

PowerShift FAQ

What is PowerShift?

PowerShift is a demand response program intended to conserve electricity by switching off electric water heaters (year round) and reducing electricity to central air conditioning units (May-September). During an event, blowers on air conditioning units will continue to run, but the compressor will only cycle in 15 minute intervals. You may experience some increase in temperature depending on the insulation quality of your home.

When do events normally occur?

As of May 2017, we have yet to activate PowerShift. We anticipate that PowerShift would most likely be utilized during times of extreme heat or cold temperatures. PowerShift will not be activated on weekends or holidays.

How much can I receive in bill credits?

Air conditioner and water heater participants will receive \$75 annually. Air conditioner only participants will receive \$42 annually. Electric water heater only participants will receive \$24 annually.

Are there restrictions on who can participate?

Yes, participants must be home owners living in a primary residence. Unfortunately renters and part-time residences are ineligible for PowerShift. Businesses are also ineligible.

Can Geothermal heat pumps participate?

No, geothermal heat pumps are not eligible.

Can air source heat pumps participate?

Yes, if it is single stage compressor. Multi-stage compressors cannot participate.

Are there minimums for usage to participate?

Yes. Water heater participants must average 500 kilowatt hours a month annually and air conditioner participants must average 500 kilowatt hours May-September.

Is there a minimum size for water heaters?

Yes, standard electric water heaters must hold at least 30 gallons. Tankless, on demand, and heat pump water heaters are not eligible.

Can I quit at anytime?

We ask that participants sign up for a two year agreement. If you decide to leave the program prior to the two year agreement, you will be charged for the service call to remove the switch.

I have a smart thermostat, is that eligible?

No, not at this time.