

SMART METERS

WHAT IS A SMART METER?

A smart meter is an electric meter equipped with two-way communication technology that provides meter readings and securely transfers usage information to CenterPoint Energy for billing and operational purposes. Smart meters virtually eliminate estimated bills, enable quicker service, identify electric outages faster and offer more tools to manage your energy use.

Electric Meters

CONVENIENCE



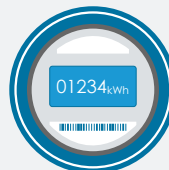
| OLD | VS. | NEW |
|-----|---|-----|
| ✓ | RELIABLE WAY TO MEASURE ENERGY USAGE | ✓ |
| | FASTER SERVICE ACTIVATION | ✓ |
| | FASTER OUTAGE NOTIFICATION | ✓ |
| | ONLINE TOOLS TO HELP YOU MANAGE YOUR ENERGY USE | ✓ |



SAFETY

Smart meters transmit weak radio signals 3 minutes per day on average, which means they are not transmitting 99.78% of the time. The amount of radio waves emitted by a typical cellphone in one month is equal to the amount a smart meter will give off in approximately 1,000 years. Compare this information with examples of radio frequency in the everyday environment to the right.

The numbers displayed represent milliwatts per square centimeter.



.0001
Electric Smart Meter
(3 feet, during transmission)



<.001
Wi-Fi Wireless Router
(3 feet, constant when nearby)



<.2
Microwave Oven
(2 feet, when in use)



1-5
Cellphone
(at head, during call)



SECURITY

YOUR DATA IS SECURE

Proprietary protocols, encryption and passwords defend data collected by smart meters from potential hacking. Customer specific data such as customer name, address and account or meter number is not part of the file and not transmitted.



RELIABILITY

Smart meters are accurate

Our smart meters are designed, built and tested to comply with national accuracy standards. CenterPoint Energy receives evidence that each smart meter is tested by the manufacturer for accuracy prior to shipment.

