

WEL NETWORKS TIME OF USE PRICING

WEL Networks is transitioning the majority of residential and small business connections onto Time of Use price plans from 1 April 2018 so we thought we'd tell you a bit about them. These price plans more closely reflect the cost to serve during different times of the day.

WHAT IS TIME OF USE PRICING?

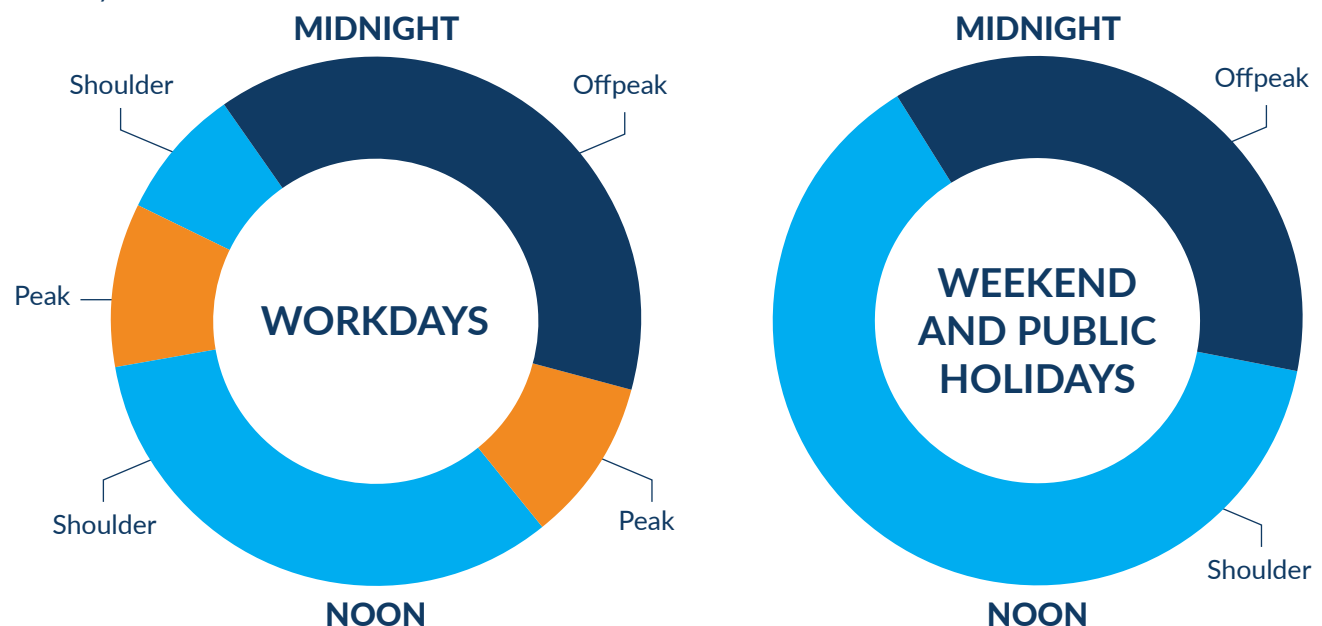
Traditional electricity meters only record the amount of power you are using, but not the times that it is being used. Time of Use pricing takes advantage of newer 'smart' electricity meters that have been gradually installed throughout the country, including the WEL Networks area. These new meters are capable of recording how much power is used at different times during the day. For WEL Networks area, we group these times into three periods: Peak, Shoulder and Off-Peak. There is a different price for each period.

TIME PERIODS	PEAK	SHOULDER	OFF-PEAK
Workdays	07:00 - 08:30 17:30 - 20:00	08:30 - 17:30 20:00 - 22:00	22:00 - 07:00
Weekends and public holidays (inc Waikato regional holidays only)	No peak period	07:00 - 22:00	

PEAK - this is when electricity usage is heavy. Everyone is cooking meals, turning on their heating (or air conditioning), watching TV, etc. People might also be putting on their dishwashers, clothes dryers, etc.

SHOULDER - this is when electricity usage is moderate. Businesses are open and most people are at work, or late evening when people start to go to bed.

OFF PEAK - when most people are asleep and power usage is generally limited to shift-workers and appliances on stand-by.





WHAT HAPPENS TO MY POWER BILL?

WEL introduced Time of Use pricing on 1 April 2016 for new connections but from 1 April 2018 WEL are transitioning existing connections with 'smart' electricity metering onto Time of Use.

For these customers it doesn't necessarily mean you will see this on your power bill – we will be charging your Electricity Retailer the new Time of Use Pricing, but it is up to them if their price plans reflect this new type of lines pricing. Electricity Retailers often sell their electricity plans with other services such as telephone/internet, gas, etc and offer package deals.

I want Time of Use pricing – How do I get It? Talk to your Electricity Retailer first, they may have a price plan they can offer you.

WHY DO POWER LINE COMPANIES CARE WHEN POWER IS USED?

Peak electricity usage is a bit like peak traffic on a motorway. People tend to want to use the motorway the most at the same time – travelling to and from work. So the roads need to be made bigger and multi-laned to handle this, even though most of the time the road has much less traffic and in the middle of the night not much at all.

Power lines are a similar situation - the more power people use at the same time, the bigger the power lines and equipment need to be able to handle this, even though there are times when hardly any power is used.

Bigger power lines cost more money and ultimately it is the power customers that have to pay for these. So it is in everyone's interest to try to reduce peak power usage. Our new Time of Use Pricing is designed to help people understand the benefits of moving power usage out of peak times.

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY PEAK POWER USAGE?

When it comes to peak power usage, there are a lot of things that for practical reasons people want to do at the same time. Things like cooking breakfast or dinner, watching TV, heating or cooling their home, etc. But there are other things which people tend to do during peak electricity usage, which with the use of timers could be done at other times.

For example:

- Using the dishwasher.
- Using the washing machine or dryer.
- Heating a spa or swimming pool.
- Charging your electric car.

