

2008 Summer Readiness Kit



We are entering summer, the season when hourly electricity prices typically fluctuate most and have historically hit their highest levels. **Being smart about your electricity use – especially your air conditioning use – will help you manage your electricity costs with the ComEd Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) Program.**

The graph on the enclosed card shows how prices typically change during summer days. During the summer, air conditioning usage has a big impact on demand for electricity and pricing, with the highest prices of the day usually occurring in the late afternoon when air conditioning usage is at its peak. Depending on weather and other conditions, some days will have higher overall prices than others. Keep these patterns in mind, or check predicted day-ahead prices and real-time day-of prices at www.theWattSpot.com or by calling **1-866-WATTSPOT**.

The tips in this kit can help you cut costs during high price times and throughout the season.

High Price Notification Options

As always, during the summer, we'll contact you when prices are expected to be high. To make the most of these notifications, please update your alert service options when you sign-in to your Account Information page. You can choose from the following options.



Predicted Day-Ahead Price Notifications

Beginning June 1, we will notify you the evening in advance when predicted day-ahead prices are expected to be at least 14 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for any number of hours during the following day. You can choose to receive these notifications by e-mail, text (SMS) message, or automated phone call.

Real-Time Day-Of Price Alerts

Beginning June 1, we will notify you when real-time day-of prices reach or exceed 14 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) during the day. You can select e-mail or text (SMS) message for these alerts, and you have the option of changing your real-time alert price threshold to 10 cents per kWh. You can also elect to turn off your real-time day-of high price alerts.

Learn more or change your notification options at www.theWattSpot.com.

Air Conditioner Cycling and Load Guard Make it Easy

If you have central air conditioning, you can sign up for ComEd's Air Conditioner Cycling program - Nature First. If you are on both Nature First and ComEd RRTP, you can sign up for the WattSpot's Load Guard Automatic Price Response Service, which allows you to identify a price threshold at which we will cycle your air conditioner. Both Nature First and Load Guard provide additional ways to help you save energy and money automatically this summer. If you're not already signed up, go to www.theWattSpot.com to learn more.



Finally, remember that reducing your electricity use during peak hours will not only help you save money, but it will also help to ease the stress on the power distribution system and ensure a more reliable electricity supply for Illinois!

For more information, please contact 1-866 WATTSPOT (1-866-928-8776).



Reducing the Capacity Charge Portion of Your Bill

Reducing your electricity usage during peak hours will help to reduce both the **Energy Supply Charge** portion of your bills this summer, and the **Capacity Charge** portion of your future bills. The Capacity Charge is set based on your past electricity demand during the times when demand on the overall system was highest. This system peak is most likely to occur between the hours of 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on days when the weather is hot.

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. This in turn will result in a lower Capacity Charge in the future.** Of course, when you avoid using the most expensive electricity, you'll also reduce the Energy Supply portion of your bill.



ComEd Energy Efficiency Programs Coming Soon

ComEd and the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) have agreed to a portfolio of energy-efficiency programs that will help ComEd customers save more than \$155 million on their electricity bills over the life of the programs' measures.

When you "go green," you'll "save green!"

Energy efficiency lowers customers' bills and benefits the environment by reducing the amount of power needed from power plants, which emit greenhouse gases linked to global climate change.

The programs listed below are expected to be available to residential customers in 2008, with additional programs scheduled to launch in 2009:

Residential Lighting

Discounts the cost of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) at retail stores. CFLs can use as much as 75 percent less energy than a comparable incandescent, and last 10 times longer!

Second Appliance Recycling

Offers customers cash incentives for recycling working, second refrigerators and freezers, and older room air conditioners.

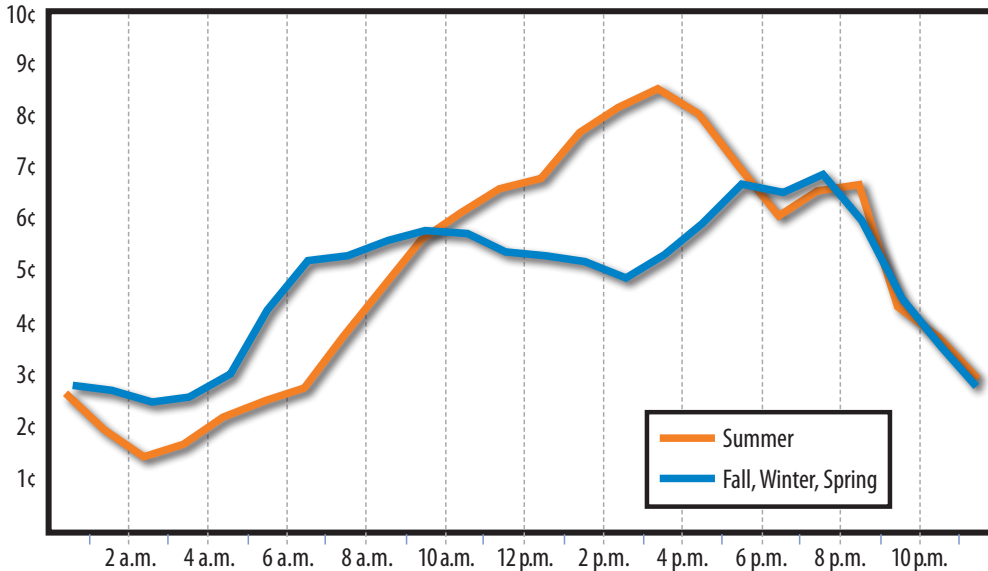
All-Electric Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Upgrade

Utilizes approved contractors to install electricity saving devices and select fixtures in all-electric multi-family properties at no charge.

You can learn more about these programs and get energy efficiency tips at www.ComEd.com.

Summer Price Patterns

Average Real-Time Electricity Price Patterns*



*Based on prices during 2007. Summer prices are for June - August. Depending on market conditions, prices can vary significantly from this typical pattern. Savings cannot be guaranteed.

This graph shows how real-time electricity prices typically change on an average summer day. To manage your electricity costs this summer, simply keep the price pattern in mind when deciding how and when to use electricity.

As always, you will receive Predicted Day-Ahead Price Notifications and Real-Time Day-of-Price Alerts to help you manage your electricity use when prices rise. For more information about these notifications and alerts, and to check predicted day-ahead prices and real-time day-of-prices, visit www.theWattSpot.com or call **1-866-WATTSPOT**.

Air conditioning typically accounts for the biggest portion of most households' summer electricity use. Adjusting your thermostat a few degrees during high price hours could make a big difference in your bill!

Save on Air Conditioning

Making wise use of your air conditioner will help you save the most on your energy bill during the summer.

Everyday Tips

Cut the Air Costs

Set your air conditioner to the warmest temperature that feels comfortable. Turn off your air conditioner or adjust the thermostat when no one is home or when the weather is cool. Use a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature to suit your routine.

Circulate Cool Air

Use fans along with, or instead of, your air conditioner to make your home feel cooler. Fans use far less electricity than air conditioners. A ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting by about 4°F with no reduction in comfort! Just remember to turn the fan off when you leave the room.

Keep Your Cool

Make sure that windows and doors are closed tightly while your air conditioner is running.

Beware of the Sunny Side

During the day, close shades to sunny windows, particularly windows that face south.

Change the Filter

Replace or clean your window or central air conditioning filters once a month or as directed by the manufacturer. Dirty filters restrict air flow and increase energy use.

Add Weather Stripping

Weather stripping around doors and windows can help keep your home warm in the winter and keep cool, air-conditioned air inside the home during the summer.



High Price Tips

Central Air Conditioners

Temporarily change your thermostat to a warmer temperature setting during high price periods. Sign up for Load Guard or ComEd's Air Conditioner Cycling program, Nature First, to save energy and money automatically.

Window Air Conditioners

Limit the use of window air conditioners during high price periods. Use a warmer temperature setting or turn the air conditioner off.

Work and Play

Everyday Tips

Check for Wasted Energy

Many electronic devices use energy even when they are turned off. Common culprits include home entertainment systems, office electronics, and rechargeable devices like cell phones and cordless tools. 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.

Cut Computing Costs

Computers and other home office devices such as printers and fax machines use energy even when they are in standby mode. Set your computer's energy-saving options for maximum efficiency, and turn off the computer when it's not in use. Plug home office equipment into a surge protector or power strip. When you turn off your equipment, flip the switch on the power strip to stop devices from continuing to draw power while they are switched off.



High Price Tips

Charge on the Cheap

When prices are high, unplug cell phone chargers and other rechargeable devices, or use a power strip to shut off the flow of electricity. Recharge devices such as MP3 players, cell phones and cordless tools at night when electricity prices are low.

Shut it Off

Check to make sure that electronics that you are not using are turned off.

Keep Your Cool in the Kitchen

Everyday Tips

Don't Create Heat

To keep the house cooler during the summer, try using a crock pot, toaster oven, or small microwave instead of the stove or oven.

Clean Up Efficiently

Dishwashers use electricity and produce heat. Only wash full loads so you won't have to run the dishwasher as often. Wait until the hottest time of day has passed before running your dishwasher, and use the more efficient "energy-saving" or "no-heat-dry" option.

Clean the Coils

Vacuum your refrigerator's coils and, of course, don't leave the fridge door open longer than necessary.



High Price Tips

Clean up on the Cheap

Wait to run the dishwasher in the evening or at night when electricity prices are low. Some dishwashers have a timer that allows you to set for delayed start time.

Avoid Using Major Appliances

Avoid using electric ovens and stoves during high price periods. A microwave will heat small portions more efficiently.

Feast on Cold Foods

On hot days when electricity prices are high, enjoy meals that don't require cooking. Preparing sandwiches, salads and other no-cook meals won't heat up the house. And cool foods taste great on hot days.

Fire up the Grill

Grilling can be one of the great joys of summer, and when you cook outside you won't heat up the kitchen.

Laundry for Less

Everyday Tips

Wash Full Loads

Always wash full loads of laundry and use cold water whenever possible. You'll save water and energy, and you won't have to run as many loads.

Deal with the Dryer

Make sure the dryer doesn't keep running after your clothes are dry. Use the automatic shutoff setting, or set the timer for the shortest amount of time needed.

Do It the Old Fashioned Way

Consider drying clothes on a clothesline or drying rack. It's a great choice for the environment – and your energy bills.

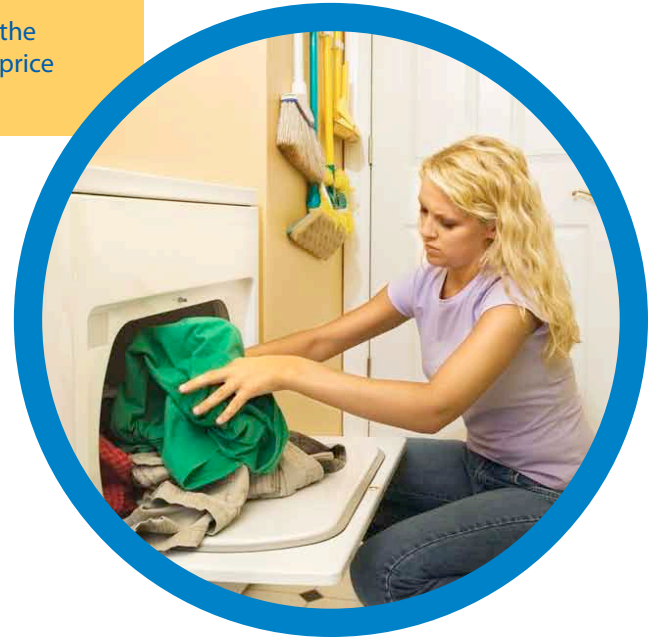
Clean Up on Low Prices

Electricity prices tend to be low during evening, night and weekend hours. Take advantage of low-priced times to do your laundry.

High Price Tips

Wait to Wash

When possible, avoid running the washer and dryer during high price periods.



Improve Your Home and Garden

Everyday Tips

Use Smart Outdoor Lighting

Use photo sensors, motion detectors or timers to control your outdoor lighting and ensure that it is not left on when it is not needed. Select energy efficient bulbs and fixtures and appropriate wattage or lumen levels. Remember, brighter isn't always better.

Shield Outdoor Lighting

Use shielded lights to direct light only where it is needed. Properly shielded lights are more attractive and more efficient than unshielded lights, and they improve visibility by reducing glare.

Go Solar

Where possible, use solar-powered outdoor lighting.

Landscape for Efficiency

Properly placed trees can reduce surrounding air temperatures by as much as 9°F. Plant deciduous (leaf-shedding) trees to the south and west of your home to provide shade. Use evergreens to create winter windbreaks on the north and northwest sides of your home.

Adjust the Water Heater Temperature

Set your water heater temperature to 120°F. If the tank feels warm to the touch, add an insulating water heater “blanket,” available at hardware stores. Be sure to follow the manufacturer’s instructions to avoid potential fire hazards.

Seal Leaks

You can cut both your heating and cooling bills by sealing air leaks and installing insulation.



Get a Tune-Up

Getting your central air conditioner serviced annually can help to keep it running efficiently.

Consider an Upgrade

If your air conditioner is more than 10 years old, it's a good time to research replacement options. If installed correctly, the energy efficient models available today could cut your cooling bill by 20 percent! Do your research before your system fails so you'll have time to shop around for the right model—and the right contractor.

Shop for Savings

Everyday Tips

Plug into Power Strips

Check your local hardware or electronics store for surge protectors and power strips. Use them to cut standby or “phantom” power used by electronics that are turned off. (Plugging delicate, expensive electronics such as computers and home entertainment systems into surge protectors will also prevent damage from changes in electric current.)

Look for the ENERGY STAR®

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 set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy, while offering high levels of performance and quality.

Save on Lighting

Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). CFLs use less electricity, produce less heat, and last up to 10 times longer! You can find CFLs for nearly every household application.

Get the Right Air Conditioner

If you are shopping for a new air conditioner, look for energy efficient models that have earned the ENERGY STAR® label, and make sure you buy the proper size. One that is too large will start up and turn off more frequently, and will not do as good a job at dehumidifying the air.

High Price Tips

Hit the Mall

A hot day can be a good time to get your shopping done. Give your air conditioner a break and keep cool in an air conditioned shopping center.



ComEd is partnering with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and Ace Hardware to conduct a pilot CFL recycling program. This program involves 148 participating local Ace Hardware stores located throughout Northern Illinois that will accept used CFLs from ComEd customers and properly dispose of them in IEPA-approved recycling facilities. For more information, visit www.ComEdCARE.com (Click on “Your Home” then under “Act”, click on “Recycle CFLs”).