

AN ELECTRIC METER TIMELINE

Continued from previous page



1930s

New design in meters allows electric utilities to move meters outdoors so they can be read without entering customer premises.



1920-1950

Uniformed meter readers are a regular part of the American landscape for decades as they visit homes and businesses to look at meters to determine the previous month's consumption for billing purposes. Meter readers from Potomac Electric in Washington, D.C., above.

1934

Meter makers improve designs to prevent outdoor meters in rural areas from running too fast after power surges from lightning storms. At right, employees of the meter manufacturer Sangamo Electric Co. of Springfield, Ill., in 1932.



1934

Landis & Gyr develops the Trivector meter, which can be configured to measure various types of energy.

1939

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative is created (originally as Lower Colorado River Electric Cooperative). An honor system lets members read their own electric meters and submit cards showing their electric use for the month.



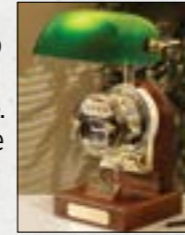
1960s

Meter readers in Cincinnati — following a tradition that began in the 1800s — carry up to 10 rings of house keys on their belts to enter homes to read meters. By 1970, more than 60,000 customers entrust house keys to Cincinnati Gas & Electric (CG&E).



1973

U.S. Marine officer Jim Sovaiko finds old electric meters in a scrapyard while home on leave. After pizza and handshakes, he and two friends invest in the future Arcman Corporation in Throop, Penn. The company makes unique lamps from 1920s residential electric meters that still work.



1980s-2000s

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative meter readers, including Bluebonnet's Marti Wright, above, drive routes relying on volumes of maps with hand-drawn dots designating the location of each electric meter, whether on a house or an oil well.

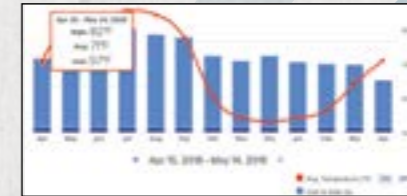
2001

Hand-held Kill A Watt device is offered by P3 International of New York to allow consumers to measure amount of electricity used by home appliances. Plug an appliance into today's model of the meter to see how much electricity an appliance uses. Some public libraries loan out Kill A Watts.



2017

Almost half of U.S. electricity customers have smart meters. The meters measure and record electricity use at least every hour and provide data to residents and utilities at least once a day. Some meters show real-time electric use.



2010

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative introduces its Energy Tracker, a digital portal where members can see information about their electric bill and energy use, tracked by week, month or year.



2018

Texas residents pay average of 11.69 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity, compared with 32.46 cents in Hawaii (highest in U.S.) and 9.11 cents in Louisiana (lowest in U.S.).

Timeline researched and written by Denise Gamino and Gretchen Heber; designed by Joe Stafford and Gretchen Heber