Maximize Your Savings

Georgia Power’s Time-of-Use Rates

If you are buying electricity on one of Georgia Power’s Time-of-Use (TOU) rates - like TOU Energy Only (TOU-EO) or TOU General Service Demand (TOU-GSD) - there are steps you can take to maximize your savings.

Under both of these rates, the price of electricity is extremely high during 3.7% of the hours in a year. During those few hours, electricity costs 100% to 500% more than during the other 96.3% of hours a year. The key to maximizing your savings under these rates is to minimize consumption during the high-priced hours.

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

- 2pm until 7pm on Monday thru Friday during the months of June to September

These are the hours when demand on the GA Power system is very high due to air conditioning needs. The TOU rates provide incentive to minimize use during this time.

What You Can Do:

A few tips for reducing your usage during the on-peak hours are:

**Pre-Cooling:** Set your programmable thermostats to cool your space 1 to 4 degrees lower than normal at 12 noon on weekdays. At 2pm, have them go back to the normal desired temperature for your facility. This will minimize usage for several expensive hours. You will be buying electricity at very low prices before 2pm and minimize buying once the higher price kicks in after 2pm.

**Water Heater Timer:** Consider having an electrician install a simple timer on your electric water heaters. Set the time to avoid running the systems from 2pm until 7pm on weekdays. For many businesses, the hot water stored in the water heater will last until 7pm and no one will notice the system was even shut off for this brief period.

**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.

**Schedule Dishwashing:** Many offices, retailers and other business have an employee kitchen with a dishwasher. Running the dishwasher in the mornings (or at night) can save money. Running the unit during the afternoon during the months of June to September will cost much more.

**Schedule Production Equipment:** Many manufactureres have energy-intensive equipment that only needs to run during some hours of the day (kilns, dryers, heaters, etc.). Scheduling this equipment to run during off-peak hours instead of on-peak can result in significant savings. Doing so will also reduce air conditioning usage during expensive hours and further increase savings.

**Vogtle Plant Update**

GA Power recently announced that construction is about 50% complete for units 3 and 4 at the Vogtle Nuclear Plant. Construction of these units began in 2011 and were originally scheduled to be completed in 2017 and 2018. There have been significant schedule delays and cost overruns throughout the process.

The current projected completion date for the units is now 2021 and 2022. However, GA Power has stated they are having trouble finding enough skilled labor to finish the units on schedule. The completion dates will very likely be postponed again.

GA Power now projects that the plants will cause rate increases for their customers of about 9.8%. Even though the plants are years away from producing electricity, about half of the increase has already been added to GA Power’s electric rates.

**Toshiba - Vogtle Nuclear Expansion Credits**

Toshiba, the parent company of Westinghouse (who filed bankruptcy and stopped working on the Vogtle project), agree to make a refund to GA Power to settle any claims GA Power may have had against them. GA Power has been ordered to refund that refund to their customers. All GA Power customers, regardless of usage, will receive a credit of $25/month in the months of April, July and September 2018. It will show on the customer bill as “Vogtle Settlement Refund.”
Energy Consumption from Lighting Dropping in U.S. Commercial Buildings

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?

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, but 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.

Wind Energy is on the Rise

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 megawatt-hours.