

Waipa Networks Launches

energy advanced

What is it?

The world of electricity supply is changing, with new technologies such as Advanced Meters (a.k.a. Smart Meters), solar generation, battery storage, and electric vehicles and new ways electricity is priced. We want to bring all these new technologies together under a new brand which we are calling 'Energy Advanced'. As an electricity customer, if you want to know about this new technology or electricity pricing you will have an information source that brings it all together with a distinctive Waipa flavour. We're starting with electricity lines pricing and electric vehicles, but expect to see more added overtime.

Why?

With new technologies come new challenges and opportunities, for both electricity customers and Waipa Networks. Whenever you see Energy Advanced (and it's going to pop up more and more in our Network supply area) you will know what your seeing is something fresh and exciting. You will see it and if something interests you (like the electric vehicle revolution!) then you can find out more about the technology by visiting us online or talking to one of our staff. Because we're local, we will also be able to advise you on how to make the most of these new technologies.



Our Fleet is Electrifying!

Waipa Networks has purchased its first ever fully electric vehicle in the form of an electric van.

The Nissan ENV200 has a range of around 120km and will be making its way into our maintenance fleet. Over time we will be changing more of our fleet to electric vehicles so expect to see more of the yellow-striped 'Energy Advanced' vehicles out on the roads.

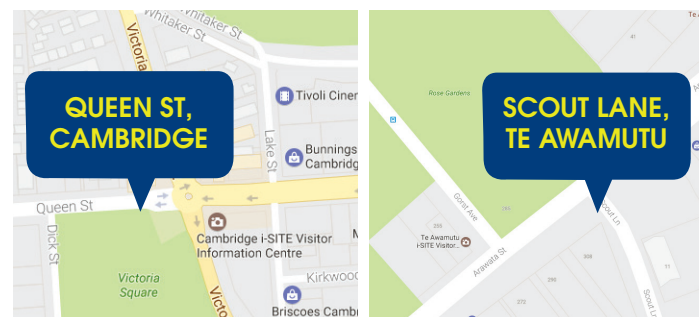
Electric Vehicle Charging Comes to the Waipa

Electric vehicles are gaining momentum as more car manufacturers are embracing this exciting new technology. There are many plug-in hybrid electric vehicles available (that are electric but also have a petrol engine for longer trips) and now we are starting to see pure electric vehicles with ranges of up to 200km starting to appear on the market.

Waipa Networks has partnered with charge.net.nz who are installing public rapid charging stations throughout the country. Most of the time people with electric vehicles will just plug them in at home and charge up overnight. But if you're out and about or are travelling across the country rapid chargers allow most electric vehicles to be charged to around 80% in only 20-30 minutes!

The Te Awamutu charging station will be installed towards the end of March and the Cambridge station in April.

Energy Advanced Charging Stations



Both sites are centrally located so drivers can go for a walk or visit a café while their vehicle charges.

Artists impression of new fast car chargers

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New Advanced Pricing - Smarter Power Use

What is Advanced Pricing?

Traditional electricity meters only record the amount of power you are using, but not the times that it is being used. Advanced pricing takes advantage of newer 'smart' electricity meters that are being gradually installed throughout the country, including the Waipa Networks area. These new meters are capable of recording how much power is used at different times during the day.

For Waipa Networks area, we group these times into three categories: Peak, Off Peak and Shoulder. There is a different price for each category.

What happens to my power bill?

We introduced this pricing on 1 April last year, but from 1 April 2017 we are making it compulsory for new connections and all Distributed Generation (for example, solar) connections. For those customers it doesn't necessarily mean you will see this on your power bill - we will be charging your Electricity Retailer the new Advanced Pricing, but it is up to them if their price plans reflect this new type of lines pricing.

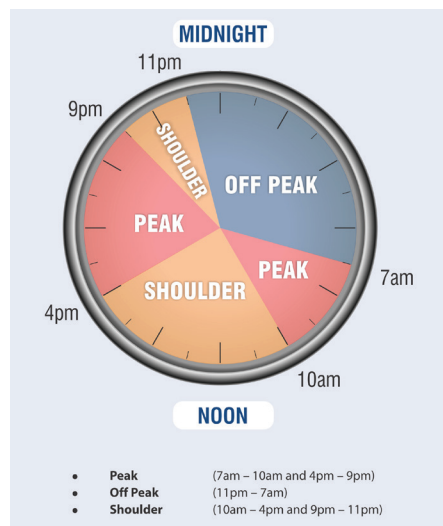
Electricity Retailers often sell their electricity plans with other services such as telephone/internet, gas, etc and offer package deals. Over time though, we expect more of them to offer plans based

on our Advanced Pricing. We plan to change all connections over to Advanced Pricing by 1 April 2019.

I want Advanced Pricing now - How do I get it?

Talk to your Electricity Retailer first. Some Retailers offer Advanced Pricing plans but others don't, or won't for a little while until their billing systems are ready to do so. If you would like to see a list of Retailers that offer this type of plan, visit our website and check out the Pricing section of Energy Advanced.

To see our pricing schedule, which contains both the new Advanced Pricing and traditional pricing, visit www.waipanetworks.co.nz and click on 'Lines Charges'.



Safety Bulletin - Electricity Pillars

The photo above shows an electricity pillar - if you have an underground power supply to your property then you will have one of these, usually just outside the property boundary and often shared with one or two neighbours. Waipa Networks inspects these every 5 years however some-times they can be damaged in the meantime through vehicles, ride-on mowers, or vandalism. If you notice one that looks damaged or the lid is coming off please don't touch it - give us a call on 07 870 2000 and we will send someone out to check it.



Complaints

Utilities Disputes Ltd is a free and independent complaints resolution service available to electricity customers and land owner/land occupiers. If you have a complaint, Waipa Networks will do our best to sort it for you using our free complaints resolution process. If we can't sort it out to your satisfaction, you can contact Utilities Disputes for help.

You can visit their website at www.utilitiesdisputes.co.nz or call them on 0800 22 33 40

Why Do Power Line Companies Care When Power Is Used?

Peak electricity usage is a bit like peak traffic on a motorway. People tend to want to use the motorway the most at the same time - travelling to and from work. So the roads need to be made bigger and multi-laned to handle this, even though most of the time the road has much less traffic and in the middle of the night not much at all.

Power lines are a similar situation - the more power people use at the same time, the bigger the power lines and equipment need to be able to handle this, even though there are times when hardly any power is used.

Bigger power lines cost more money and ultimately it is the power customers that have to pay for these.

So it is in everyone's interest to try to reduce peak power usage. Our new Advanced Pricing is designed to help people understand the benefits of moving power usage out of peak times.

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