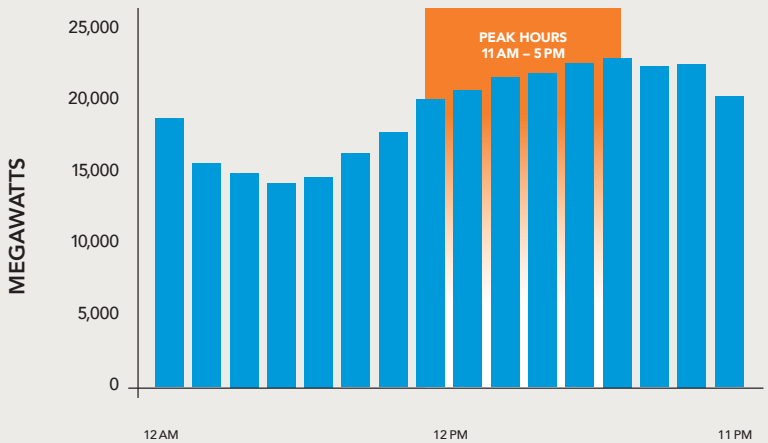
MANAGING PEAK DEMAND IN SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES

WHAT IS PEAK DEMAND?

Peak demand occurs when electricity use is at its highest. In the summer, demand tends to be higher in the early- to mid-afternoon when air conditioners are turned up during the hottest time of the day. In winter, demand tends to be higher in the early evening when consumers are using more lights and making dinner.



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Ontario's electricity grid provides reliable power to meet the demand from homes and businesses at all times. Today, Ontario's electricity system is one of the cleanest electricity systems in North America – almost 90 per cent emissions-free – with most of its electricity coming from low-emitting forms of generations, like nuclear and hydro.

By reducing demand on the electricity grid during peak periods, and leveraging energy efficiency program and initiatives, consumers can help keep electricity costs down.

As electricity demand is forecasted to grow rapidly across the province and existing resources retire or enter refurbishment, the value of energy efficiency to the system increases as a low-cost, non-emitting resource that can respond to changing system needs, and support broader economic development and decarbonization objectives.

PEAK DEMAND AND DECARBONIZATION

As Ontario residents increasingly turn to electricity to power homes and vehicles, the overall demand for electricity increases, which means Ontario must expand the system with additional generation and transmission. In an electrified future, it will be increasingly important for homes and businesses to keep using electricity wisely.

PEAK DEMAND AND ELECTRICITY PRICES

Generation and transmission infrastructure will be required to meet increased demand as more industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities and business turn to electricity to power operations and equipment. In a future electrified and decarbonized system, it is increasingly important for businesses to manage electricity use during periods of peak demand.

Electricity demand on the grid can grow by as much as 25 per cent on a typical summer day, as air conditioning use increases in late-afternoon.

For larger businesses that pay an hourly electricity price, the cost of electricity fluctuates, depending on demand for electricity and the availability of supply. This creates an opportunity to adjust electricity use at certain times throughout the day to take advantage of lower prices. For more visit **ieso.ca/electricity-pricing**

For small businesses on a time-of-use or ultra-low overnight rate, reducing demand during peak periods will also help reduce electricity bills. For more **visit ieso.ca/tou**

Training and support education is available to help organizations develop capabilities to identify and implement energy efficiency solutions. Incentives are provided for courses ranging from beginner to industry-recognized professional accreditations. For more visit **saveonenergy.ca/Training-and-Support**

REDUCING PEAK DEMAND IN BUSINESS

Tips to reduce business electricity use during peak hours and contribute to a reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity grid:

- Shift energy-intensive operations to times of the day when the electricity price is lower or overnight if possible.
- Schedule equipment maintenance during the summer when wholesale prices tend to be higher, rather than in the spring or fall when they are typically lower.
- Anticipate peak demand, future costs, and planning operations accordingly using tools like **ieso.ca/PeakTracker**
- Replace outdated equipment with new, more energy-efficient equipment and take advantage of the Save on Energy Retrofit Program.

More information on www.saveonenergy.ca/Retrofit

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* Education Ministry Facility Conditions Index 2016