**SMART METER OPT OUT OPTIONS AND FEES** – as of August 30, 2016

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| UTILITY | ONE-TIME CHARGE | MONTHLY CHARGE | OPT-OUT OPTION | NOTES |
| **CANADA** |  |  |  |  |
| **British Columbia:** BC Hydro | NO FEE  $22.60  (plus $55 charge to exit Opt Out and accept Smart Meter)[[1]](#footnote-1)  $65.00 “failed installation charge” if a customer refuses meter exchange or obstructs access | $32.40  $20 | **Current Meter** (ANALOG or DIGITAL) –then “**LEGACY METER**[[2]](#footnote-2)” when current meter expires, then **RADIO- OFF METER** when customer moves or when BC Hydro’s inventory of legacy meters is exhausted  RADIO-OFF METER[[3]](#footnote-3) | Proposed Fees[[4]](#footnote-4) .  B.C. Utilities Commission interim approval[[5]](#footnote-5).  April 25, 2014 - BC Hydro Application for Approval of Charges Related to Meter Choices Program ~ Decision[[6]](#footnote-6)  The BCUC decision notes: “As a result of the prescriptive nature of Direction No. 4, the issues within scope in this public hearing are very narrow. They are limited to whether the proposed charges would enable BC Hydro to recover expenditures that are considered program costs, investigation costs and infrastructure costs to the extent that BC Hydro requests their recovery and the amount of the failed installation charge.” |
| **British Columbia: FortisBC** | $88 for those with an unwanted Smart Meter (“AMI meter”)  $60 for those who choose a radio-off AMI meter before meter installations begin in their region. [[7]](#footnote-7) | $9  ($18 per read every 2 months) | RADIO-OFF METER |  |
| **Quebec:** Hydro-Québec | $15 before 30 day deadline    $85 after 30 day deadline[[8]](#footnote-8) | $5 | NON-COMMUNICATING ELECTRONIC METER | Hydro-Québec asked the Régie de l’énergie to authorize a review of the opting-out costs and conditions.[[9]](#footnote-9)  Hydro-Québec reduced fees in May 2014, but in a ruling released Sep 24, 2014, the Régie de l'énergie found that even the reduced fees were too high and ordered Hydro-Québec to cut them by nearly 60 per cent.  Energy Minister Pierre Arcand said he was happy with the ruling, calling it a victory for consumers. “We don’t need to penalize the consumer who use those kinds of meters,” he said.[[10]](#footnote-10)  (Initial fee before 30 day deadline - was $98, lowered to $48 May 2014, now $15  Initial fee after 30 day deadline was $137, now $85  monthly Reading fee was $17.17, reduced to $8, now $5) |
| **Quebec:** Hydro Westmount | $99 (waived if the analog has expired)[[11]](#footnote-11) | $5 | NON-RF METER | By-law adopted April 8, 2014. |
| **UNITED STATES** |  |  |  |  |
| **Arizona:** Tucson Electric Power Co[[12]](#footnote-12) | $20 (proposed – need update) | $10  $5 per-month if you read your own meter. (proposed) | **ELECTRO-MECHANICAL/ANALOG – with self-read option** | TEP is honouring requests to keep the analog meter, but has not yet begun charging fees. (Nov 2013) |
| **Arizona**: Arizona Public Service[[13]](#footnote-13) | No fee for existing analog meters  $50 analog re-installation fee if Smart Meter is already installed | $5 | **ANALOG** | Docket No. E-01345A-13-0069:  “ORDER: IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Arizona Public Service Company’s Service Schedule 17 is approved as modified by Staffs Alternative 1 except that the monthly meter reading charge is set at  five dollars ($5) and that a one-time fifty dollars set-up fee be assessed only for those Arizona Public Service Company customers with an AMI meter already in place.”[[14]](#footnote-14)  The Utility had proposed a one-time fee of $75 plus $30 a month. [[15]](#footnote-15) |
| **Arizona:** Salt River Project | NO FEE | $20.00 | **ANALOG**  With the $20 fee, customers are allowed to keep their analog meter permanently |  |
| **California** | $75.00  $10.00 for low-income customers[[16]](#footnote-16) | $10.00;  or $5.00 for low-income customers | **ANALOG**  Opt-Out Fees sunset *i.e.: are no longer charged,* after the Customer has paid the required monthly Opt-Out fees for the same residence for three years from the date of installation. For all Opt-Out Customers, readings by a meter reader are bimonthly; the non-read month is estimated. | **California offered the first Opt-Out in the United States.**  Effective April 2012, The California Public Utilities Commission ruled to permanently allow residential Customers of electricity companies under their jurisdiction to keep their current analog meter permanently or request an analog meter be installed to replace a smart or other digital meters at any time by contacting the CPUC regulated electricity company and paying the required monthly Opt-Out fees. [[17]](#footnote-17)  Note: In the September 12, 2015 case of Nice Customer versus Plumas-Sierra Rural Cooperative, Los Altos County Judge Judy Booty ruled that Opt-Out fees violate state discrimination laws. Plaintiff claimed she suffers and is disabled from electromagnetic hypersensitivity, and Defendant cut off her electricity for not paying Opt-Out fees. [[18]](#footnote-18) |
| **California**: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) - 52,000 meter pilot project | NO FEE | NO FEE – including free reinstallation of analog meter[[19]](#footnote-19) | **ANALOG** | Marcelo Di Paolo, manager of the LADWP Smart Grid project, has stated that the project is “purely a volunteer optional program” and that the community can “pick and actually choose whether or not to participate.” [[20]](#footnote-20) ­­ |
| **California:** Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) - Sacramento County | $127 (can be spread out over 3 years)[[21]](#footnote-21) | $14  (meter read every third month) | **DIGITAL meter with Time-of-Use (TOU) Bi-Directional metering capabilitlties, and Electronic LCD display (NTDM Itron Centron meter or Itron Sentine Meter) –**  **OR**  **GE I70-S ANALOG meter if requested.** | some people have experienced health issues with the digital meters; ANALOG replacements are available on request |
| **Colorado:** La Plata Electric Association | $6.67 ($20 per quarter)[[22]](#footnote-22) | NO FEE | **ANALOG** |  |
| **Florida:** Florida Power & Light Co. | $89 [[23]](#footnote-23)  (reduced from proposed $105) [[24]](#footnote-24) | $13  (reduced from proposed $16) | **Current meter (ANALOG),**  **then NON-COMMUNICATIING METER when it needs replacement.[[25]](#footnote-25)** | Acting as attorney on behalf of opt-out customers, a former Florida Public Service Commissioner filed a petition with FPSC March 31, 2014 objecting to the fees, arguing that FPL is seeking advanced recovery for the cost of possibly unnecessary visits to customers who simply keep their old meters. The petition also says that the fees fail to account for the cost savings because FPL did not have the expense of installing a meter for those who opted out. (In 2010 an FPL official testified that the Smart Meters would save $30 million by 2013, but the projected savings have not materialized).[[26]](#footnote-26) |
| **Florida:** The City of Lakeland electric utility | NO FEE for those who opted out before March 1, 2013.  $65 meter equipment fee after March 1 | $16.25 | **ANALOG** | Lakeland City commissioners approved fees November 5, 2012. [[27]](#footnote-27) |
| **Georgia:** Georgia Power | No Fee to keep analog meter  No fee to have Smart Meter removed. | $19**[[28]](#footnote-28)** | **ANALOG – (keep old one or have analog re-installed after Smart Meter removed)[[29]](#footnote-29)** | On December 17, 2013 the Georgia Public Service Commission approved a Smart Meter Opt-Out tariff as part of Georgia Power's 2013 rate case. Customers who opt out of having a smart meter installed and prefer to maintain a mechanical meter at their residence or facility can now do so with a basic service charge of $19 per month. Customers can also request removal of their smart meters for no extra charge. |
| **Hawaii:** The Kauai Island Utility Cooperative | $50.64 residential  $138.80 commercial[[30]](#footnote-30) | $10.27 | **ANALOG** | Approved by the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission Nov 2013[[31]](#footnote-31)  Kauai Island Utility Cooperative voted to keep the fees Jan 2014[[32]](#footnote-32) |
| **Hawaii:** Hawaiian Electric Co |  |  |  | HECO proposes that residential customers can keep their analog meter for a monthly fee of about $15. [[33]](#footnote-33) |
| **Illinois**: Commonwealth Edison Co - northern Illinois service territory | No Fee | $21.53[[34]](#footnote-34) | **ANALOG­­­** | \*\*\*\*As of August 2015, ComEd does not offer a permanent opt-out. A resident can get a delay and pay the $21.53 per month until ComEd circles around at the end of deployment and puts on a smart meter. ComEd has 4,000,000 customers in Illinois. |
| **Illinois**: Ameren Illinois  -both electric and natural gas meters | No Fee to keep analog;  $70 to reinstall analog If customers change their mind. [[35]](#footnote-35) | $20.00 | **ANALOG** | The Illinois Commerce Commission approved the fees Sept. 3, 2014 |
| **Maine:** Central Maine Power | a.$40  b.$20.00 | a.$12  b. $10.50 | **a. ELECTRO-MECHANICAL**  b. a standard wireless smart meter with the internal network interface card operating in receive-only mode  (transmitter off) | On May 17, 2011 the Maine Public Utilities Commission ordered CMP to create an opt out program for customers who do not want a wireless smart meter[[36]](#footnote-36)  As of July 2012, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that the PUC failed to properly address health and safety concerns. The Public Utilities Commission has opened a docket to examine the health and safety issues.[[37]](#footnote-37)  Bill LD 826 - An Act To Eliminate the Opt-out Charges for Smart Meters[[38]](#footnote-38), which prohibits a utility from charging a fee or a higher rate for declining the installation or for the removal of a wireless smart meter was put forth March 26, 2013 and has been carried over to 2014 regular session.[[39]](#footnote-39) |
| **Maryland :**  Baltimore Gas and Electric Co (BGE)  \*Opt-out customers who have both electric and gas service pay the fee once to opt-out for both.  **Maryland**: Pepco  **Maryland**: Delmarva Power & Light Co  **Maryland**: Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative | $75.00  (reduced from proposed $100.00)  (Same fee to keep old meter or have Smart Meter replaced by standard meter.)  $75.00  (reduced from proposed $100.00)  $75.00  (reduced from proposed $100)  $75.00 (reduced from proposed $105.32 | $5.50[[40]](#footnote-40) (reduced from $11.00, which originally was reduced from proposed $15)  $14.00 (reduced from proposed $58.00)  $17.00  (reduced from proposed $58.00)  $17.00. (reduced from proposed $34.94) | **ELECTRO-MECHANICAL**  **current analog or digital meter**  **(“legacy meter”)**  Customers who have a Smart Meter but wish to opt out can have current Smart Meter replaced by a “standard” meter | On January 7, 2013, The Maryland Public Service Commission (“MPSC”) concluded that the public interest required that customers be allowed the option of declining the installation of a smart meter.  On August 6, 2013, Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. and other utilities in Maryland propose opt-out fees.[[41]](#footnote-41)  On February 26, 2014, MPSC approved opt-out fees. They will re-visit these costs after the percentage of opt-out customers has stabilized and may adjust fees accordingly. [[42]](#footnote-42)  Two bills are now pending in the Maryland legislature that would prohibit the opt-out fees.[[43]](#footnote-43)  Charges begin August 2014.[[44]](#footnote-44) |
| **Massachusetts:** Massachusetts Electric Company, Nantucket Electric, Boston Gas, and Colonial Gas | $26.00 to remove and replace an existing AMR **electric** meter[[45]](#footnote-45)  $67.00 to remove and replace an existing AMR **gas** meter | $11.00 - electric  $13.00 – gas | NON-AMR  electric or gas meter |  |
| **Michigan**: DTE Electric | $67.20 | $9.80 | NON-TRANSMITTING METER | * On January 12, 2012, the Michigan Public Service Commission opened a review of smart meters.[[46]](#footnote-46) * In May (DTE Electric) and June (Consumers Energy), 2013,the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) approved non-transmitting meter provisions for residential electric customers [[47]](#footnote-47) [[48]](#footnote-48)[[49]](#footnote-49) |
| **Michigan**: Consumers Energy[[50]](#footnote-50) | $69.39, if the notice is given before the transmitting meter is installed;  $123.91 to remove a wireless Smart Meter | $9.72 | NON-TRANSMITTING METER |  |
| **Nevada:** NV Energy | $52.86 to return to a traditional meter | $8.82 | **ANALOG - new analog meters to be installed for all opt-out customers[[51]](#footnote-51)** | * In January, 2013, Nevada Public Utilities Commission agreed to let NV Energy charge opt out fees. The commission also approved analog meters as the alternative to Smart Meters.[[52]](#footnote-52) |
| New Hampshire | ?? | ?? |  | New Hampshire passed a law summer of 2012 which states in part: “the person or persons who own the home or business must sign to opt-in to having a smart meter gateway device installed on or in his or her home or business.” [[53]](#footnote-53) |
| **New Jersey: township of Wyckoff”** Orange & Rockland Electric, one of the township's two electric utilities |  | $15 (proposed)[[54]](#footnote-54) |  | Sept. 1, 2015: Orange & Rockland Electric asked for a letter of support from the Wyckoff Township Committee to install new meters that would trigger a rate increase of $4.84 per month .  Customers would be allowed to opt out of the new meter, but would be charged $15 per month to do so. |
| **New York:** Long Island **Gas** | $95.64 to remove AMR meter and install non-AMR meter [[55]](#footnote-55) | $7.77 |  |  |
| **New York:** Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. (Ulster County) | tba | tba |  | Ulster County legislators voted 12-0 December 17, 2014 in favor of a resolution urging the state Legislature prohibit electric utilities from forcing consumers to use so-called smart meters or transmitting utility meters on their homes.[[56]](#footnote-56) |
| **New Mexico:** New Mexico Gas Company | NO FEE | NO FEE | **ANALOG – SELF READ: Customers send in own meter readings once a month** |  |
| **Ohio:** Cleveland Utilities |  | $13.50[[57]](#footnote-57) |  |  |
| **Oklahoma:** Public Service Co. of Oklahoma  **Oklahoma:** Gas and Electric | One time fee of $71 for non standard meter (not defined) requested prior to, or on, Dec. 31, 2016  $115 | $28[[58]](#footnote-58)  $15.66[[59]](#footnote-59) |  | $110 one time fee for non standard meter requested on or after Jan. 1, 2017. |
| **OREGON:** Portland General Electric Company[[60]](#footnote-60) | $254  Fee is the same whether replacing a Smart Meter or an old (analog) meter[[61]](#footnote-61) | $51 | NON-COMMUNICATING (radio off)  Unwanted Smart Meters will be exchanged. Some analogs still operating as of spring 2014, but these will be replaced. | As of April, 2014 Portland General Electric Company had 14 customers who have chosen to have a non-standard, non-networking meter installed. |
| **OREGON**: Ashland Electric Department[[62]](#footnote-62) | NO FEE | NO FEE | **ANALOG** |  |
| **OREGON**: Eugene Water & Electric Board | NO FEE | NO FEE | **ANALOG** | Opt-In Plan: customers who want a smart meter would have to call EWEB to get one installed. Those who don’t ask for one won’t get one. [[63]](#footnote-63) |
| **Tennessee:** Memphis Light, Gas and Water Divison | NO FEE [[64]](#footnote-64) | NO FEE | **­** |  |
| **Texas:** San Antonio: CPS Energy | To replace Smart Meter (s):  1 $175 reg/ $35 low income  2 $250 reg/ $50 low income  Each additional  $75 reg/$15 low income  No fees charged if the meter Xchange Program application form is submitted to CPS Energy prior to Smart Meter installation.[[65]](#footnote-65) [[66]](#footnote-66) | $20 reg  $10 low income |  | [Opt Out Fees](https://www.cpsenergy.com/content/dam/corporate/en/Documents/SmartGrid/Opt%20Out%20Smart%20Meter%20Xchange%20Program.pdf) |
| **Vermont:** | NO FEE  NO FEE to have Smart Meter removed[[67]](#footnote-67) | NO FEE | **ANALOG** | * On May 18, 2012, Governor Peter Shumlin signed into law S. 214 (Act 0170) allowing for smart meter installation if utility company (1) provides prior written notice to the customer indicating that the meter will use radio or other wireless means for two-way communication between the meter and the company and informing the customer of his or her rights; (2) allows a customer to choose not to have a wireless smart meter installed, at no additional monthly or other charge; and (3) allows a customer to require removal of a previously installed wireless smart meter for any reason and at an agreed-upon time, without incurring any charge for such removal.[[68]](#footnote-68) |
| **Virginia**:Dominion Virginia Power | NO FEE currently, but Dominion Virginia Power will be going before the State Corporation Commission of Virginia and requesting to charge fees.[[69]](#footnote-69) | NO FEE currently, but Dominion Virginia Power will be going before the State Corporation Commission of Virginia and requesting to charge fees. | NON-COMMUNICATING METERS - smart meters with both the two-way communications and data storage features disabled. | Dominion Virginia Power has eliminated from all the meters the 2nd antenna that keeps track of what appliances are using how much electricity at any given time.[[70]](#footnote-70) |
| **Washington State:** Port Angeles City Council Public Works and Utilities | NO FEE - Smart Meter Program ended | NO FEE | **All** Smart-meter components that wirelessly transmit will be removed | City residents voiced repeated objections to the project, citing health concerns over the electromagnetic energy employed by the wireless devices.  City Council approved a $1.8 million settlement with Mueller Systems LLC to end the “Smart” Meter program. All water and  electric meters will be free of the controversial, electromagnetic Smart Meter components. [[71]](#footnote-71) |
| **Guam:** Guam Power Authority | approximately $235 (proposed)[[72]](#footnote-72) | $18.33[[73]](#footnote-73) |  |  |

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “legacy meter” means an electricity meter, other than a smart meter or a radio-off meter, that is of a type in use by the authority <http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/SpecialDirections/2013/OIC-391-SD4-BCHSMI-Options.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “radio-off meter” means a smart meter adjusted so that the meters components that transmit data by radio are deactivated <http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/SpecialDirections/2013/OIC-391-SD4-BCHSMI-Options.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. BC Hydro: METER CHOICES <http://www.bchydro.com/energy-in-bc/projects/smart_metering_infrastructure_program/smart_meter_installation/installation_preparation/meter-choice.html?WT.mc_id=rd_meterchoice> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. BC Utilities Commission Order G-166-13. <http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Proceedings/2013/DOC_36246_A-1_G-166-13_BCH-Meter-Choice-Program.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. April 25, 2014 - BC Hydro Application for Approval of Charges Related to Meter Choices Program ~ Decision <http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Proceedings/2014/DOC_41266_04-25-2014_BCH%20Meter%20Choices_Decision_G-59-14.pdf>

   Table A Initial, Monthly and Exit Charges, page 7 summarizes fees [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
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8. **Quebec energy board cuts fees for smart-meter opt-out - Hydro-Québec ordered to reduce opt-out fee by $33,** CBC News:Sep 24, 2014 <http://www.cbc.ca/m/touch/canada/montreal/story/1.2776587> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. **Hydro-Québec to reduce opt-out cost for smart meters,** Montréal Gazette, November 22, 2013

   <HTTP://WWW.MONTREALGAZETTE.COM/BUSINESS/HYDRO+QU%C3%A9BEC+WANTS+REDUCE+COST+SMART+METERS/9202667/STORY.HTML> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. **Hydro-Québec ordered to reduce opt-out fee,** CBC News, Sep 24, 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. **City brings in promised opt-out from RF Hydro Meters** , Westmount Independent, April 15, 2014 <http://citizensforsafetechnology.org/City-brings-in-promised-optout-from-RF-Hydro-Meters--Westmount-Quebec,15,3880>

    Pdf of original article: <http://www.westmountindependent.com/WIv8.4c.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. **Utility 'smart meters' raise health, expense concerns,** Arizona Daily Star, May 16, 2013 <http://azstarnet.com/mobi/latest/article_ed579a26-59b3-5dfe-ad09-cf5168f44025.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. **State settles 'smart' meter debate,** The Republic | azcentral.com, December 13, 2014 <http://www.azcentral.com/story/money/business/2014/12/12/state-settles-smart-meter-debate/20343257/> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Docket No. E-01345A-13-0069 BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION: IN THE MATER OF ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF AUTOMATED METER OPT-OUT SERVICE SCHEDULE 17 <http://images.edocket.azcc.gov/docketpdf/0000159381.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. **APS smart meters worry residents,** Verde Independent, Oct 11, 2013 <http://verdenews.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubsectionID=1&ArticleID=56641> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. **PUC Orders PG&E to Offer Analog Meters as Sole Smart Meter Opt-Out Option,** La Mesa – Mount Helix Patch, January 17, 2012, <http://lamesa.patch.com/groups/susan-brinchmans-blog/p/bp--puc-orders-pge-to-offer-analog-meters-as-smart-me4240b673a5>

    [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. **California Public Utilities Commission’s Decision Modifying Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s SmartMeter Program to Include an Opt-out Plan:** <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/word_pdf/AGENDA_DECISION/158309.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. **Judge rules electric co-op violated discrimination laws,** Plumas County News,May 4, 2015

    <http://plumasnews.com/index.php/13744-judge-rules-electric-co-op-violated-discrimination-laws> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. **LADWP letter to customer** <http://stopsmartgrid.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
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21. **Opting out of SMUD smart meters,**

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25. **Florida Public Service Commission Docket # 130223**, filed by Florida Power & Light <http://www.floridapsc.com/dockets/cms/docketFilings3.aspx?docket=130223> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
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