

# Take Charge

Your New Electricity Prices (Regulated Price Plan): Starting May 1, 2010



Tiered Prices	
6.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh)	energy use up to and including 600 kWh per month
7.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh)	energy use above 600 kWh per month

Time-of-Use (TOU) Prices	
On-Peak price	9.9 cents per kWh
Mid-Peak price	8.0 cents per kWh
Off-Peak price	5.3 cents per kWh

### Signed an Electricity Contract?

You do not pay Regulated Price Plan (RPP) prices... your electricity price is set out in your contract. You will see a separate line item on your bill for what is called the Provincial Benefit (or “Global Adjustment”). The Provincial Benefit accounts for differences between the market price of electricity and rates paid to regulated and contracted generators. It is already factored into RPP prices.

### The Price of your Power:

Both tiered and time-of-use (TOU) prices form part of the OEB’s RPP. They are based on the same forecast of how much it will cost to supply your electricity over the next 12 months. The OEB then uses that same forecast to set both the tiered and TOU prices for the coming six-month period. RPP prices are set to recover the total cost of supplying your electricity, regardless of which of these prices (tiered or TOU) your utility is currently using to bill you.

The above prices do not include other charges on your total bill like delivery. For more information, visit the “Your Utility” section of the OEB’s consumer website at [www.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca).

### TOU Basics:

TOU prices are prices that vary over the day – better reflecting the way electricity pricing works in the electricity market.

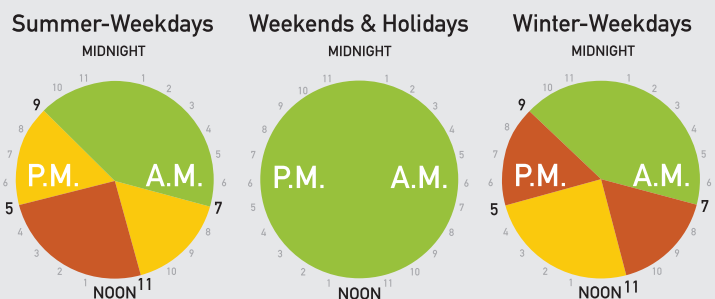
**On-Peak prices** – when demand and the cost of electricity are highest.

**Mid-Peak prices** – when demand and the cost of electricity are moderate.

**Off-Peak prices** – when demand and the cost of electricity are lowest.

### Just because you have a smart meter doesn’t mean you’re already paying TOU prices.

As of the end of 2009, there were approximately 3.47 million smart meters installed in Ontario and 347,000 customers paying time-of-use prices. Check with your local utility for details on when TOU pricing will start for you.



### Manage your household costs with TOU pricing

Appliance	Time-of-Use Rate Examples		
	Off-Peak	Mid-Peak	On-Peak
Clothes Dryer (1 load)	10¢	18¢	20¢
Clothes Washer (1 load/hot wash)	34¢	62¢	73¢
Clothes Washer (1 load/cold wash)	5¢	9¢	10¢
Electric Stove (1 family meal)	22¢	40¢	47¢
Dishwasher (1 load)	16¢	29¢	33¢
AC Central 25 degrees (1 hour)	12¢	22¢	26¢
AC Central 20 degrees (1 hour)	14¢	26¢	30¢

# Since You Asked...

Our Consumer Relations Centre has heard a number of questions and concerns from consumers like you wondering how TOU prices will affect them. Here are some answers to common concerns we've been hearing:

## Will my bill go up once I'm charged time-of-use prices?

RPP prices are set to recover the total cost of supplying your electricity, regardless of which of these prices (tiered or TOU) your utility is currently using to bill you.

Whether you pay more or less or see very little difference when you switch from tiered prices to TOU prices depends on how much electricity you use and when you use it. Conserving and shifting some usage to off-peak hours through the week and to weekends and holidays may benefit you the most.

## I'm at home during weekdays. I worry about the impact of moving to TOU prices.

Whether you are there or not, your home is consuming electricity. For every hour that your fridge is running on-peak, there are three off-peak hours when you're paying significantly less than the current tiered prices.

All told, there is a total of 74 hours during the week when prices are higher than the current tiered prices (on-peak and mid-peak) and 93 off-peak hours when prices are lower than the current tiered prices.

The chart on the opposite page offers some rough estimates of what it may cost to do routine household chores during the different pricing periods.

## Other than shifting the time I use electricity, how else can I reduce my household electricity costs?

Many electronic items – for example, computers, TVs and cell phone chargers – aren't fully off unless you pull the plug. Since each can use between 4 and 10 watts of electricity, try to plug them in to a power bar that you can turn off.



**On average, residential consumers use 54% of their household electricity during the lowest priced, off-peak period.**

## MORE TOU TIPS:

- Install a programmable thermostat and set it to reduce your energy use when you're not home and when you're sleeping.
- Check for drafts and leaks that will let your winter heat out or invite muggy summer air in. Caulking and weatherstripping are simple and inexpensive.
- In the summer, keep blinds and curtains closed to keep out the midday sun.
- Use a portable fan in conjunction with your air conditioner and don't set the thermostat below 26°C.

## More questions?

Visit [www.oeb.gov.on.ca](http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca)

Contact our Consumer Relations Centre

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Ontario Energy Board

