

TIME OF USE FAQs

COLORADO



What is Time of Use?

The Time of Use rate changes throughout the day. The changes reflect the true cost of generating and delivering electricity from a wide range of **cleaner sources**. With the Time of Use rate, your bill is based **how much** energy you use and **when** you use it. The more you shift usage to lower-priced periods, the more you can lower your bill.

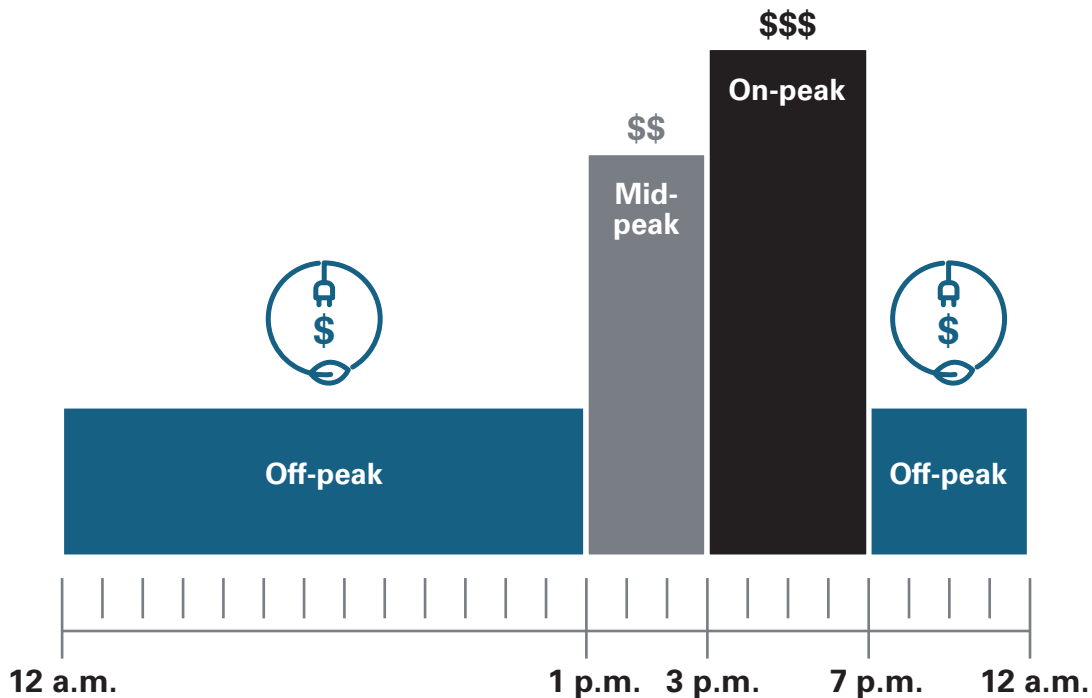
The Time of Use rate has three phases:

- Off-peak from 7 p.m. to 1 p.m.
- Mid-peak from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- On-peak from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Electricity is priced at a higher rate during the mid-peak and on-peak periods. Weekends and holidays are priced at the off-peak rate.

How can I save money on Time of Use?

Shifting the majority of the energy you use to off-peak hours can create savings on your energy bill. However, not shifting and running large appliances during peak hours could result in higher bills



Weekends and holidays billed at the off-peak rate.

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Solar with Time of Use Metering and Billing FAQs

Does Time of Use work well with solar panels?

Yes! Solar Bank credits are worth the price of energy at a given time, so with Time of Use, your solar credits will often be worth more than under the standard residential rate if enrolled in continuous rollover credits.. When you shift energy use away from peak hours, you will see a reduction in the cost of delivered energy and, you may actually gain more for your solar bank.

How do you measure the energy I use?

When you use the sun’s power to generate electricity, the amount you produce and use varies throughout the year. In some months, you may produce more than you need, so there’s energy left over. In other months, you’ll use more energy than you produce. We use net and production meters to keep track of this give and take.

The **net meter** registers usage when electricity flows from our grid into your home or business, and records when electricity flows from your PV system onto our grid. This bi-directional energy flow measures and distinguishes kilowatt-hours (kWh) being taken from the grid (used) and being put into the grid (produced).

We read this information on a regular basis:

- If you produce more electricity than you use, you’re considered a “net producer” and you won’t be billed for any kWh during that billing cycle. Any excess kWh are stored in your Solar Bank for future use.
- If you use more than you produce, you’ll be billed for the difference (net kWh).

The **production meter, or net meter**, is a standard meter that’s set up for payment of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) if you are in the Solar*Rewards program. If you are not in the Solar*Rewards program, this meter is just for the planning purposes of Xcel in being able to run the grid. A production meter is required to be installed when the solar system is larger than 10kW DC.

What’s the Solar Bank and how do I use it?

If you’re a net producer and your PV system produces more energy than you use, the excess kilowatt-hours are credited to your virtual Solar Bank.

Net Metering Example			
Net User		Net Producer	
Uses from grid	1,000 kWh	Uses from grid	200 kWh
Puts on grid	100 kWh	Puts on grid	300 kWh
Billed for	900 kWh	Billed for	0 kWh
Solar Bank =	0 kWh	Solar Bank =	100 kWh

