

Power Smart Pricing Update



March 2009

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Online resources are available to help Power Smart Pricing participants keep up with the latest program updates and energy news.

We're here to help!

If you have questions about your participation in Power Smart Pricing, contact CNT Energy at info@powersmartpricing.org or 1-877-655-6028.



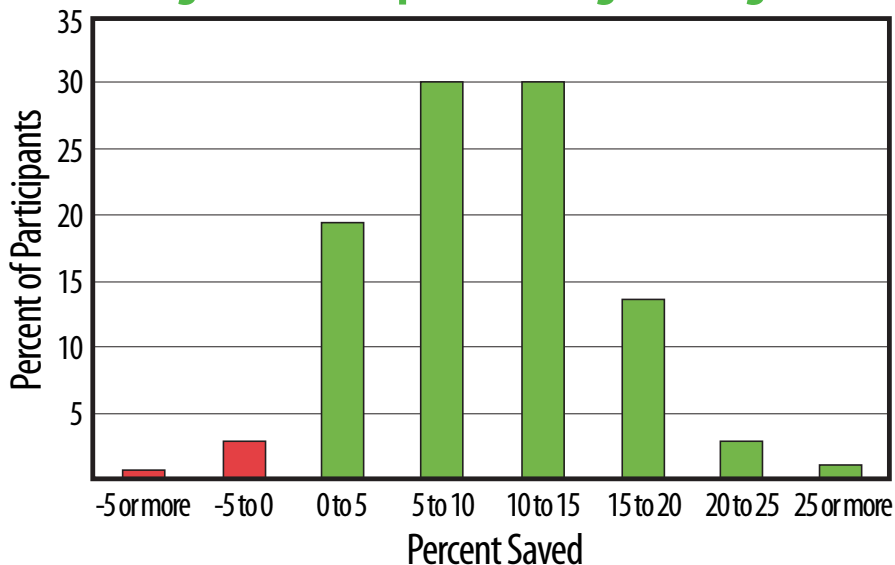
Savings Update for 2008

The Power Smart Pricing billing results for 2008 are in, and the program continues to produce good results. Since the program launched in 2007, participants have saved an average of 10 percent compared with what they would have paid on the standard rate.

Because savings vary by season, it's best to look at your individual savings over the course of an entire year to judge how well the program is working for you. So far, nearly 95 percent of participants who have been enrolled for at least 12 months have saved money with Power Smart Pricing. The graph shows how many participants fit into each savings category during 2008.

Hourly electricity prices tend to be low most of the time during the spring, so you are likely to see good savings results on your next few bills. And as always, you can make the most of hourly pricing by shifting some of your electricity use to off-peak hours. For daily price information go to www.powersmartpricing.org or call 1-877-655-6028.

Range of Participant Savings during 2008*



* Based on results for participants who were enrolled in Power Smart Pricing for at least 10 billing periods during 2008.



Stay in Touch with Power Smart Pricing

A variety of resources are available to help Power Smart Pricing participants keep up with the latest program updates and energy news, and the Power Smart Pricing team is working to expand and improve these resources.

You can easily check hourly prices and find seasonal energy tips at www.powersmartpricing.org. The site got a new look at the end of 2008, along with new tools such as color-coded charts that make it easy to plan your energy saving actions at a glance. Click the blog link to read about the latest Power Smart Pricing developments and energy-related news.

In addition, Power Smart Pricing is branching out into the world of online social networking. Our Facebook group is getting underway, and we encourage you to sign up. It will be a great way to learn more about the program from fellow participants and our staff.

The first Facebook discussion about the program was about managing your summer air conditioning costs. One participant posted a question about managing summer electricity prices with the program, and another responded with advice based on her own experience.

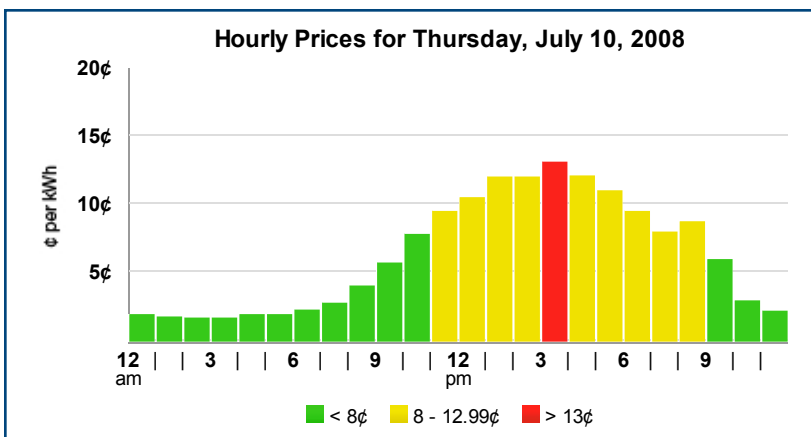
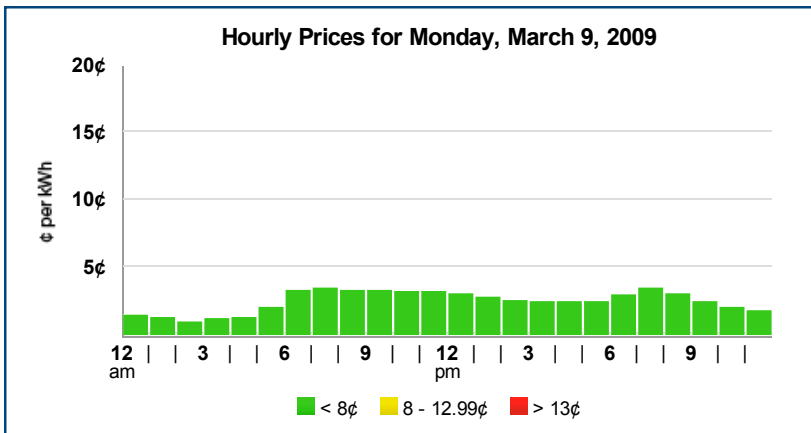
“Best thing to do in summer is to cool down the house at night until about 10 a.m. while power is really cheap and then gradually let it get a bit warmer during the day,” she said. “We’ve done great in the summers by doing that. Also, it makes for a comfortable sleeping temp.”

This precooling strategy is great method to keep costs down during hot summer afternoons, and it has been very effective for some families. After seeing this topic come up on Facebook, we were able to provide more information on the subject and add a link to a fact sheet about precooling.

This is just one example of how online resources like the blog and the Facebook group allow both participants and program staff to share the extra bits of news and advice about Power Smart Pricing. We look forward to staying in touch with you online and to hearing more about your experiences with the program. Of course, for those who prefer to communicate by phone, you can still reach the Power Smart Pricing team at 1-877-655-6028.

Finally, you’ll have a chance to meet CNT Energy staff members and fellow participants at the upcoming summer readiness workshops. Workshops will take place in communities across the state in May. Watch for your invitation later this spring!





Go to www.powersmartpricing.org to view hourly electricity prices in a color-coded bar graph or table format. Enter a date to view past prices.

Hourly Prices for Monday, March 9, 2009

Price in ¢ per kWh		
12am-1am	1.4¢	■
1am-2am	1.3¢	■
2am-3am	1¢	■
3am-4am	1.2¢	■
4am-5am	1.3¢	■
5am-6am	2.1¢	■
6am-7am	3.3¢	■
7am-8am	3.4¢	■
8am-9am	3.3¢	■
9am-10am	3.3¢	■
10am-11am	3.2¢	■
11am-12pm	3.2¢	■
12pm-1pm	3.1¢	■
1pm-2pm	2.8¢	■
2pm-3pm	2.6¢	■
3pm-4pm	2.4¢	■
4pm-5pm	2.4¢	■
5pm-6pm	2.5¢	■
6pm-7pm	2.9¢	■
7pm-8pm	3.4¢	■
8pm-9pm	3.1¢	■
9pm-10pm	2.5¢	■
10pm-11pm	2.1¢	■
11pm-12am	1.8¢	■

New Energy Opportunities

With the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, there will be new investments in improving energy efficiency and modernizing the electric grid. Power Smart Pricing offers a key example of how modern rate options that use more advanced metering technology can help people save money and reduce energy use.

The details of how funding for energy-related programs will flow from the government to consumers are still being worked out. CNT Energy is carefully monitoring this and will inform you in future Updates of specific opportunities that may benefit you.

Go Paperless and Save Resources

Power Smart Pricing participants can go paperless to help conserve resources and cut back on clutter. If you would prefer to receive the majority of your Power Smart Pricing communications electronically (by e-mail and on the website) rather than by mail, contact us at info@powersmartpricing.org and tell us you want to go paperless. Please include your name, your Ameren account number, and the e-mail address you would like us to use to send you important program updates.



Power Smart Saving Tips

The best way to lower your energy bills is to first identify where you can save. Take a look at your home energy bills and evaluate how much you're spending on both natural gas and electricity at different times of the year. Target the biggest bill for the biggest energy savings. Heating and cooling make up the biggest chunks of most home energy bills, so weatherizing your home and investing in efficient heating and cooling systems could really pay off. The U.S. Department of Energy offers some excellent information about big home energy-efficiency projects at www.energysavers.gov. Of course, the smaller things around the house also add up. Here are some tips for cutting energy costs all around your home.

Unplug the Charger

Remember how you grew up listening to your parents tell you to turn off the lights? Now there are new energy-wasting culprits around the house. All those cell phones, cameras, laptops and power tools with chargers should be unplugged when they are done charging. The battery charger continues to pull electricity even when nothing is plugged into it. Even if you unplug your cell phone from the charger, the charger itself is still drawing a small amount of power. So don't waste your money charging the charger. Unplug it.

Keep the Air Flowing

Many households in Illinois have a forced-air heating systems. If you have this type of system, it is important to replace or clean your furnace filter once a month. This is an easy and affordable way to clean the air in your home while reducing your energy costs. When filters are clogged with dirt, the furnace must work harder to emit warm air. A new clean filter will have your furnace buzzing with efficiency.

Time for a Tune-Up

Getting your heating and cooling equipment tuned up by a professional before the winter and summer seasons can ensure that your appliances are running efficiently.

For more information on or about savings tips go to www.powersmartpricing.blogspot.com.



Summer Workshops Coming in May

This May the Power Smart Pricing team will offer a series of energy-saving workshops designed to help you manage your summer electricity costs. Look for your invitation in your mailbox or e-mail inbox or visit the Power Smart Pricing website for updates about workshops near you!

Stay in touch with all the latest Power Smart Pricing news and events at www.powersmartpricing.org!