

## WHAT CAN I DO TO START SAVING ENERGY RIGHT NOW?

There are things you can do right now to prepare for your smart meter and begin saving money. Joining CUB Energy Saver, at [CUBEnergySaver.com](http://CUBEnergySaver.com), is an excellent first step. The free service recommends energy-saving actions customized for your home, tracks real savings through your electric bill, and rewards customers who save electricity with restaurant and shopping gift cards. More importantly, it can show consumers how to cut their utility bills by hundreds of dollars a year.



## WHAT IS CUB?



The Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is a nonprofit, statewide utility watchdog organization created by the Illinois General Assembly to work for lower electric, natural gas, and telephone rates for residential and small-business consumers.

Visit [www.CUBSmartPower.com](http://www.CUBSmartPower.com) for a chance to win a free LED bulb (up to \$100 in energy savings).



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## ILLINOIS' SMART GRID

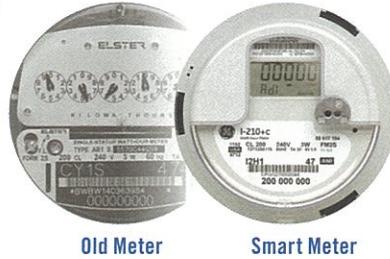
WAYS YOU CAN  SAVE



## WHAT IS THE SMART GRID?

Illinois' aging power grid—the lines and equipment that deliver electricity to our doorsteps—has changed little since the time of Thomas Edison.

Now we have the opportunity to do something about that. The “smart grid” refers to major improvements that Commonwealth Edison and Ameren Illinois are making to the power grid over the next few years. Here's what it can do for consumers:



## BENEFITS EVEN IF YOU DON'T CHANGE A THING...

- ✓ **Fewer power outages and less waiting for service restoration.** With the smart grid, utilities can detect power outages as soon as they occur—without depending on customers to report the problem. That means outages are restored more quickly and blackouts are blocked from rippling across the grid.
- ✓ **Fewer wasted costs.** We pay higher electric bills to cover inefficiencies in the aging power grid. For example, vacant office space drains power from the system, and electricity thieves are harder to police. We all foot the bill for that wasted electricity, but a smarter grid can combat these culprits.

## ...OR TAKE ACTION AND SAVE MORE

New smart grid-enabled pricing plans could yield the biggest savings. Learn more.



## NEW PRICING PLANS

With new digital electric “smart meters,” consumers have easy access to optional power-pricing plans that could cut their electric bills.

CUB recommends a two-step approach.

### Step 1: Sign up for a peak time program.\*

Peak Time Savings, offered by ComEd, and Peak Time Rewards, offered by Ameren, are no-cost programs that can help customers with the new meters save money. By signing up, consumers can gain credits on their electricity bill when they shift power usage from designated high-demand “peak” times to “off-peak” hours. To learn more details on eligibility and signing up, ComEd customers should call **1-844-852-0347**, Ameren customers should call **1-844-787-7874**.

### Step 2: Find out if hourly pricing is also right for you.

Customers also can sign up for hourly pricing, which can save them even more money depending on how they manage their energy usage.

**ComEd's Real-Time Pricing and Ameren's Power Smart Pricing programs** charge customers an hourly rate for electricity, encouraging them to put off heavy appliance usage until times of the day when power prices are low. While not for everyone, these programs have been saving participants an average of about 15 percent on the supply portion of their power bills. For more information, go to **CUBSmartPower.com**, or call **1-877-655-6028** (for Ameren customers) or **1-888-202-7787** (for ComEd customers).



## MORE CUSTOMER CHOICES

PLAN	WHAT IT DOES	RISK/REWARD	OPPORTUNITIES TO SAVE
<b>Traditional Electricity Rates</b>	Charges you set rate that never changes, other than a slight summer increase.	No risk, but no reward.	You are stuck on a bloated rate that offers no flexibility to take advantage of lower market power prices.
<b>Peak Time Programs*</b> <i>CUB Recommended for Everyone!</i>	Rewards you with a bill credit if you put off heavy electricity usage during certain “peak” times of the day.	No risk, low/high reward.	Smart actions at home reward you with a bill credit. No penalty if you are unable to curb your usage.
<b>Hourly Pricing Programs</b> <i>Might Be Right for You!</i>	Charges you electricity rates that change hourly.	Some risk, high reward.	You pay much lower power rates during hours when demand is low.

\*Customers can participate in the Peak Time programs along with any other program, except AC Cycling and Net Metering.