

# Smart decisions about smart meters

**“Seems like electricity companies can just charge whatever they want. Now my utility company is charging me an additional monthly fee to not have something that I don’t want and never asked for.”**

- M.S., Queenstown, MD



The time has come to ask ourselves:  
How much is too much??

## FIRES



Fires, wiring, and appliance damage have been reported following smart meter installation.

## HEALTH



Thousands of people have reported harmful health effects following a smart meter installation.

## WE'RE WATCHING YOU



Personal details about your life are recorded and now hackable, such as whether you are home or away.

## Act Now, Your Voice Counts

**JOIN US** [MarylandSmartMeterAwareness.org](http://MarylandSmartMeterAwareness.org)

**What is a smart meter?** Smart meters are electricity meters that transmit energy usage to utilities via wireless microwave radiation.

## SMART METER RISKS

### COSTS

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Three state attorneys general filed objections stating that **smart meters are too expensive** and **customers will never see any real savings**.

In 2013 alone, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) received over 1,500 smart meter complaints (just snail mail!) about **skyrocketing energy bills**, harmful health effects, privacy, and more.

Utilities will pass the enormous cost of smart meter deployment onto customers through **rate increases**.

With the expected Time of Use rates, households that cannot lower usage during peak times - those who work at home or are homebound - will **pay even more for electricity**.

### PRIVACY & SECURITY

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Smart meters transmit personal information about your daily activities. Anyone with access (authorized or not) can tell whether you are home or not, what appliances you are using, whether or not your alarm system is on, or what medical equipment you are using.

There is no law protecting disclosure or sale of your sensitive information. This **hackable data** is extremely valuable to third parties, such as insurance companies, marketers, law enforcement, and criminals.

### SAFETY

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Smart meters are **not** ANSI or UL certified.

Over 370,000 smart meters have been recalled in North America due to fire safety issues.

Following a smart meter installation, customers have reported **wiring and appliance damage**.

**\* Contact your utility to opt out**

(If you already have a smart meter, you can have it replaced.)

**BGE:** 1-800 685-0123 **PEPCO:** 202 833-7500

**DELMARVA POWER:** 1-800 375-7117 **SMECO:** 1-888 440-3311

### HEALTH

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**Smart meters have never been tested** for health effects. They require an unprecedented wireless mesh network infrastructure that blankets entire communities with non-ionizing radiation. The international medical research community is finding that humans are more sensitive to harm from pulsed microwave radiation than was earlier understood.

Smart meters transmit strong pulses of **microwave radiation on an average of 10,000 times per day and a maximum of 190,000** according to court documents.

The majority of **independent** studies emphatically say **this radiation is harmful**. (See 1,800 peer reviewed studies at [www.BioInitiative.org](http://www.BioInitiative.org))

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) recommends that those who suffer from one of 40 listed conditions, or chronic illness, should not accept a Smart Meter. Children, pregnant women, and seniors are particularly at risk. Many other prestigious medical organizations, scientists, and experts have released similar warnings.

Smart meters can interfere with pacemakers, insulin pumps, and other medical equipment.

### Here's what you can do

- 1. Opt Out of smart meters** Contact your utility to opt out or to have your smart meter replaced\*
- 2. Urge your state representatives** to support opt out legislation and the removal of unjustified opt out fees. Find your representatives at [www.mdelect.net](http://www.mdelect.net) or call 1-800 492-7122. Sample letters can be found at: [www.MarylandSmartMeterAwareness.org](http://www.MarylandSmartMeterAwareness.org)
- 3. Add your voice to the growing list of complaints** at the Maryland Public Service Commission: Office of External Relations, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202