



What is GridRewards™?

GridRewards™ is a free, award-winning app that connects you to your ConEd electricity usage and enables you to earn cash rewards for reducing your electricity usage. The app provides information about your energy usage, tips and recommendations to reduce it. Importantly, the app is tied to Con Edison's demand response program, whereby the app alerts you to the peak (or high demand) energy usage times in your area. During these peak times, you can earn cash rewards for taking simple energy actions.

What are the benefits?

You are lowering your carbon footprint by reducing overall energy usage and saving money at the same time. Importantly, you are making a broader, positive environmental impact and earning cash rewards when you participate in the demand response events.

Typically, these events happen in the summer months during the hottest days. Through the app via email, text communication, you will be asked to participate with other enrolled residential and small business electricity users to reduce your usage during specified hours. Your participation is important; it allows Con Edison to keep the power grid reliable and do so without having to rely on dirty backup energy plants (known as "peaker" plants) to avoid black or brown outs.

It is during these events, that Con Edison will set aside cash that you will earn for taking energy actions to reduce the electricity burden on the grid.

Why would Con Edison pay me? How does that work? How much might I expect to receive? Are there fees or penalties?

Con Edison pays participating customers, as it is more efficient for them to do so versus "firing up" dirty, expensive fossil fuel burning "peaker" plants.

Payment is based on your contribution to the "peak" reduction and you will receive a cash payment. You will not see credits on your bill for these actions. Rather at the end of the demand response season (which ends on September 30), your contribution is calculated and you should expect a check by the end of the calendar year. Participants' rewards checks will vary. Savings can be up to 20% of your annual electricity bill.

There are no fees to join and the app is 100% free. There are no penalties for nonparticipation or canceling.

How will I know about events to earn cash? What if I take no action, what will happen?

You will learn about events through email and/or text notifications with either a short notice (two hours) or a longer one (twenty-one hours), depending on the severity of the anticipated demand and the length of events will vary (some may be 2 hours long and others 4+). If you take no action for all or any one event, you will simply not accrue cash rewards in relation to those events.

What types of actions might I have to take? Do I need to have a smart thermostat to participate?

You do not need a smart thermostat, although it would help you take the necessary actions, like increase the temperature set points to keep the air conditioners from running. Well insulated homes keep the cool for a long time and you will not have to endure any discomfort. Also avoid using devices that require electricity to function, reduce lighting when it is not necessary. Purchase LEDs and replace all your old light bulbs, do the dishwashing when the “peak” period is over, etc.

Who administers and manages GridRewards?

The app technology was developed and is powered by Logical Buildings, a Con Edison registered energy aggregator and software developer and winner of the 2021 world-renowned CES Energy Efficiency Product of the Year. Consumers just have to download their GridRewards™ app and follow the instructions given. The GridRewards™ program, in Westchester County is promoted and administered by nonprofit, Sustainable Westchester.

Why does this appear to be only available to Con Edison customers?

GridRewards is currently the first-of-its-kind residential demand response program. Traditionally, these programs are offered to large commercial and industrial electricity accounts. However, due to the nearly 100% penetration of Con Edison’s Smart Meter (AMI) program in Westchester they are able to offer this to residential and small business customers. It is currently not available to Westchester residents in the NYSEG utility area. No information in this regard is available at this time.

Are all residents or small businesses eligible? How will I know if I am?

All Westchester residents and small businesses in the Con Edison service territory are eligible. As long as you have your ConEd account information (typically your email and a password), you can sign up and start earning rewards with GridRewards.

Does anything change on my bill or with my electricity service?

You will not see GridRewards on your electricity bill; your bill will not show credits (refer to receipt of payment above). Nothing changes with your electricity delivery, billing or maintenance – this remains the responsibility of Con Edison. You can participate in GridRewards™ regardless of the energy supply program you have. If you have a private ESCO, Westchester Power or Con Edison as your energy supply most residents are eligible (see above for eligibility details).

Do I have to use GridRewards on my mobile device?

GridRewards is an app that is available for download on the App store, Google Play and can be used on your mobile phone, tablet, laptop or desktop.

What else can I learn from the app?

The GridRewards™ app provides you with more than just your electricity usage. It gives you information and unprecedented insight into when, how and where you consume electricity. It provides insight about your carbon footprint and your effect on emissions and helps you manage your energy usage. For the first time ever, GridRewards unlocks your energy bill, providing you with detailed information about your energy consumption and how you can reduce it.

How and how often should I expect to receive communication from GridRewards?

GridRewards will provide energy saving tips throughout the year, but the most frequent communication happens during summer months when energy is in high demand, and ConEd needs you to reduce your energy. There are three types of communication you will receive from GridRewards: your data usage (via the app), tips on how to reduce it (via the app, email or texts) and app alerts for the demand response events. By responding to these app alerts and lowering your energy during these key, peak-demand times, you can earn up to 20% of your annual energy bill in cash.

Please contact bizdev@sustainablewestchester.org with further questions. Or fill out the form on the bottom of the web page sustainablewestchester.org/gridrewards.

