



NEWS

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What Makes A Smart Meter Smart?

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If a tree knocks down a power line, a smart meter will call for help faster than you can read this



Smart meters are a key first step in modernizing our electricity system and ensuring the safe, reliable delivery of electricity to homes and businesses throughout the province.

These new digital meters can support the two-way flow of electricity from BC Hydro to the customer. They can record the amount of power that is consumed and when it was used. And for customers who generate their own power through solar or other methods, it can record the amount produced.

> [See a comparison between smart meters and the old meters they're replacing.](#)

Starting in the summer of 2011, BC Hydro is replacing all residential and commercial customers' existing meters with new smart meters.

- > [Learn how smart meters work](#)
- > [Learn about the future with smart meters](#)

	
Old Meter	Smart Meter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Captures only electricity consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Captures voltage, power quality measurements, hourly electricity consumption data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ No communication capability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Integrated two-way communication between the meter and BC Hydro, and the meter and the premise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ No outage detection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Automated outage detection and notification – "last gasp" and "first breath"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ No tamper detection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Automated meter tamper alarms and support for theft detection and other analytics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Manual on-site meter reading ◊ Manual meter connects and disconnects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Automated and on-demand meter readings ◊ Remote meter connect and disconnects ◊ Disconnect policy remains the same
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Estimated cost and consumption feedback provided through bi-monthly bills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Customer cost and consumption feedback provided in near real-time via

only

multiple choices

Source: Global Environment Fund, Centre for Smart Energy. "The Emerging Smart Grid: Investment and Entrepreneurial Potential in the Electric Power Grid of the Future" (October 2005); and PJM Interconnection 2007.

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