



Unit 5 How Is Electricity Distributed?

* Glossary

household: a house and its occupants regarded as a unit

off-peak: less busy or less active than other times

Smart Meters Explained

Smart meters are electronic devices which record the consumption of either gas or electricity. They are a replacement for your existing meters, which still use technology created decades ago.

Smart meters use a secure national communication network (called the DCC) to automatically and wirelessly send your actual energy consumption to your supplier. This means **households** will no longer rely on estimated energy bills, but they will have to provide their own regular readings, or have meter readers come into their homes to read the meter.

Smart meters will also come with an in-home display.

This display gives the household real-time usage info, including kWh use and cost.

There are several benefits to smart meters:

- **more accurate bills:** smart meters mean the end of estimated bills, the end of having to remember to provide meter readings and/or have a stranger come into your home to read your meter;
- **better understanding of your usage:** with the smart meter display, you can see the direct impact your habits and lifestyle have on your bill. This is particularly useful to prepayment meter customers, who can better track how their usage impacts their available credit. By making your energy usage easier to understand, you can make smarter decisions to save energy and money;
- **innovative energy tariffs:** using the data collected on when and how households are using energy, suppliers can create more competitive time-of-use tariffs with cheaper prices for **off-peak** use.

(from Smart Meters Explained, <https://www.uswitch.com>)





Understanding the text

1. Find terms in the text which mean much the same as the following.

1. Contatore
2. sostituzione
3. Fornitore
4. Famiglia, unità familiare
5. Bollette
6. Letture

2. Complete the following passage. Use the terms and expressions given.

choices • energy • use • display • analog • meters • supplier • readings

1. Smart meters, a common form of smart grid technology, are digital meters that replace the old analog meters used in homes to record (1)
2. A smart meter is a gas or electricity meter that's a lot like your current meter. The difference is that it sends us your meter (2) electronically.
3. Digital meters can transmit energy consumption information back to the (3) on a much more frequent schedule than (4)
4. Smart meters will enable you to monitor your consumption more precisely so you can make more informed energy (5)
5. Smart meters have an LCD (6) which is similar to the ones used in digital watches and many portable computers and televisions.

3. Smart meters can be a useful help in monitoring energy use. Can you write at least four actions that can be taken on a daily basis to reduce energy consumption?

1.
2.
3.
4.