



The Home Energy Metering Study Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Participants

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and its partners are seeking participants for the Home Energy Metering Study (HEMS).

What is the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance? The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), a not-for-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon. It is an alliance of more than 140 Northwest utilities and energy efficiency organizations working on behalf of more than 13 million energy consumers. Since 1996, the region has cost-effectively delivered over 1,400 aMW of energy efficiency through market transformation - enough energy to power 985 thousand homes for a year.

What is Evergreen Economics? NEEA is partnering with Evergreen Economics, a northwest-based energy research firm, to lead the Home Energy Metering Study (HEMS). Evergreen will be responsible for the customer recruitment efforts and metering on behalf of NEEA.

Who do I contact if I have further questions about the study? Please contact the study managers at Evergreen Economics if you have any questions or concerns about the research.

Contact info:

Evergreen Economics

1-833-971-4367

EndUseLoadResearch@evergreenecon.com

Utility staff may also reach out to NEEA with additional questions.

What will happen at the actual site visit? Two engineers from either kW Engineering or Michaels Energy, along with a licensed electrician, will arrive at the participating residence at the scheduled day and time of the appointment. They will discuss the equipment and installation with the homeowner prior to installing the equipment.

Why does an electrician need to be there during the site visit? The electrician is there to ensure that the metering box is installed safely and correctly. While it is a plug-in device, it has monitors connected to the electrical panel.





Where does the metering equipment go? In homes, the meter box will be installed close to the electric circuit panel, often located in the garage or in a hallway. In addition, the installers will consult with the study participants on where to put an indoor temperature sensor in the home.

How long will the site visits take? The site visit will take between 3 and 4 hours, varying slightly depending on the size of the home and/or types of appliances in the home.

What are the studies about? The two studies are key to helping the region meet its clean energy goals. The studies will provide a better understanding of the contributions of energy efficiency to reducing energy use, lowering energy costs, facilitating the use of renewable energy, displacing harmful air emissions from power plants, and maintaining reliability of electric service. They will result in a better understanding of how Northwest electricity customers use electricity on a day-to-day basis and allow more accurate forecasting of the need for future energy resources.

Who is sponsoring the two studies? The studies are currently being funded and overseen by Avista Utilities, the Bonneville Power Administration, Clark PUD, Energy Trust of Oregon, Northwest Power & Conservation Council, PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric, Puget Sound Energy, Seattle City Light, Snohomish PUD, and Tacoma Power.

Why do we need to do these studies? Existing residential energy use data that is used for planning purposes by regional energy efficiency organizations is up to 30 years old and increasingly inaccurate. By updating the data used for planning purposes, the region can save millions of dollars on future energy investments.

How will this information be used? The information is very important for designing and delivering better energy efficiency programs to electricity customers. Other important uses include designing programs to reduce electricity use at times of peak demand and improving electricity demand forecasting, resource planning, distribution planning, transmission planning, rate-making, and financial planning.

When will the study occur? The Home Energy Metering Study has begun, with the initial meters being installed in homes during August 2018 and installations continuing





into 2021. Data will accumulate year-by-year and the results from the study will be complete in 2024.

Who is expected to participate in the study? Ideally, those homes that participated in the NEEA residential building stock assessment (RBSA) will also volunteer to participate in the studies. However, if there are not enough volunteers from the RBSA, new study participants will be recruited.

Will this data be publicly available? All personally-identifiable information will be removed before being released to the public. Individual consumer data will be treated as confidential and will not be publicly-released.

What happens to the metering equipment when the study is over? Upon completion of the study, the installers will schedule an appointment and return to remove all equipment, working to restore the location to the same condition it was in before the installation.

Why should households volunteer to participate? Volunteers will help the region become more energy efficient. Benefits include helping utilities to keep rates lower, reducing air pollution, lowering the costs of renewable energy, and avoiding service interruptions at times of peak electricity demand. As an added incentive, once the metering equipment has been installed, homes participating in the study will receive a \$200 gift card (pre-paid credit card).

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