

The Benefits of Smart Meters

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The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has authorized the state's three investor-owned utilities (Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison) to upgrade their existing analog electric meters with digital Smart Meters.

There are many benefits of Smart Meters to consumers, the State of California, and the utilities:

- **Quicker Response to Power Outages:** Utilities are able to identify power outages and restore power more quickly to consumers, which means minimizing disruptions in homes and businesses.
- **Energy Savings for Customers:** Smart Meters provide information to consumers to help them better manage their energy consumption. By using energy during less expensive periods of the day, customers would be able to reduce their overall electric bill.
- **Helps the Environment:** Decreasing energy use reduces the need to build power plants or avoids the use of older and less efficient power plants.
- **Enhanced Customer Security:** Relays information to a utility automatically and directly for billing purposes instead of having mandatory visits to a consumer's home or business by a meter reader.
- **Leads to a Smart Grid:** A Smart Grid maintains the balance of energy generation, transmission, and distribution to consumers.

The CPUC is committed to ensuring that consumers have safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates, protecting against fraud, and promoting the health of California's economy. Smart Meters help the Smart Grid sense what is happening to the state's energy flow, keeping it in balance and improving reliability. It's a win-win solution for consumers, utilities, and our environment!

For more information contact the CPUC's Business & Community Outreach team!

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California Public Utilities Commission