# PowerCentsDC™: Smart Pricing for the Smart Grid

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# eMeter Strategic Consulting Experience





**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

### 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)

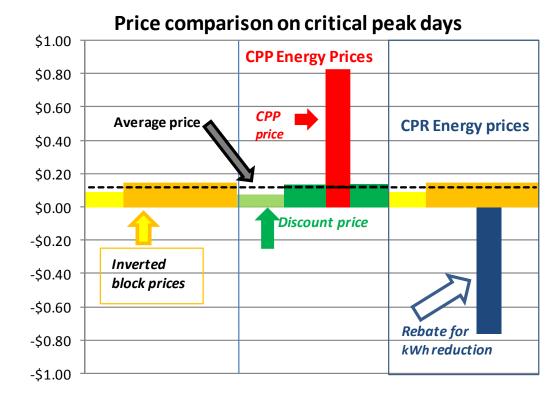
- CP days dispatched 10-15 days per year
- Prices 5x average for four hours on these days

## 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





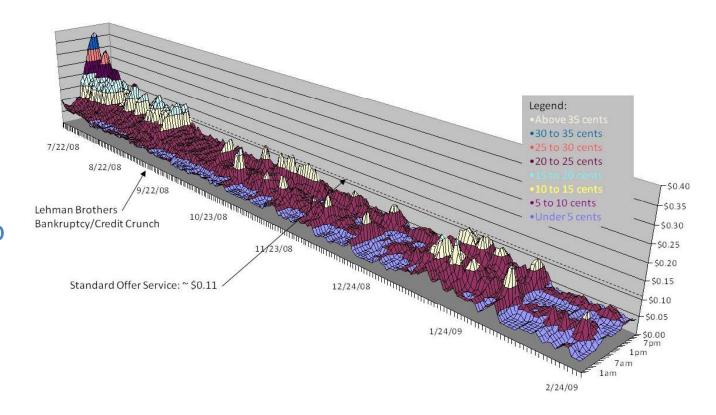
# **Hourly Pricing**

### 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



- 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

10:30" Combined Topics

And the Topics

Compared Topics

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



#### **Electric Usage Report**

#### Account Test Custome

123 Test Street XXXXXXXXXX, XX 99999

Account Number: 99999999

For Billing Questions call 1-888-232-5949 9am to 7pm, Monday - Friday or send email to: Support@PowerCentsDC.org

Visit www.PowerCentsDC.org for assistance in conservation and reducing usage during critical peak periods.

#### Rate Information

Rate code: CPP-AE Critical Peak Prici
- Residential All Electric

#### Price Definitions

#### Critical Peak Pricing (CPP)

Price for usage during critical peak periods.

- 6am 8am & 6pm 8pm (Nov Feb)
- 2pm 6pm (Jun Sep)

#### Non-CPP Usage

Price for usage outside of critical peak periods

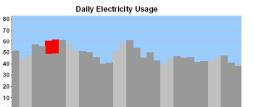
Minimum charge

Up to first 30 kWh.

Critical peak periods during March 7, 2008 - April 9, 2008

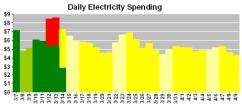
March 12, 13

#### Services for March 7, 2008 to April 9, 2008



Non CPP Non CPP Weekends CPP

To reduce your next electric bill, reduce usage during critical peak periods (6 am to 8 am and 6 pm to 8 pm).



Non CPP - Up to 400 KWH Non CPP - Over 400 KWH
Weekends - Up to 400 KWH Weekends - Over 400 KWH

#### Electric Bill Summary

Services for Mar 7 to Apr 9			Generation Services		Distribution Services		Transmission Services		Current Charges	
	Price level	KWH Used	Per KWH	per KWH		per KWH**		per KWH		this period
Critical Peak 24.27 \$0.26		\$0.24810	\$6.02	\$0.00945	\$0.23	\$0.00412	\$0.10	\$6.35		
Non- CPP	Above 400 kWh	1,252.11	\$0.11	\$0.08550	\$107.06	\$0.01552	\$19.43	\$0.00413	\$5.17	\$131.66
	31 to 400 kWh	345.73	\$0.10	\$0.08550	\$29.56	\$0.00945	\$3.27	\$0.00413	\$1.43	\$34.26
	Non-CPP in first 30	30.00	\$0.09	\$0.08550	\$2.57	\$0.00945	\$0.28	Included in minir	num charge	\$2.85
	Energy charge	1,652.11			\$145.21		\$23.21		\$6.70	\$175.12
	Min/Customer charge						\$2.00		\$0.12	\$2.12
	Other charges***	1,652.11			\$2.88		\$11.01			\$13.89
	Total Charges	1,652			\$148.09		\$36.22		\$6.82	\$191.13

\*Totals may not add up due to rounding.

\*\* Average price per KWH

\*\*\* This may be displayed as multiple lines on the bill.



## **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

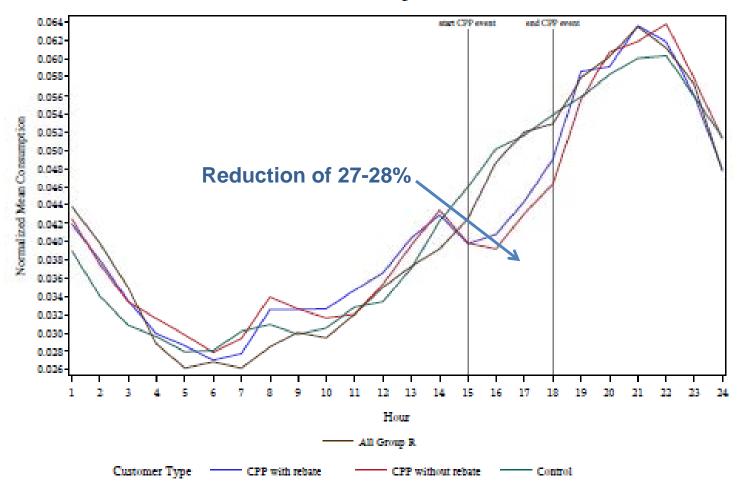




# PowerCentsDC Peak Demand Reduction

# 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

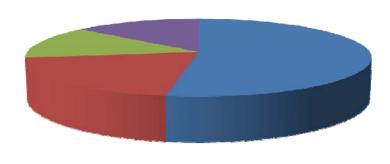
Customer Type	No Smart Thermostat	With Smart Thermostat
Regular (R)	22%	34%
All Electric (AE)	29%	50%

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



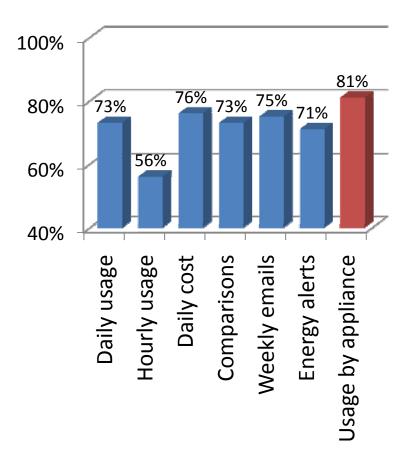
# **Control Customer Survey**

# **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

