you'll also have a good chance of reducing your demand during peak system load, and this in turn will result in a lower RTP Supplier Charge. Of course, when you avoid using the most expensive electricity, you'll also reduce the electric supply portion of your bill.



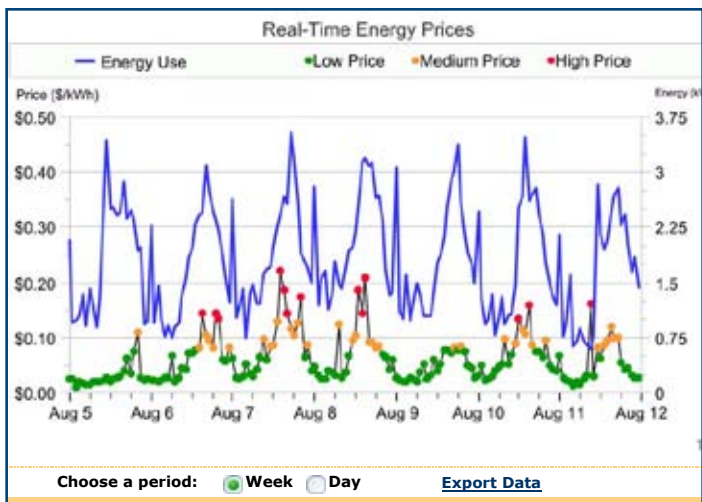
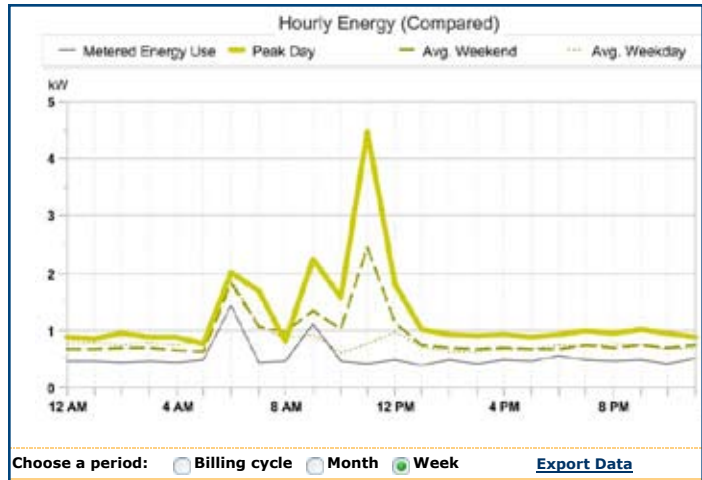
## New Online Tools Launched

Power Smart Pricing participants now have access to additional online tools to help you manage your electricity usage and costs. In addition to your electricity usage details and personalized energy-saving tips, you can now see graphs of your hourly electricity usage along with hourly prices. These graphs can help you see the impacts of your energy-saving actions during higher priced hours. You can also see a bill savings estimate that automatically compares your costs with Power Smart Pricing with what you would have paid on the standard residential BGS-1 rate.

You can still use Ameren's online Rate Estimator to see more detailed estimates of what you would have paid on the standard rate. (Simply enter your monthly electricity usage to see what you would have paid on rate BGS-1.)

Our online tools will keep evolving (including a more detailed bill savings calculator), and we look for your input to help us provide the tools that are most useful to you. Please include your suggestions in your responses to the enclosed customer satisfaction survey, or e-mail us at [info@powersmartpricing.org](mailto:info@powersmartpricing.org).

New online tools allow you to see graphs of your electricity usage patterns along with electricity price patterns.



## Your Feedback Matters!

CNT Energy is dedicated to providing the tools and support that you need to get the most from Power Smart Pricing. Your feedback can help us improve the services that we provide. Enclosed, you will find a customer satisfaction survey. Please take a few moments to fill out the survey and return it in the enclosed envelope, or complete the survey online at [www.powersmartpricing.org/survey](http://www.powersmartpricing.org/survey).

**We look forward to hearing from you!**





## Fall and Winter Energy-Saving Tips

- ❄️ Take advantage of lower hourly electricity prices to run the clothes washer and dryer. Always wash full loads of and use cold water whenever possible. Make sure the dryer doesn't keep running after your clothes are dry.
- ❄️ Run your dishwasher during low-priced hours. Many dishwashers have a timer so you can set it to run at night when prices are low. To save the most energy, wait to wash until you have a full load, and select the more efficient energy-saving or "no heat dry" function.
- ❄️ Keep energy efficiency in mind when shopping for light bulbs, appliances, and electronics. Look for products that have earned the ENERGY STAR® label. They meet strict energy efficiency guidelines, while offering high levels of performance and quality.
- ❄️ Many electronic devices use energy even when they are turned off. Common culprits include home entertainment systems, office electronics, and appliances that include rechargeable batteries. Look for appliances that can be unplugged or connected to a surge protector, which can be easily switched off when the appliances are not needed.
- ❄️ Set your thermostat to the lowest comfortable temperature. Lower the temperature five to 10 degrees before going to bed and when leaving home for more than four hours.
- ❄️ Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping. Set the hold button at a constant energy-saving temperature when you're on vacation.
- ❄️ Portable electric space heaters are generally less efficient than whole-house heating systems. Use portable space heaters sparingly, and follow operating instructions to reduce the risk of fire.
- ❄️ Save on lighting by switching from incandescent to compact fluorescent bulbs.
- ❄️ Put holiday lights on a timer to avoid leaving them on all night or during daylight hours.



### Did You Know?

The average American household spends 11% of its energy budget on lighting.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 75% less electricity than incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.

The CFLs sold today produce light that is comparable in quality to incandescent lighting.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs are available in a variety of sizes and shapes. You can find bulbs for use in lamps, ceiling fixtures, recessed lighting, and outdoor lighting.

