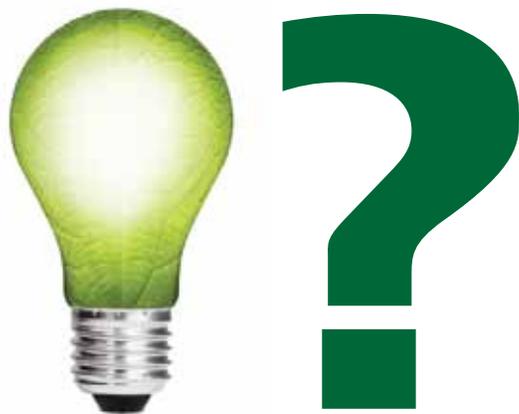


“Smart” Meters Don’t Conserve Energy



These meters won’t save energy or reduce greenhouse gases. They aren’t so ‘green’ because they require massive new data storage facilities, consume energy to operate the meter itself, and need frequent replacement. The mesh networks between meters and throughout neighborhoods consume significant energy to maintain routine operation of the communications networks.

A 2010 PG&E “smart” meter program report showed no measurable energy demand reduction in 25,535 service accounts with “smart” meters.¹ And, there was no evidence of energy conservation from those with “smart” meters who signed up for Energy Alerts.²

The 2009 Connecticut “smart meter” pilot program reported no beneficial impact on total energy usage, even though participants were paid for their participation.

¹ *The PG&E 2010 Program Year “smart” Meter Program Enabled Demand Response and Energy Conservation Report*, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, April 29, 2011, filed with the CA Public Utilities Commission on April 29, 2011, page 19.

² *2010 Energy Conservation Evaluation of Pacific Gas & Electric Company’s Energy Alerts and Customer Web Presentation Programs*, Freeman Sullivan and Company, April 29, 2011, page 28.

Home Energy Monitors Help You Save Energy and Give You Control

If you want to monitor your energy usage, you don’t need a “smart” meter. Just purchase a home monitor that identifies the amount of electricity usage throughout the house or with an individual appliance. Priced from \$40 to \$150, the devices can project your electricity costs, help you identify appliances with high energy usage, and help you reduce your electricity expenses. You can plug the monitor into each appliance or get a wireless monitor.

For those using a home energy monitor, the Cape Light Compact Residential Smart Energy Monitoring Pilot Final Report of March 31, 2010[1] showed an average annual energy savings of 9% and maximum of 27%.

Why give the utilities control when you can have control of identifying your real-time energy usage without a “smart” meter?

Smart Meters Have Caused Fires

On August 16, 2012, PECO, the power company serving the Philadelphia area, announced that it is temporarily halting smart meter installations due to 15 fires linked with smart meters in the area. Fires and explosions associated with smart meters have been reported in California, Vancouver, British Columbia, Texas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Florida.



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So-Called “Smart” Meters Don’t Reduce Costs or Energy Consumption



Your federal tax dollars are paying for “smart” meters that increase your exposure to microwave radiation, risk of fires, loss of privacy, and risk of cyber attacks.



Provided by

What is a “Smart” Meter?



Analog Meter



“Smart” Meter

Subsidized by your federal tax dollars, wireless “smart” meters perform 2-way communications (equipped with antennas that transmit and receive signals through the air, wirelessly) and enable energy consumption data to be displayed online as a supposed energy-saving measure for a house or building. “Smart” meters are being installed nationwide (most often on a mandatory basis) on gas, water, and electrical services, driven in part by \$3.5 billion in funding for the “Smart” Grid Program approved as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Wireless “smart” meters signals use microwave radiation to transmit information to utilities via neighbor “smart” meters and collector “smart” meters, creating a 3-dimensional microwave radiation spider web throughout your community.

“Smart” Meters Invade Your Privacy

According to a February 2012 Congressional Research Service Report, the Department of Energy noted that by matching data with known appliance load signatures, smart meters will be able to reveal people’s daily schedules, their appliances and electronic equipment, and whether they use certain types of medical equipment.

Weigh the Pros and Cons of Analog Meters and “Smart” Meters

Meter Comparison	Analog Meters	“Smart” Meters
Vulnerable to cyber security and wireless hacking	No	Yes
Associated with fires	No	Yes
Associated with increased bills	No	Yes
Associated with health risks and impacts	No	Yes
Invade our privacy	No	Yes
Have a useful life of 15-20 years	Yes	No, at least half

“Smart” Meters Don’t Save Money

In a 2011 brief before the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control, Connecticut Attorney General, George Jepsen highlighted a “smart” meter pilot program held between June 2009 and August 2009. When considering the cost of replacing Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) meters before they reach the end of their useful lives, residential customer savings per ratepayer were projected to be \$11 over a 20-year period. With inflation factored, there are no savings.

Some residents complained about higher bills after their “smart” meters were installed:

“Our bill more than doubled what it was during that same month a year before they installed that “smart” meter.”

-- Marnie in Michigan

Electric Bills Skyrocket After “Smart” Meter,
The Orange County Register, April 5, 2012

Brief of George Jepsen, Attorney General of the State of Connecticut, Connecticut Department of Utility Control, Application of the CT Light and Power Company to Implement Time-of-Use, Interruptible Load Response, and Seasonal Rates – Review of Meter Study, Deployment Plan and Rate Period, Docket 05-10-03RE04, February 8, 2011.

