

AMI advanced metering infrastructure



URE has switched to an AMI system, which uses two-way communications over a secure wireless network to provide members the latest in advanced metering technology. Upgrades were made at no additional cost to metered residential and commercial members.

URE's AMI meters read up-to-the-minute electric energy use information and allow customers to track their electricity use by the hour. Readings are transmitted remotely over the AMI network.

AMI meters offer unparalleled technology

AMI meters are approximately the same size as non-AMI meters, but feature an LCD digital display showing how much energy has been used. Unlike non-AMI meters, which were read once a month manually by a meter reader, AMI meters transmit daily readings to the cooperative. Energy use and charges are in no way affected by the type of meter.

URE owns the AMI meters, and they are part of our electrical distribution system. The meter base is still owned by the member.

Upgrades improve efficiency, service for members

The automated system improves member service, as a portion of connects, re-connects and transfers of service may be handled remotely and immediately. Reducing the number of trucks on the road also saves time and resources and helps contribute to cleaner air throughout our service area. The AMI meters may detect the loss of power during outages and send out an alert, allowing URE to quickly detect the location and restore power to members.

Members can register to view their electric energy use in hourly increments.

AMI and MDM projects expand smart grid initiatives

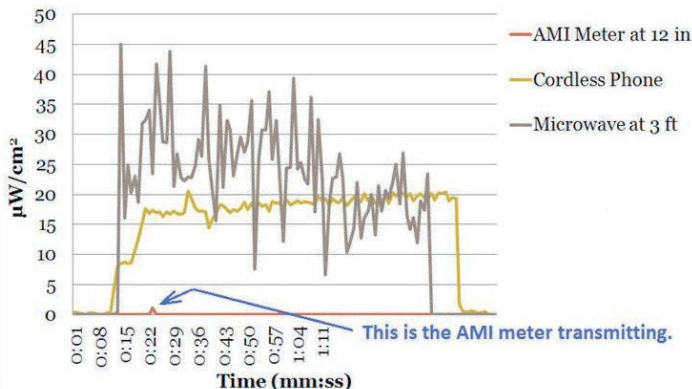
URE's advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) project allows us to improve service reliability, which helps control the cost of power. The project included the installation of both AMI meters and a meter data management (MDM) system that helps URE collect and analyze long-term use data to improve overall operation of our distribution grid. MDM imports and validates data, and then processes it for future billing and analysis.

URE selected National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) meter data management system to support the company's AMI initiatives. NISC will help URE comply with standards, conduct remote connects and manage AMI meter data.

URE also implemented significant prevention methods and companywide cyber security standards to protect AMI and MDM data.

Members who reduce use during peak times may reduce their overall cost of electric energy.

how does radio frequency measure up?



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is an AMI meter and how is it different from standard meters?

AMI meters use the latest advanced metering and communications technologies. These meters transmit readings remotely over a private, secure wireless network, similar to a cell phone network. An AMI meter is approximately the same size as your previous mechanical meter and has an LCD digital display showing how much electric energy you have used. There are differences in how and when the meters are read. Non-AMI meters are read once a month manually by a meter reader. Readings from AMI meters will be transmitted daily to the cooperative, using a two-way communications network.

How will the AMI meter impact my electric bill?

Your energy use and charges are not affected by the type of meter you have. The AMI meters have been tested in many environments and show very high success in read accuracy and response time.

Are other utilities installing AMI meters?

Yes. Other area utilities including the City of Marysville, have deployed advanced meters.

How do I read a AMI meter?

The AMI meter has a digital LCD screen and can be read the same as a non-AMI meter.

What are the key capabilities?

- Collect daily meter reads.
- Collect meter reads on demand, such as when a member discontinues service or to do a re-read when a customer calls in about a high bill.

Do I own the AMI meter?

No. URE owns the AMI meter and it is part of the utility's electrical distribution system. However, the meter base, or socket, that the meter fits into is owned by the member. Members are responsible for maintaining this equipment in good working order and for repairing or replacing it if it is damaged or unsafe. Because meters are an integral part of URE's distribution system, they periodically need to be tested or upgraded to ensure safe, reliable service. At such times, including the installation of the new advanced metering system, URE has the right to access the meter to perform the necessary work.

Does the AMI meter communication network interfere with TV reception or electronic equipment?

No. A low-level licensed radio frequency is reserved to send meter data to URE and will not interfere with electrical, radio equipment or personal electronic devices.

How accurate is the testing equipment?

The accuracy of the test equipment used by the AMI meter manufacturers, meter installer and URE's meter shop conforms to standards set by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). All testing equipment is certified and tested annually.

How do the AMI meters communicate with URE?

- URE has selected an advanced metering system developed by Cooper Metering Systems, a global provider of metering solutions for electric, gas, water and heat utilities.
- Cooper's system uses a wireless fixed network operating on a licensed radio frequency spectrum to deliver meter reads and interval data daily from home and business meters.
- URE owns and operates the system. Communications equipment, which operates much like a cell phone network, has been installed throughout the service area to enable two-way communication with the meters.

Will URE share my electric energy use information with a third party for marketing purposes?

No. Member information will not be shared with any entity for marketing purposes.



**For more information
visit: www.ure.com
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What are the benefits of automated meter reading?

- Enables us to keep your electric bill as competitive as possible through cost savings, as well as increase the reliability of your electric service
- Increases billing accuracy by reducing the potential for human error in reading, recording and entering your meter reading into the billing system
- It eliminates the need for utility personnel to physically visit your property monthly to read your meter
- May inform URE of a power outage at your home, helping us to restore your electric service more quickly
- Eliminates the need for estimating your bill during months that your meter may have been inaccessible for manual reads.
- Provides URE with an indication of any voltage fluctuations so that we can ensure your level of service is acceptable
- It integrates with our current outage management system to share data and helps us allocate crews more efficiently. However, please call us to report an outage or safety hazards such as downed lines. In addition, once electric service is restored after an outage, URE will receive verification without having to call you
- Enables us to monitor the maximum demand at your home to ensure that the transformer feeding your home is adequately sized to accommodate your energy use. This is very important when it is 90 degrees or more outside and your air conditioner is running constantly to keep up with the demand
- May enable URE to offer additional service and billing options in the future
- Helps us quickly spot meter tampering and energy theft, reducing costs that must be passed on to members