

Your 2011

Power Smart Pricing Summer Energy Guide



**A guide to staying comfortable while
managing your summer electricity costs**



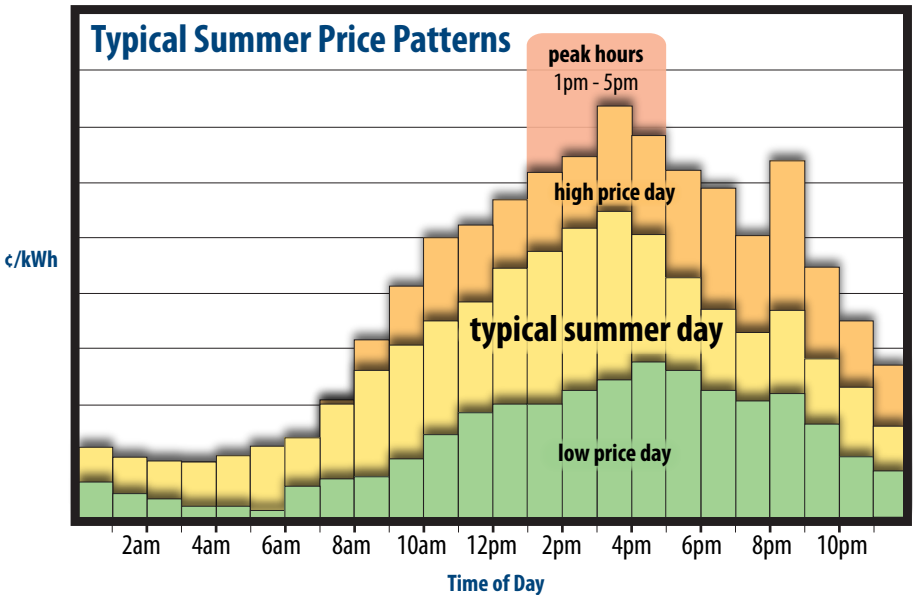
Power Smart Pricing is an hourly pricing program from Ameren Illinois, administered by CNT Energy

Summer Price Patterns

During the summer, air conditioning usage has a big impact on demand for electricity. As a result, the highest prices of the day typically occur in the afternoon. Depending on the weather and other factors, some days will have higher price than others. The graph shows the typical price patterns for cool, average and hot days. Note that:

- **Low price** days can occur on weekends and when the weather is cool.
- **Higher price** days tend to occur when the weather is particularly hot.
- **The highest prices** of the day tend to occur between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Keep the price pattern in mind and shift some of your electricity use from higher priced hours to times when prices are low. You can also check prices in advance at www.powersmartpricing.org or by calling **1-877-655-6028**.



Top Summer Tips

Reduce electricity usage between the hours of 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., especially on hot summer days or after receiving a high price alert.

Limit air conditioning usage during higher priced hours and try pre-cooling to take advantage of lower priced hours.

Staying Cool for Less

Air conditioner use accounts for as much as 40 percent of a typical household's summer energy consumption. Being smart about how you use your air conditioner will help you save on electricity this summer. The less you make your air conditioner work, the more you could save on summer electricity bills.

Time is Money

Change your thermostat to a warmer temperature setting when electricity prices are high.

Set window air conditioners to the low or "energy-saver" setting or turn the air conditioner off during higher priced hours.



Adjust your thermostat

Set your thermostat to the warmest comfortable temperature.

Increase the temperature setting on your thermostat while you are away from home.

Use a programmable thermostat to manage costs automatically.

Watch your windows

Shade sunny windows on hot days.

Open the windows and turn off the air conditioner when the weather is cool.

Use fans

Fans use far less electricity than air conditioners. Using fans along with air conditioning could allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4° with no reduction in comfort.

Pre-cool for savings

You can manage your cooling costs by pre-cooling your home during nighttime and early morning hours when the price of electricity is low and using less air conditioning during higher priced hours.

Try the recommended temperature settings in the table and adjust as needed to find what works best for your home and your comfort level. The goal is for your air conditioner to idle during the highest priced times, especially between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Recommended Thermostat Settings

Time	Phase	Temperature Setting
10 p.m. - 10 a.m.	Pre-cooling	69°F - 72°F
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Idle	82°F - 85°F
6 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Comfort	75°F - 78°F

Electronics

Save on stand-by power

Many electronics and appliances use “stand-by” power even when they are turned off. This can account for as much as 10 percent of home energy use. To save on stand-by power, unplug electronics when they are not in use, or use a power strip to shut off power to multiple electronic devices with one switch.

Lower computing costs

Turn off your computer if you are not going to use it for more than two hours.

Turn off the monitor if you are not going to use it for more than 20 minutes.

Check your computer’s settings and choose power-saving options.

Get charged less for charging

Unplug cell phone chargers and power adapters for other rechargeable electronics when not in use. The power adapter itself draws a small amount of power even when the rechargeable device is not connected.

Look for the ENERGY STAR®

Keep energy efficiency in mind when shopping for electronics, appliances, and even light bulbs. 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.

Time is Money

Wait to charge devices such as cell phones and cordless tools at night when hourly electricity prices are low.



Lighting

Light for Less

Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). CFLs use 75 percent less electricity, produce less heat, and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. You can find CFLs for nearly every household application, indoors and out.

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are emerging as a new lighting option for home and business applications. Switching from incandescent bulbs to LED bulbs can cut lighting costs by 80 percent, and the LED bulbs can last 25 times longer. LED holiday lights and LED bulbs that replace 40 Watt and 60 Watt incandescents are available for recessed fixtures and track lights. LED lights can be more expensive than other types of bulbs, but prices are likely to come down as they become more common.

Use smart outdoor lighting

Use photo sensors, motion detectors or timers to ensure that lights are on only when needed.

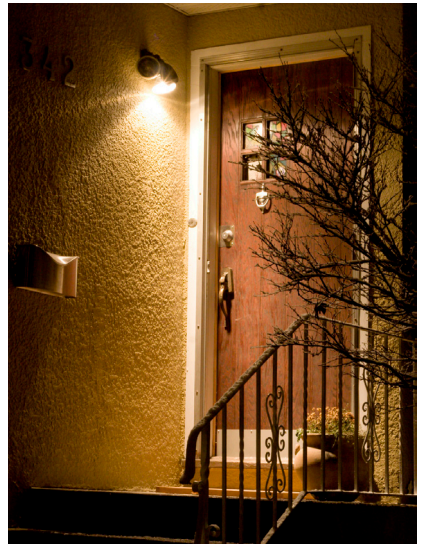
Select energy efficient bulbs and fixtures and appropriate wattage or lumen levels. Remember, brighter isn't always better.

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.

Where possible, use solar-powered outdoor lighting.

Time is Money

When electricity prices are high, pay special attention to making sure that lights that are not in use are turned off.



Cooking and Cleaning

Eat, drink and save

Avoid heating up the kitchen on hot days. Use the microwave, enjoy no-cook meals, or grill outside.

Use the dishwasher wisely to conserve electricity and avoid heating up the kitchen. Wait to wash full loads so you won't have to run the dishwasher as often, and use the energy-saving or no-heat-dry setting.

If your refrigerator's coils are exposed, vacuum them regularly to keep your refrigerator working efficiently.

Ditch that old fridge. Keeping an old, second refrigerator running in the basement or garage could be costing you around \$100 per year in electricity costs. Go to www.ActOnEnergy.com to find out how you can get paid \$35 for letting Ameren pick up and recycle an old, working refrigerator or freezer.

Do laundry for less

Wash full loads of laundry rather than multiple small loads. You'll save time, energy, and water.

Wash in cold water when possible to save on water heating costs. Most laundry detergents available today work well in cold water.

Make sure the dryer stops once your clothes are dry, or hang clothes on a rack or clothesline.

Time is money

Do laundry and run the dishwasher in the early morning, in the evening, or at night when electricity prices are low. Try to avoid higher priced afternoon hours, particularly when the weather is hot or after receiving a high price alert.

If your dishwasher has a timer or "delay start" function, you can use it to automatically start the cycle during lower priced hours.

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



Energy Saving Home Improvements

Maintain your air conditioner

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.

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



Consider an AC upgrade

Even if your air conditioner is only 10 years old, you may save 20 to 40 percent on cooling costs by replacing it with a newer, more efficient model.

If you are shopping for a new air conditioner, look for an energy efficiency rating of SEER 13 or higher for central air conditioners and EER 10 or higher for window air conditioners. Models that have earned the ENERGY STAR® label meet high standards for energy efficiency.

Make sure you buy the proper size. An air conditioner that is too large will cycle on and off more frequently and will not do as good a job at dehumidifying the air.



Save on hot water

Set your water heater temperature to 120°F. Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.

Seal and Insulate

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

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 northern and northwestern sides of your home.



