

Electric Vehicles... Did You Know?

Plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) are more popular than ever before. EVs are becoming so mainstream that they could eventually turn gas-powered vehicles into collector's items. Canada and some European countries are already planning to ban gas-powered cars as early as 2025. Thinking of purchasing an EV now? You have two types to choose from, depending on your need.

The first type is an All-Electric Vehicle (AEV). These only run on electric. Most can travel about 80–100 miles before they need charging again (a luxury AEV can go up to 250 miles). When the battery is depleted, recharging takes about 30–60 minutes. There are many service stations and hotels that offer a charging station (sometimes at no cost), but you have to plan ahead to avoid running out of power. AEVs are best for trips that are short enough to let you return home to recharge overnight.



The second option is a Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV). These only run about 6–40 miles on electric. However, when the battery is depleted, it will switch over to an internal combustion engine using gasoline. This allows drivers to use electric as long as possible before fueling up with gasoline or other alternative fuels to avoid running out of power. PHEVs also produce fewer emissions compared to conventional gas-powered vehicles.

Nearly all of today's automakers offer various AEV and PHEV options at a range of prices. There's no mistake about it—the future is here and Electric Vehicles are a part of it. To see a list EV of models and price ranges, visit <https://www.energy.gov/eere/electricvehicles/electric-vehicles>

What Do Smart Meters Mean for My Home?

Smart meters are wireless, digital, electric meters that provide secure data about energy usage to ComEd and to the homeowner. ComEd has already installed over 3 million smart meters across their service area, and plans to install another million by November 2018. You can tell if you already have one if the physical meter outside your home is digital (instead of a moving dial) and your meter number starts with a "2" on your utility bill.



So what's in it for you? Smart meter technology gives you and the utility access to more data and more control.

1. Expect quicker response time for outages and restoration.
2. Sign up for High-Usage Alerts for ComEd to notify you by text, email or phone when your usage is trending abnormally high.
3. View your usage by hour, by day and by month.
4. Sign up for pricing programs that can provide savings.

And, stay tuned! As with many new technologies, smart meters can be a gateway to innovative products and services that will deliver savings and efficiencies to your home in the near future.

For more information about smart meters, visit: <https://www.comed.com/SmartEnergy/SmartMeterSmartGrid/Pages/ForYourHome.aspx>.