



ADVANCED METERING

More Power in Your Hands

Seattle City Light is the nation's greenest utility. We are committed to providing you with industry-leading service and reliability while empowering you to make energy-saving choices. As part of this commitment, we are scheduled to begin replacing electric meters with advanced meters in 2017.

Advanced Metering is a safe and proven technology that is widely used across the US. More than 500 utilities across the nation already use this technology, with 50 million advanced meters installed at 43 percent of American households (Institute for Electric Innovation, 2014).

ADVANCED METERS AND RADIO FREQUENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Like common devices such as cell phones, baby monitors and WiFi routers, advanced meters use low-energy radio frequency waves to communicate wirelessly with City Light. This means meter readers no longer need to visit your home to record your energy. Instead, your energy-use information is sent remotely through the secure wireless network for billing.

Advanced Metering is a safe and proven technology widely used across the US.

WE ARE STAYING CURRENT ON THE SCIENCE

After extensive research and consultation with leading experts, we are confident advanced meters are safe. The science shows that radio frequency emissions typical of many common household devices, like advanced meters, do not affect health (California Council on Science and Technology, 2011).

Radio frequency emissions from advanced meters are far below the limits set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). One study for the state of Vermont found that radio frequency levels at one foot from the meter are about 1,500 times below the exposure limits (Richard Tell Associates, Inc., 2013).

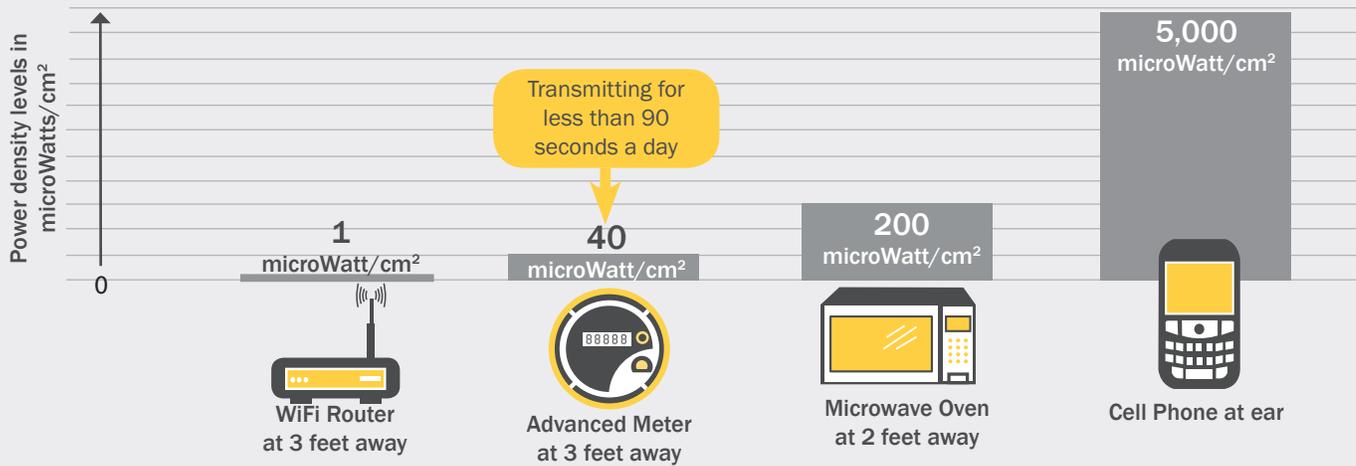
PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION:

EMAIL: SCL_Advanced_Metering@seattle.gov

WEB: seattle.gov/light/meters

PHONE: (206) 727-8777

COMPARING RADIO FREQUENCY LEVELS OF METERS TO OTHER COMMON DEVICES



Advanced meters result in much lower levels of radio frequency exposure than many existing common household electronic devices (*Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative and Electric Power Research Institute, 2011*).

ADVANCED METERING IS SAFE

Although very high levels of radio frequency exposure can affect human health, it is important to understand that levels from Advanced Metering technology are extremely low and are not considered a health hazard or risk.

In general, the factors that influence the degree of radio frequency exposure from any source are the frequency, duration of signals, signal strength and your distance from the source. For reasons given in the following table, advanced meters do not produce radio frequency exposures strong enough to impact your health.

EXPOSURE FACTOR	ADVANCED METER EMISSIONS
Signal duration and frequency	Radio frequency signals from advanced meters are brief and infrequent. Our meters will transmit for a maximum of 90 seconds per day.
Signal strength	Radio frequency emissions from an advanced meter are very weak and have no known health effects. Even as close as 3 feet from an advanced meter, radio frequency levels are far below FCC exposure limits and at least one thousand times weaker than with a cellular phone held to the ear.
Distance from the source (the meter)	Research shows that radio frequency emissions decrease sharply with distance, dropping to low levels at just one foot from the meter.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

As outlined in our strategic plan, Seattle City Light will replace more than 410,000 electric meters with advanced meters. Advanced Metering is one of several strategic initiatives to build a smarter grid and benefit our customers. It will modernize City Light's operations, improve service to our customers and support our efforts to remain the nation's greenest utility. Meter installation is scheduled to begin in 2017.



Seattle City Light is dedicated to exceeding our customers' expectations in producing and delivering environmentally responsible, safe, low-cost and reliable power.