

Making eye contact with power usage

PowerCost Monitor brings real-time information to Hydro One customers . . .



It's hard to control electricity usage when you don't know how much you're using until weeks later when the bill arrives. And by that point, it's too late to do anything about it. Hydro One Networks is helping customers in northern Ontario keep an eye on their power costs with the PowerCost monitor program.

Hydro One is providing 30,000 PowerCost monitors free of charge to its residential customers in northern Ontario on a first-come-first-served basis this summer. They'll pay only \$8.99 for shipping and handling.

This is the largest deployment of real-time energy feedback technology in Canada. Blue Line Innovations developed the monitor and is responsible for marketing and distribution of the product.

The PowerCost monitor is comprised of two components. Homeowners attach a sensor unit to the hydro meter outside their homes. The unit counts how quickly the dial is turning and it sends a wireless signal to

a display unit that can be placed in the kitchen or anywhere else in the house. There are no wires used to connect the sensor unit on the meter to the display unit in the home. It takes only minutes to install the device.

The display screen shows the homeowner how much money is being spent on electricity from moment to moment. It also keeps a cumulative dollar total for the month so customers can budget and control their electricity costs. Customers get instant feedback on the changes they make in their electricity usage habits.

"We are committed to providing our customers with effective tools to help them better manage their electricity use, and save money on their hydro bill," explained Tom Parkinson, President and CEO of Hydro One. "Blue Line's PowerCost Monitor has proven it can help people conserve electricity and we are pleased to be the first to offer this innovative conservation solution to our customers."

Based on the results of an earlier pilot study, real-time electricity monitors can help homeowners reduce power consumption



Hydro One is providing 30,000 PowerCost monitors free of charge to its residential customers in northern Ontario (photo courtesy of Blue Line Innovations).

an average of 7% and by up to 15%, about \$10-\$20 per month off the average hydro bill - just by providing them with information.

The underlying consumer psychology is that people are motivated to reduce their bills, but need to be made aware of how much they're spending as they spend it in order to change their behaviour - a critical first step in creating a conservation culture, says David Curtis, director of business transformation at Hydro One. "Information is a vital part of helping our customers use electricity wisely," Curtis says. Hydro One residential customers in northern Ontario can order online at www.save-electricity.ca or by calling a toll-free number, 1-866-607-2583.

Major upgrades to Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation homes



Hydro One helps upgrade energy efficiency of 100 homes

Member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation celebrated the announcement of a major energy efficiency retrofit of the community's housing, made possible through funding by Hydro One and the Ontario Power Authority's Conservation Bureau.

Designed by the Windfall Ecology Centre, the program pilots an integrated approach to energy conservation. Demand reduction and conservation targets will be achieved by performing home energy audits, load analysis, and installing appropriate energy-saving measures such as insulation, lighting, and draft proofing.

The Windfall Ecology Centre is also working with the community on the development of a 10MW wind farm on the north end of the island.

Chippewas of Georgina Island Chief, Brett Mooney, says he is "looking forward to providing results that can be used as a model for other First Nations retrofits."

Hydro One Conservation Program Manager, James Hall, says, "Hydro One feels that the Georgina Island First Nation is a good fit for this program because of their already strong conservation culture. This program will lead to even greater energy conservation results and will provide an excellent model for what communities can achieve."



Hydro One pilots industrial energy reduction program

Hydro One is working with Hatch Consulting to help Ontario businesses improve their energy efficiency.

The program is aimed at helping Ontario companies examine their energy management practices and identify ways they can work more efficiently.

Hydro One sponsors a diagnostic session with Hatch Consulting that reviews energy management strategy and establishes a baseline for the company's practices.

The company can then commit to investing in a full review of their physical plant to identify energy consumption improvement opportunities and build a road map for savings. To date, 12 medium-sized companies (using above 2 MW of peak load) in forestry, recreation hospitality, and manufacturing have participated. Hydro One will use the results and customer feedback to develop an in-a-box program for industry.