

What is Electrical Demand?

Beginning in March of 2022, Mission Valley Power began charging all customers for their demand, in addition to energy usage that is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). Demand charges are based on the amount of energy consumed in any 15-minute interval during each month, measured in kilowatts (kW). This rate is essentially a charge for having the capability of drawing a greater electrical load. Peak demand for the utility seldom occurs for more than a few hours or fractions of hours each month or year, but electric companies must always maintain sufficient generating and transmission capacity, as well as equipment, so they can supply the peak demand when it occurs. MVP must charge higher-use customers more for demand because they must stay ready to furnish adequate electricity for the larger amount of demand when those customers require it.

Some things that you can do to help reduce your demand are:

- Staggering your use of high-resistant loads such as electric heaters, furnaces, water heaters, clothes dryers, air conditioners, dishwashers, cooking appliances, etc. throughout the day. When you use several of these items at once, that can bump your demand peak up sharply.
- Using non-electric devices to replace resistant loads when possible, such as: fossil fuel space heating, water heating & clothes drying, and solar or fossil fuel appliances.
- Unplug unnecessary electric appliances and equipment or install smart plug technology so you can turn them on or off when you use them.
- Don't have every TV and light on in your home at once -- learn to turn out lights when you leave a room.
- Reduce exterior door openings and closings -- weatherstrip and caulk.
- In winter, set your heat thermostat at 68 degrees or lower and put on a sweater if you get chilled.
- In summer, set your air conditioner thermostat up 5 degrees and use fans.