Maximize Your Savings
Small General Service Time-of-Use Rate

If you are buying electricity on Duke Energy Progress’ SGS-TOU rate, there are steps you can take to maximize your savings.

Under this rate, the price of electricity is extremely high during 35% of the hours in the week which are designated as on-peak hours. The price is very low during the other 65% of hours in a week. The key to maximizing your savings is to schedule some energy usage to occur during the low-priced hours.

The high-priced hours, also known as “on-peak hours,” are:

10am until 10pm on Monday thru Friday from April 1st - September 30th

These are the hours when demand on the DEP system is very high due to air conditioning. The SGS-TOU rate provides strong financial incentive to minimize use during those hours.

What You Can Do:
A few tips for reducing your usage during the on-peak hours are:

Maximize Weekend Usage: All weekend hours are off-peak hours and are very inexpensive. If you have equipment that only needs to run a few days per week, run it on the weekends if possible.

Manage Peak Demand: The cost per kiloWatt (KW) of peak demand during the summer on-peak hours is more than 700% higher than it is during the off-peak hours. Minimize your on-peak demand by doing the following:

Stagger-Start Air Conditioners: avoid starting all of your AC units at the same time. Turn on some of your units and let them run for an hour, then start the rest.

Avoid Simultaneous Running of High KW Equipment: for example, avoid running dishwashers and laundry equipment at the same time. When possible, run them at different times to maximize savings.

Water Heater Timer: Consider having an electrician install a simple timer on your electric water heaters. Set the timer so they do not run the water heater from 10am to 10pm if possible. If that does not work for your operations, set the timer to avoid running during the hours in that time frame when most of your other equipment is running. For example: having your water heater off from 1pm to 6pm will avoid the peak air conditioning times when AC units are running (for many businesses). Many offices, retail stores, car dealerships, etc. can have their water heater turned off for five to ten hours without it being noticed by users.

Schedule Laundry: Business with laundry equipment (hotels, gyms, spas, hospitals, some restaurants, etc.) can save a lot of money by scheduling laundry to avoid the on-peak hours. This will further increase the savings by reducing the heat generated by the equipment during on-peak hours, which causes your air conditioning to work harder to remove it.

A $5 Billion Environmental & Economic Problem: Coal Ash Ponds

The NC Utilities Commission has ruled that customers of Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress should have to pay the estimated $5 billion required to clean up the mountains of coal ash created by burning coal at current and former DEC and DEP power plants over the last 60 years. This will have a material effect on electric bills throughout North Carolina for many years to come.

Fortunately, NC Attorney General, Josh Stein, has said that he will challenge this ruling in front of the NC Supreme Court. He says that mismanagement by Duke made the problems worse. Stein is fighting to get Duke shareholders to also pay a large portion of the total cleanup costs. A ruling from the NC Supreme Court is not likely until 2019.
According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, electricity for lighting in commercial buildings dropped from 38% to 17% between 2003 and 2012. This reduction was largely due to a dramatic reduction in incandescent lighting and the widespread adoption of more efficient sources of fluorescent lighting. If more current data were readily available, the drop would likely be even more significant due to the shift toward LED lighting over the last few years.

**Your competitors are converting to LED; are you keeping up?**

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**Lighting is no longer the largest end use as a share of total electricity consumption, as shown in this figure published by the U.S. Energy Information Administration.**

**Air is Free, Compressed Air is Expensive**

A recent survey by the U.S. Department of Energy showed that, for a typical industrial facility, approximately 10% of the electricity consumed is for generating compressed air. Much of that air is wasted by leaks in the system. You can find leaks by wandering the production floor when your plant is closed and listening for hissing sounds. If your compressor is cycling off and on during non-production hours, you have leaks.

**Find & Repair Leaks in your compressed air system to save money.**

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, electricity generated by wind in the U.S. now exceeds energy generated by hydroelectric plants. The figure to the right shows U.S. utility-scale wind and hydro generation from January 2002 through December 2016. Numbers in million megawatthours.

**Wind Energy is on the Rise**

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