

Time of Use Rates

The Rate Approach to Reducing Your Electricity Costs

Q. What are time-of-use rates?

A. Time-of-use rates are based on the time of day you use electricity and our cost of supplying electricity to you during that time. If you use it when the total used by all MGE customers is low—known as off-peak hours—your rate will be lower than the standard rate. Electricity used during periods of high demand—known as on-peak hours—will cost more than the standard rate.

Q. What are the on-peak and off-peak periods?

A. On-peak hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Off-peak hours: Before 10 a.m. and after 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, weekends and holidays (see below). More than two-thirds of a week’s time is off-peak time.

Time of Use
Off-Peak and On-Peak Hours

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
10 a.m.							
NOON							
7 p.m.							
9 p.m.							
12 a.m.							
6 a.m.							

☐ Off-Peak Hours ☑ On-Peak Hours

Q. What holidays are included?

A. The following holidays are on the off-peak rate:
New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Q. Can time-of-use customers still use their appliances whenever they want?

A. Yes. When a time-of-use meter is installed, it in no way affects your electrical use or appliance operation. It simply records the actual energy used in your home and when it is used.

Q. What kind of savings might I expect from time-of-use rates?

A. The amount varies among customers. The more energy you can shift to off-peak use, the more money you can save. If you can use 65%-70% of your electricity during off-peak hours, your monthly bill may be lower. Our current time-of-use customers are saving an average of 9% on their electric bills.

Customers most likely to save money are those who are not home Monday through Friday during the day or who have large electric appliances (water heater, dehumidifier, electric clothes dryer, central air) and can shift electrical use to off-peak times.

Q. After I am on time-of-use rates, how will I know if I am saving or how much I am saving compared to the standard electric rate?

A. After six months on time-of-use rates, we will send you a report comparing your energy costs with those you would have incurred on the standard rate. After that, we issue these comparisons annually. Also, monthly billing statements for time-of-use customers break down both the amount of on-peak and off-peak use and charges. This also can help you monitor how you are doing.

(continued on reverse side)

Q. If I choose to try time-of-use rates, how long must I stay on them?

A. Optional time-of-use customers can transfer back to the residential electric service rates after one full year on time-of-use billing.

Q. Does it cost anything to sign up for time-of-use rates?

A. Your electric meter will need to be replaced by a special time-of-use meter, and MGE will install this meter at no charge.

Q. Why is MGE offering time-of-use rates?

A. The rates give our residential customers an opportunity to lower their cost of electricity without reducing the total amount of electricity they use.

Furthermore, if enough demand for electricity can be shifted to off-peak hours, we can avoid the need to build new generating facilities. At the same time,

increased off-peak use will allow our existing facilities to operate more efficiently and economically, further reducing your cost of electricity.

Q. How can I determine if time-of-use rates are right for me?

A. Fill out the Time-of-Use Benefit Worksheet below to help determine if you're a good candidate. If you have a high score, you may want to consider signing up.

Q. What are the time-of-use rates?

A. Please call us at 252-7222 for our current rates or find them on MGE's Web site at the address listed below.

Note: The time-of-use rate is mandatory for nonfarm, single-family, residential units with average daily usage of 130 kWh per day or more during the four-month summer billing season.

Residential Time-of-Use Benefit Worksheet (Circle the answer that best fits your situation.)			
	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Is anyone home from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.?	Yes		No
Do you have a gas or an electric water heater?	Gas		Electric
Do you operate a dehumidifier?	No		Yes
Do you have electric heat?	No		Yes
Do you use central air-conditioning or room air conditioners?	No	Room	Central
Do you use electric timers or would you be willing to use timers?	No	Maybe	Yes
How many items circled in Columns 2 and 3?			
Multiplier (Multiply this line by the above line.)		X5	X10
Total points per column			
Total points in Columns 2 and 3			
0 to 10 = Little Potential to Benefit 11 to 30 = Some Potential to Benefit 31 or more = Excellent Potential to Benefit			

For more information, please visit our Web site at: mge.com/tou or call us at 252-7222.