

# ***PowerCentsDC™: Smart Pricing for the Smart Grid***

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# eMeter Strategic Consulting Experience



**Anaheim Public Utilities** - Turn-key Spare the Power Days critical peak rebate program

**PG&E** - Smart meters for PG&E's customers above 200 kW representing \$3B annual revenue

**California Large IOUs** - Data management for the California Statewide Pricing Pilot



**PowerCentsDC™** – Project design, implementation and operation for Washington D.C. smart meter/thermostat pilot

**Ontario Smart Price Pilot** – Project design, implementation, and operation for time-of-use and critical peak pricing pilot

**Southern Company** – Integrated AMI-distribution automation pilot



# PowerCentsDC Case Study

## Smart Grid pilot

- About 1,000 residential customers throughout District of Columbia
- Smart meters and smart thermostats
- “Smart prices” that change at different times
- Consumers had ability to manage their energy costs
  - By reducing total electricity use
  - By shifting use from peak to other times

## “Smart Meter Pricing Pilot, Inc.” public-private partnership

- Public Service Commission, DC
- DC Office of People’s Counsel
- Consumer Utility Board
- IBEW
- Pepco (utility)

# Program Design

## Test goals

- How much do consumers reduce peak demand?
- How much do consumers save energy with their new tools?
- Done via random sample of control vs. treatment

## Participation voluntary

- Recruitment by mail
- Sign-up by phone call or on website, [www.PowerCentsDC.org](http://www.PowerCentsDC.org)

## Customer groups

- Three different rates
- \$100 thank-you payments for Critical Peak Pricing and Hourly Pricing
- No payment for Critical Peak Rebate

## Customer service

- Email and toll-free phone number
- Website self-service (enrollment, price data, etc.)

# Schedule

## Design – 2007

- Pricing plans
- Experimental groups
- Technology selection

## Recruitment – 2007

## Equipment installation – May to July 2008

## Go live

- Meters and smart prices: July 2008
- Smart thermostats: July 2008
- Consumer engagement software: June 2009
- Surveys: late 2009, early 2010

## Completion – 2010

# Critical Peak Price and Critical Peak Rebate

## Standard rate

- Flat for energy pricing, inverted tiers for other services

## Critical peak pricing (CPP)

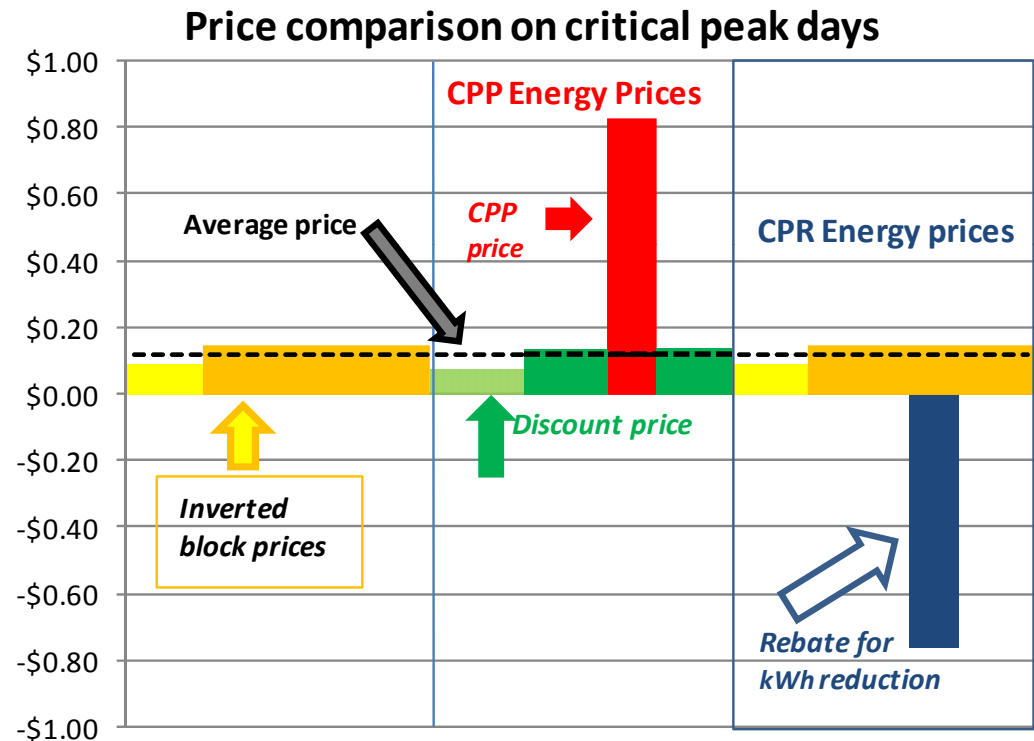
- CP days dispatched 10-15 days per year
- Prices 5x average for four hours on these days

## Critical peak rebate (CPR)

- “Carrot” instead of “stick”
- Customer earns rebates during critical peak hours by reducing usage below baseline
- Also called Peak Time Rebate

## Price notifications

- CPP, CPR, and HP
- Via automated phone call, email, or text page





# Hourly Pricing

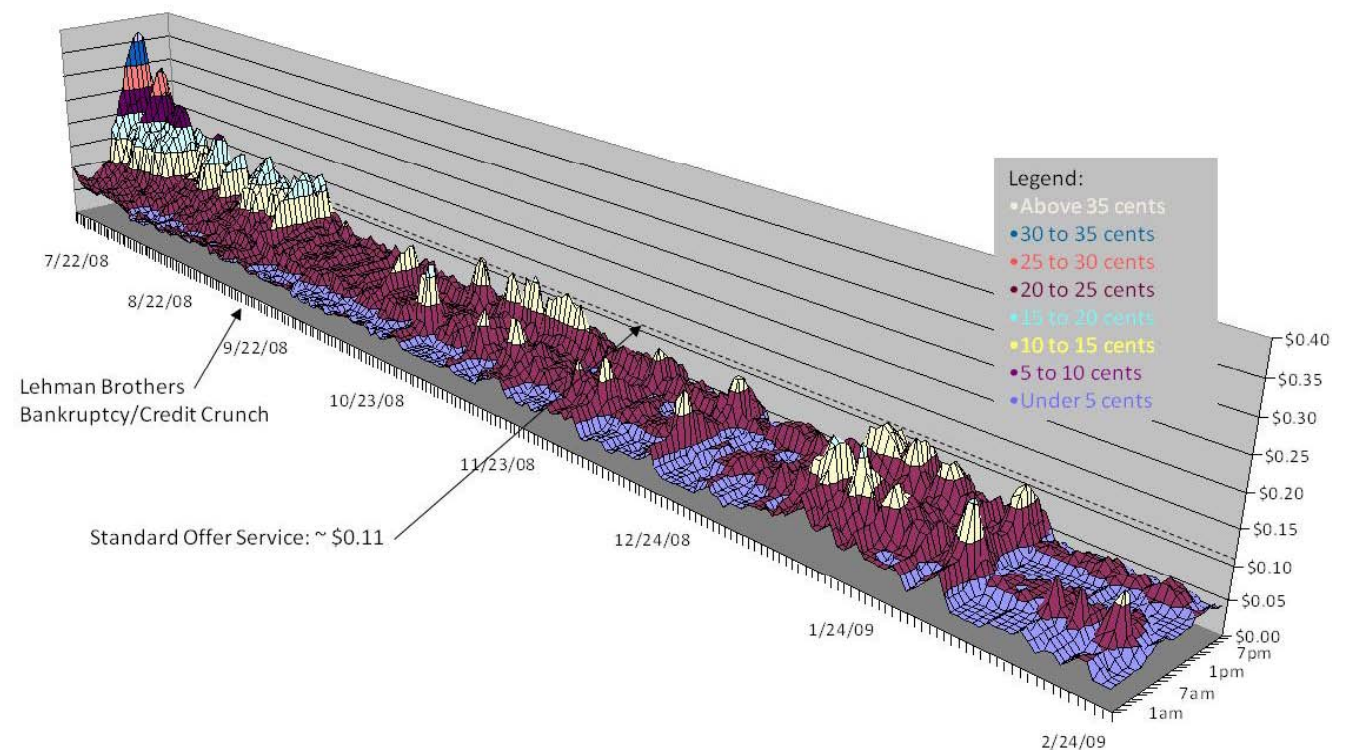
## Real-time pricing

- Vary hourly according to PJM market price

First to combine with smart thermostat

Notifications provided prior to high-price days

Hourly Prices July 2008-February 2009



# PowerCentsDC Consumer Engagement Model

## Consumer Engagement

### Awareness

### Influence

### Persistent Behavior Change

Core Elements

Energy Info & Analytics

- Cost
- Usage
- CO<sub>2</sub>

Consumer Analytics & Content

- Cost Projections
- Facts & Tips
- CSR Tool

Notifications Engine

- Alerts
- Summaries

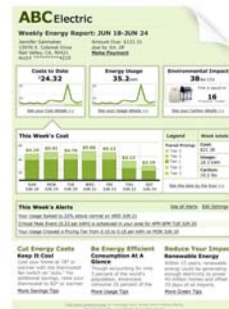
Demand Response

- Dynamic pricing plans
- Event Management
- Response Analysis

Access Points



Web



Email



Mobile/SMS



In Home Display



Bill insert



# Electric Usage Report

Comes each month with bill

Shows more detail on energy usage

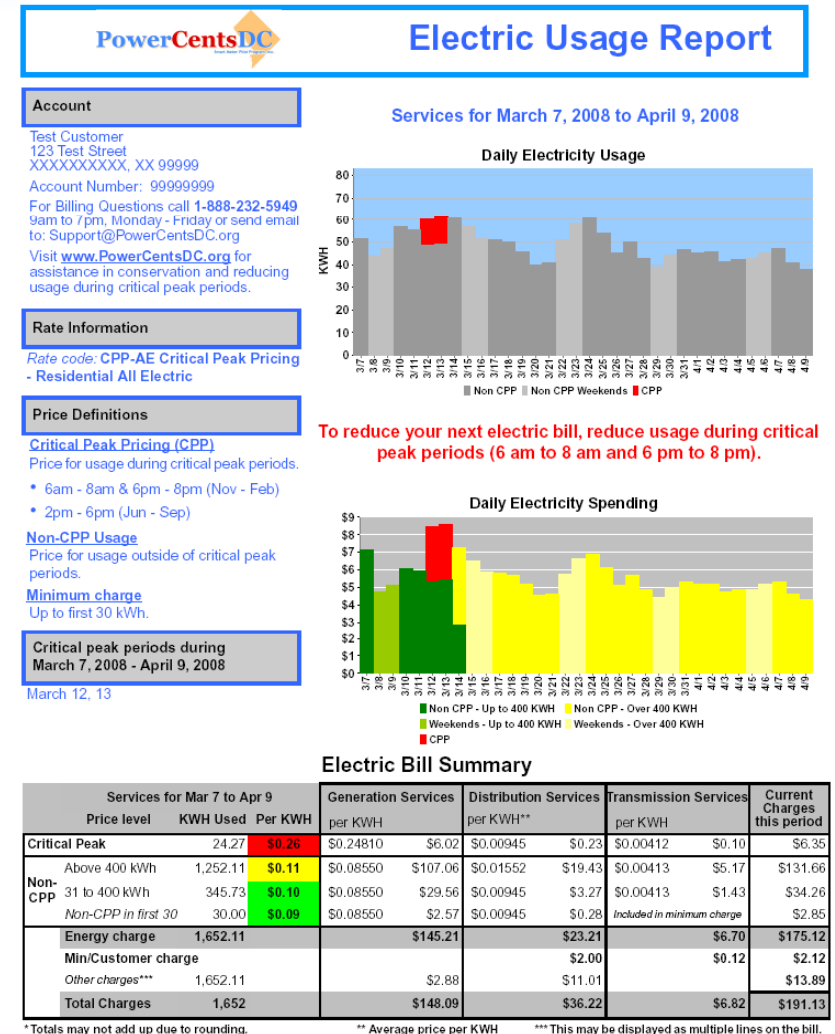
- By tier
- During critical periods

Gives more information on energy spending

- In parallel with usage

Colorful graphs allow quick reference

Ontario Pilot result: 93% found such reports useful



# Smart Thermostat

Automated cycling during critical peak events

- 2 pm-6 pm summer
- 6-8 am & 6-8 pm winter

Feedback display

- Current price, updated hourly
- Monthly bill to date
- Monthly usage to date
- LED indicator during events

Adoption

- One-third of participants asked for a thermostat
- One-quarter read the display



# Consumer Engagement Software

## Web 2.0 dashboard

- Minimal charts
- Large headings
- Not too much text

## Costs

- Month to date
- Projection

## Usage

- Compared to last month

## Carbon emissions

## Context



# Usage Details

## Drill down

- Monthly
- Daily
- Hourly

## Color coding

- By tier
- Critical peaks

## Appliances

- Disaggregation

## Peer comparison

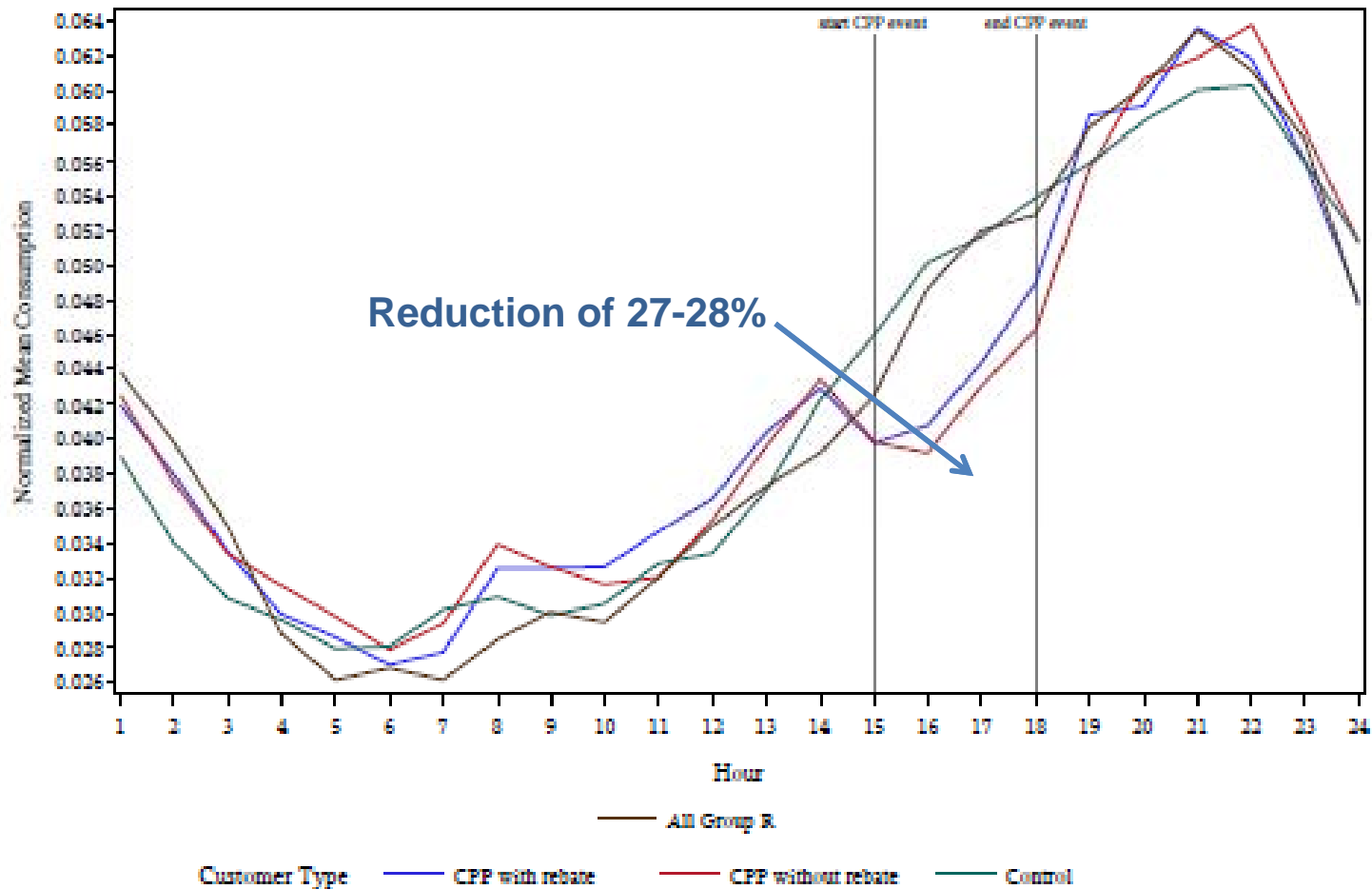


# PowerCentsDC Peak Demand Reduction

## Normalized Mean Electricity Consumption by Hour of Day

CPP event date: 19AUG2008

Customer Group: R



Results are from Interim Report, covering July 2008 to February 2009.

# Peak Demand Reduction Results

All participant groups responded to the price signals  
Higher price differentials led to greater load shifting

Rate Plan	Summer Peak Reduction	Winter Peak Reduction
CPP	25%	10%
CPR	11%	(n/s)
HP	4%	4%

Results are from Interim Report, covering July 2008 to February 2009.



# Smart Thermostats

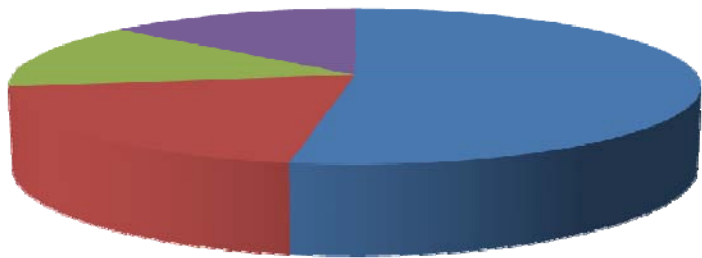
CPP customers with smart thermostats had much higher peak reductions

Customer Type	No Smart Thermostat	With Smart Thermostat
Regular (R)	22%	34%
All Electric (AE)	29%	50%

Results are from Interim Report, covering July 2008 to February 2009.

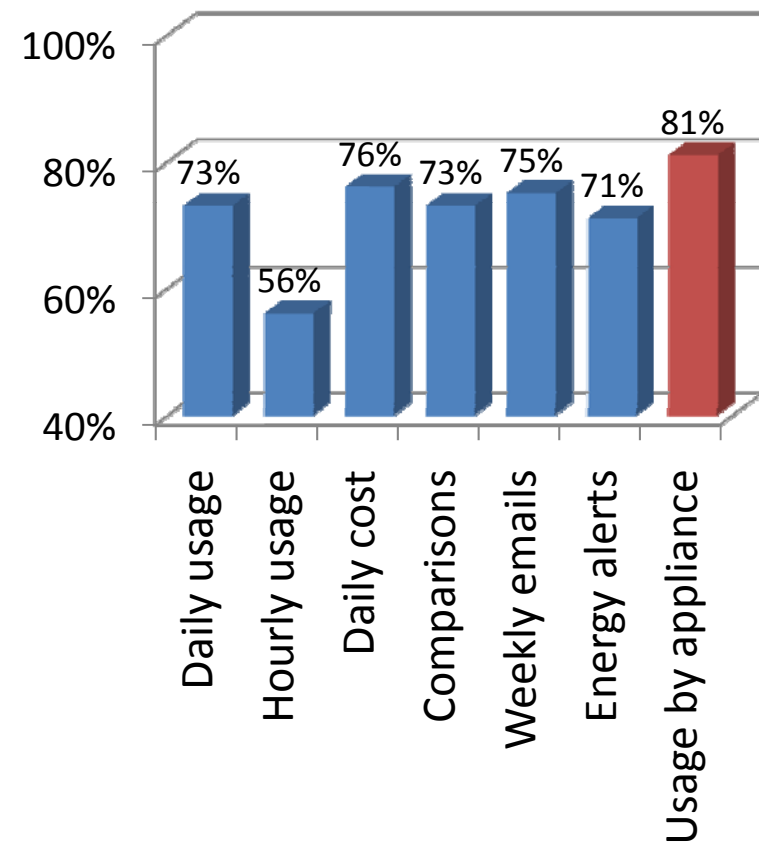
# Control Customer Survey

## Preferred Means of Receiving Information



■ On bill      ■ Mailed reports  
■ Utility Website   ■ Email

## Interest in Specific Data Types



# Best Practices Summary

When smart meters go in

- IT platform in place
- Energy report bill inserts
- Online data access with “push” option (email)
- Month-to-date usage and cost
- Dynamic pricing options
- Business processes and IT systems to catch exceptions (billing and installation errors)

When ready

- Activate standard HAN interface