Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

Updated: 02/13/2024

What is an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meter?

AMI meters (smart meters) send electronic meter readings to your utility through Wi-Fi or a cellular network. This removes the need for on-site meter readings. The meters supply other benefits as well.

Major electric utility companies in Michigan and across the United States have or are currently replacing existing electric meters with AMI technology.

How do AMI meters differ from non-transmitting (manually read) meters?

If you have a non-transmitting meter, your usage data is available only in monthly increments. This data is not available until after utilities manually read meters for billing purposes. AMI meters wirelessly send meter readings to your utility. This ends the need for on-site meter reading. It also can give you better insight into your energy usage.

What are the benefits and features of AMI?

Two-way communication between electric meters and utilities comes with many advantages.

Customer features include the following:

Benefit	Description
Customer Web Portal	Allows you to view your household's daily and hourly electricity consumption through an online web portal.

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Improved Bill Accuracy	Reduces the occurrence of estimated bills and incorrect meter reads.
Alternative Pricing Programs	Offers you different pricing programs that can reduce your bill such as: • Time of Use. • Demand Response. Gives you the ability to grant access to third parties to do the following: • Analyze your usage data. • Point out opportunities for potential cost savings.
Outrage Detection	Allows for quicker restoration of your electric service.

Who owns the AMI meters?

As with all other utility infrastructures (e.g., poles, distribution lines, transformers, etc.), meters are the property of the utility.

Who Pays for AMI Meters?

The rates utility customers pay cover the cost to improve utility infrastructure. Michigan law requires privately owned, regulated utility companies to have approval from the MPSC before passing business costs on to customers through rates.

MPSC
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, MI 48909
www.michigan.gov/mpsc
800-292-9555

What are your responsibilities as a customer?

You must supply safe access to the utility meter. This means doing things like

- Tree trimming.
- Other means of controlling vegetation such as herbicide treatment.

Can a customer choose to have a non-transmitting meter?

Yes. Utilities have developed programs for customers who wish to opt out of having a transmitting meter. These programs typically require an upfront opt-out fee and monthly service fees. Contact your utility for more information.

Who do I contact for more information?

If you have questions about your meter, you should reach out to your utility. If speaking with your utility company does not answer your questions or resolve your problem, you may contact the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) the following ways:

- Toll free at 800-292-9555.
- Online at www.michigan.gov/mpsc.
- Fax at 517-284-8185.
- Mail at: Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, MI 48909.