

# energyInSight<sup>SM</sup>

from  **CenterPoint  
Energy**

[www.CenterPointEnergy.com/EnergyInSight](http://www.CenterPointEnergy.com/EnergyInSight)

November 2009

*“CenterPoint Energy’s new smart metering technology is the first step in moving the electric grid into the digital age. Smart meters will encourage greater energy conservation by giving Houston-area electric consumers the ability to better monitor and manage their electric use and its cost in near real-time.”*

– **Tom Standish**  
Regulated Operations  
Group President,  
CenterPoint Energy

## Energy InSight<sup>SM</sup>

Energy InSight<sup>SM</sup> from CenterPoint Energy gives Houston-area consumers a powerful new tool to better understand and manage their electric usage. The ability to monitor energy use and cost in near real-time will enable consumers to make more informed energy choices. Using less energy saves money for consumers and means less power may need to be produced – which is good for consumers and great for the environment.

### Energy Usage at Your Fingertips

- **Automatic Outage Notification** – Smart meters will automatically notify CenterPoint Energy about power outages, which allows for faster power restoration.
- **Remote Meter Reading** – Smart meters provide the capability for remote meter reading, virtually eliminating the need for CenterPoint to go house-to-house to read meters.
- **Smoother Transactions** – Remote connection and disconnection of electric service should reduce the time it takes to process service orders for most homes.

### Smart Meters Will Enable:

- **Energy Efficiency and Savings** – Consumers can monitor their electricity usage and better manage energy costs by making small changes such as adjusting their thermostat.
- **New Products and Savings** – Retail Electric Providers (REPs), who sell electricity to consumers, can offer new, innovative products and services.
- **Home Area Networks (HAN)** – Smart meters will function interactively with compatible HAN devices such as thermostats or other electric appliances so consumers can operate them remotely.

### The Power of a Cleaner Tomorrow

CenterPoint Energy’s smart meters open the door for new opportunities to optimize energy usage through more levelized use and conservation. The ability to monitor energy use in near real-time can be a powerful new tool for consumers. With this knowledge, consumers may begin turning off unneeded appliances, changing to more efficient lighting and adjusting their thermostats to save energy. Another important conservation tool, enhanced by smart meters, is the ability of REPs to offer lower rates for off-peak use – and higher rates during peak periods, such as hot summer afternoons. Such rate structures could help reduce peak electric demand, which is generally the most costly energy produced, as less efficient power generating plants are pressed into service. Decreased power generation could also translate into reduced emissions and better air quality.



*With this investment in  
Houston's future,  
CenterPoint Energy will  
be putting a world of  
opportunities in the hands  
of more than 2 million  
Houston-area consumers.*

## **An Investment in the Future**

Upgrading the electric grid to facilitate true two-way digital communication requires investment in new technologies and infrastructure. CenterPoint Energy's smart meter deployment plan will require an estimated \$640 million in capital expenditures, including \$5.6 million for consumer education and \$7.5 million to assist low-income consumers over the next three years. CenterPoint Energy will recover the costs of deploying its smart meter through a monthly surcharge assessed on all REPs. The surcharge for each residential consumer for the first 24 months, which began February 2009, will be \$3.24 per month; thereafter, the surcharge will be reduced to \$3.05 per month. In addition to the meter, the monthly charge includes the communications infrastructure and back-office computer systems to manage the increased real-time electric usage data.

With this investment in Houston's future, CenterPoint Energy will be putting a world of opportunities in the hands of more than 2 million Houston-area consumers.

Pending successful negotiations with the Department of Energy (DOE), CenterPoint Energy will use \$150 million of a DOE Smart Grid Investment Grant to help fund smart meter deployment. An additional \$50 million in grant funds will help CenterPoint Energy begin building an intelligent grid to improve electric reliability and power restoration for 530,000 homes and business in central Houston.

## **For More Information**

Visit [CenterPointEnergy.com/EnergyInSight](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/EnergyInSight) for the latest information on smart meters, including deployment maps for 2009 – 2012.