

the SMARTGRID

What is smart grid?

SmartGrid is one of the industry's latest buzz words. Although most people have heard the term, many are confused as to what constitutes a "smart grid".

SmartGrid is integrating technology into the traditional grid to enhance reliability, efficiency, and customer service. In short, a "smart grid" delivers electricity from suppliers to consumers using digital technology to save energy, reduce cost, and increase reliability.

Availability of SmartGrid technology depends on the type of technology. For example, many of the automated devices for the transmission and distribution systems are readily available and already being installed. Metering technology is also readily available. However, in home devices, and particularly those related to appliances, are still being developed and tested.

How is Idaho Falls Power using smart grid?

Idaho Falls Power has identified a number of smart grid technologies that would benefit our customers through increased efficiency, reliability, and customer service. We have made some system improvements in generation and distribution facilities that include devices that are considered "smart grid". We also intend to further pursue additional technologies particularly in transmission, distribution, and substations.

Additionally, Idaho Falls Power is planning to upgrade all meters in our system with an advanced metering infrastructure that qualifies as "smart metering". The new technology will provide Idaho Falls Power with more complete data for power planning and energy efficiency programs. It will also allow customers to have access to more complete data on their energy use, enabling them to better monitor and adjust their electric use – and save money!

How will smart grid impact me?

For the most part, smart grid technology will be integrated seamlessly from the customer perspective. While it will result in improved efficiency and reliability, the results may not be immediately distinguished by the customer. But long term reduction in outages and cost savings will be tracked and monitored.

As it relates to the potential for in-home functions (appliances, thermostats, in-home units), Idaho Falls Power is planning programs that allow the customers to participate on a *voluntary* basis. This is consistent with how Idaho Falls Power has historically implemented energy efficiency programs. This means the customer decides *if* they want to participate and *to what level* they want to participate. Some customers may be happy with status quo, and that's fine. Others may want the utility to assist in implementing energy efficiency measures within their home or business.

As part of our commitment to customer service – we are committed to providing you, the customer, with options!

