



talk about Advanced Metering Study

May 2010

How is the study being managed?

The study will be conducted by the Carbon and Energy Management business unit of Alberta Innovates - Technology Futures (AITF), formerly the Alberta Research Council, and Dr. Dean Mountain of McMaster University. Dr. Mountain has conducted similar studies in British Columbia, Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador. The Government of Alberta will be using the information gathered in this study to compare with other Canadian results.

What does participation in the study involve?

Participants will receive an easy-to-install electricity consumption monitoring device, made by Blue Line Innovations, which will enable them to see their real-time electricity use. The monitors are non-intrusive, require no electrical connections and do not interfere with electricity use. The monitors will read the real-time electricity consumption and communicate that information to a display device which will remain in the participant's home. It will be entirely the participant's choice to turn on or off an appliance for managing electricity consumption.

The participants will also be asked to complete three surveys about electricity use in their homes. These surveys will be administered during the term of the project.

What if I later decide to opt out of this study?

It is expected that participants will agree to continue to use the monitors for at least one year from the date it is delivered to them and keep them in operating condition during that time. Your decision to opt out mid-way through the project will negatively impact the quality of the study.

What if I have to leave town during the study?

We prefer that participants not be away from their home for more than a continuous period of three weeks, anytime during this study.

Will the monitor work if it is somehow covered by snow during the winter?

The infrared pulses from/to the sensor and meter should not be affected by being covered with snow. It may hypothetically reduce the range, however, so if the display was already on the outer-edge of connection range in the house, being totally covered with snow may reduce the signal just enough to break communication until the snow recedes.

Does participation in this project require special skills?

No. You should be able to use basic tools such as a screwdriver and follow simple installation instructions.

How often will I have to monitor my electricity consumption?

There is no prescribed routine for you to read the display unit and monitor your electricity consumption. The reading of the device and consequently deciding to change your electricity consumption by turning on or off an appliance or electrical device is entirely your choice.

Is the data shown on the display unit also collected remotely?

No, the sensor only communicates with the display unit in your home.



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How will the information collected during this study be used? Will it be shared with third parties

While analyzing the data collected during this study, your electricity consumption and survey information will be pooled with the other participants and only statistical inferences will be drawn from it. Your information will not be used for drawing individualized inferences.

The information collected during this study will be kept strictly confidential, will be governed by privacy laws and will not be shared with third parties. Your contact information will only be used for communication with you during this study, and for delivering the monitor and materials.

How much time commitment is expected from me?

You will have to install the monitor yourself at your convenience. Reading the installation guide, installing the monitor and setting up the display unit takes about 45 minutes. Online or paper based surveys will take about 30 minutes each to complete.

Do I need an electrician to install the monitor?

The monitor does not require an electrician or an electrical connection to install.

Who will provide customer support if I have problems installing the monitoring device?

An installation guide is included in the monitor package. For additional assistance, please call **Blue Line Innovation's** customer service number **1-866-607-2583** (Sun-Mon, 6 a.m. to 9 PM MST) or email support@bluelineinnovations.com (Please identify yourself as an "Alberta Real-Time Feedback" participant).

How often do I need to change the batteries? Will I have to pay for the replacement batteries?

The expected life of the batteries in the sensor is 8-12 months and for those in the display unit is 12 months. You may need to change the batteries in the sensor unit once before the onset of winter. You will receive a set (2 batteries) of replacement batteries, free of cost, for the sensor unit sometime during the months of November/December, 2010.