

# CNT Toolbox: POWER SMART PRICING



Power Smart Pricing is a real-time electricity pricing program for residential customers that provides information, services and tools to help customers manage their electricity costs.

[www.powersmartpricing.org](http://www.powersmartpricing.org)

CNT and its affiliate, CNT Energy, are leaders in developing energy programs that benefit consumers, communities, and the environment. In 2003, CNT Energy, under the name Community Energy Cooperative, launched the nation's first large-scale real-time electricity pricing program for residential customers. The program produced positive results. Participants saved money, became more energy efficient, and reduced their peak electricity demand.

Real-time pricing gives customers access to hourly electricity prices that are based on market prices. This means that the price customers pay for electricity varies from hour to hour and day to day according to the actual market price. (Under the standard residential rate, the price is generally fixed and only varies by season.) Customers can manage their electricity costs with real-time pricing by taking simple actions to conserve energy during hours when prices are higher.

CNT Energy provides the tools and services needed to make real-time pricing work for residential customers. This includes energy education, price information, and customized feedback to help program participants manage their electricity usage and costs. Households that participated in the Cooperative's pilot program saved an average of 10 percent on their electricity bills and reduced their electricity use by as much as 20 percent during periods of peak demand.

The success of CNT Energy's pilot program in northern Illinois helped to pave the way toward opening up this new option for residential electricity consumers throughout the state. At the beginning of 2007, CNT Energy launched Power Smart Pricing, a real-time pricing program for residential customers served by Ameren Illinois Utilities (AmerenCILCO, AmerenCIPS and AmerenIP).



Tool Type



Tool Topic



Free or Fee

