

# REAL-TIME PRICING

The Residential Real-Time Pricing Program puts you in control.

With the ComEd Real-Time Pricing Program (RRTP), the price you pay for electricity changes from hour to hour according to the wholesale market prices for ComEd's service area. Most of the time, the hourly prices are lower than the fixed-rate price you're probably paying now. You can take advantage of this by shifting the use of large appliances like the dishwasher and laundry machines to times when prices are low, like at night. You can also cut back on the use of other high-energy appliances like air conditioners during hours when prices are high.

You will be automatically notified after 5 p.m. CT when predicted day-ahead hourly prices are expected to reach or exceed 14 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for any number of hours during the following day. Additionally, you will receive an alert on any day the real-time price that day reaches or exceeds 14 cents per kWh. You can select e-mail or text (SMS) message for these alerts, and you have the option of changing your real-time day-of alert price threshold to 10 cents per kWh. Predicted day-ahead prices (after 5 p.m. CT) and real-time day-of prices are always available at [www,theWattSpot.com](http://www.theWattSpot.com) or by calling 1-877-WATTSPOT. Savings are possible but are not guaranteed. The better you control your usage, the more you could potentially save.

And once you're enrolled in the program, you can keep track of your actual usage and prices here on theWattSpot.com. To participate in the ComEd RRTP program, you'll need a new type of electricity meter. It will be installed free of charge. But, like your current meter, there will be a meter lease fee reflected on your monthly bill. This meter charge is in addition to your standard meter fee. Enrollment to program activation usually takes about two months.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Residential Real-Time Pricing Program?**

It's a new program that uses ComEd's Rate BES-H to determine your monthly electricity bills. BES-H stands for Basic Electric Service-Hourly Energy Pricing. With it, the price you pay varies from hour to hour based on wholesale market prices.

### **How can I take advantage of the difference between real-time pricing and regular pricing?**

If you shift the use of energy-hungry appliances like air conditioners, laundry machines and dishwashers to those low-priced hours – like evenings, nights and weekends – it could make a difference in your electricity bills.

### **How will I know when prices will be high?**

You will be automatically notified after 5 p.m. CT when predicted day-ahead hourly prices are expected to reach or exceed 14 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) for any number of hours during the following day. You can choose to receive these notifications by email, text (SMS) message, or automated phone call. Additionally, you will receive an alert on any day the real-time price that day reaches or exceeds 14 cents per kWh. You can select e-mail or text (SMS) message for these alerts, and you have the option of changing your real-time day-of alert price threshold to 10 cents per kWh. Predicted day-ahead prices (after 5 p.m. CT) and real-time day-of prices are always available at [www,theWattSpot.com](http://www,theWattSpot.com) or by calling 1-877-WATTSPOT.

### **How much can I save?**

Although we can't guarantee that you will save money, about 95 percent of active participants saved in 2007. Individual bills will vary month to month, based on weather, market conditions, and your usage habits. Generally, the more you avoid using electricity when prices are high, the more you could potentially save with real-time pricing. Even though some customers did not save, the majority of customers who participated in the ComEd RRTP program for all 12 months in 2007 typically experienced annual savings from 7 to 12% compared with what they would have paid under ComEd's basic fixed-rate service. Similar savings are possible – but not guaranteed – for future participation in ComEd RRTP.

### **Is it true I'll need a new meter to be in the program?**

Enrollment in this innovative program requires the installation of an electric meter capable of measuring and recording electric usage in hourly intervals. There is a monthly meter lease fee for this hourly recording meter, which is in addition to your current monthly standard meter charge. However, the first 110,000 customers who sign up for the RRTP program will pay a reduced monthly meter lease fee of \$2.25 for the hourly recording meter and will not pay a fee for exchanging the meter. This reduced monthly meter lease fee and the exemption of the meter exchange fee only apply to the first meter. If a customer has more than one meter participating in the program, this customer is subject to a regular monthly meter lease fee and a meter exchange fee for each additional hourly recording meter.

### **How long do I have to remain on the program?**

Participants must remain on the ComEd RRTP program for at least 12 consecutive monthly billing periods. Thereafter, you are free to leave the program if you wish.

### **What factors affect electricity prices that I can keep an eye on?**

Watch temperature forecasts during hot summer months. During heat waves, electricity pricing is especially sensitive to rising temperatures, because that's when air conditioning – and therefore, electricity – is in the highest demand. High demand and other factors cause prices to go up.

### **How can I tell if real-time pricing is good for me?**

Is your energy bill more than \$40 a month? Is anyone home during work days? Can you shift the use of your large appliances to cheaper times of the day or night? Can you use those appliances more efficiently? Are you able to deal with some volatility in the size of your bills? Do you heat your home with natural gas? Can you provide unrestricted meter access and is your meter easy to reach? Can you remain in the program for at least 12 consecutive monthly billing periods? If yes, then this program may be right for you. If you answered no to any of these questions, or if you have a medical condition, then real-time pricing probably isn't right for you.

### **Are there any environmental benefits from being in the Real-Time Pricing program?**

Yes. When you choose the ComEd Real-Time Pricing program, you're making an environmentally responsible decision. High hourly prices are tied to high market demand. By controlling and shifting your use of electricity, you'll help reduce electricity demand when it counts most, so less electricity has to be generated. And that helps reduce the release of emissions that contribute to global warming.