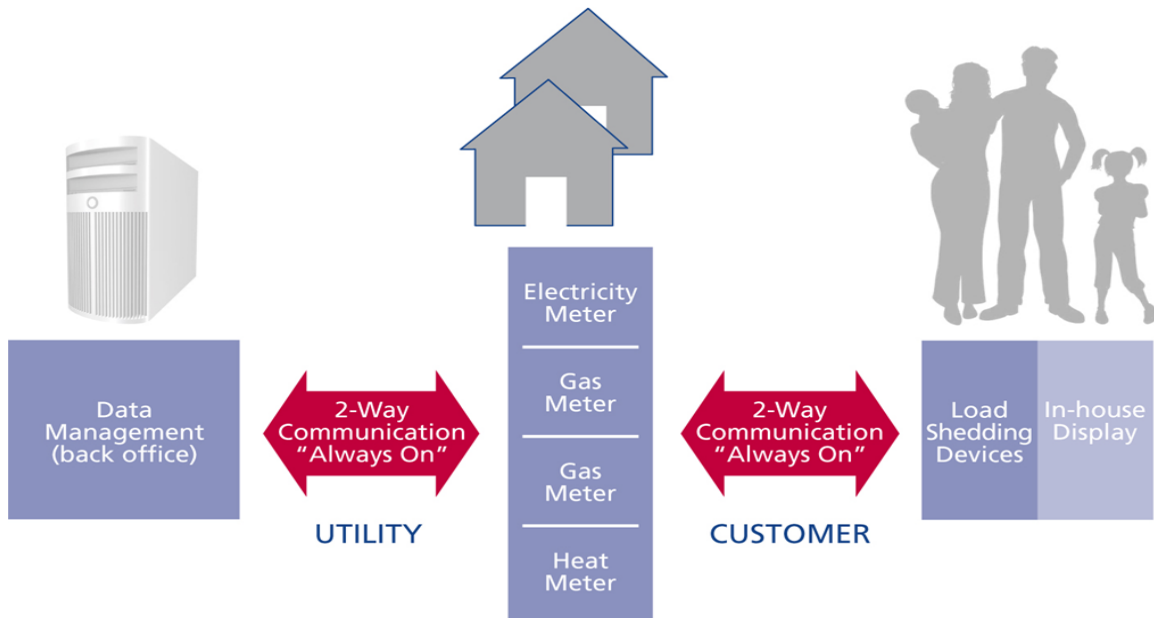




Fact Sheet No1
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The Smart Idea



Smart Metering technologies:

- provide a genuine two-way information and communication channel between the meter (e.g. electricity and water) and relevant parties and their systems
- allow for an automated reading and a first-class data collection on consumption
- enable an automated delivery, processing, management and usage of metering data
- deliver detailed consumption data, including costs and related data on carbon footprint which can be provided remotely (historical data) or in real-time information (displays)
- facilitate advanced energy services improving energy efficiency and encouraging a more rational use of energy.

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Why Smart Metering?

The benefits of smart, advanced metering are systemic, i.e. benefits accrue along the length of the value chain from the end consumer and supplier to the grid operator and the electricity producer. Increased electrical system efficiency as well as security and environmental protection are made possible by the deployment of smart meters.

The most relevant benefits are:

- Accurate billing and real-time information on consumption (potentially with shorter time-scales)
- Empowerment of customers: developing customers capacity to make smart choices about their energy and water use and encouraging more efficient and sustainable consumption
- Relevant cost savings: automated meter reading, data collection and invoicing
- Remote meter management
- Rewarding beneficial consumption behaviour
- More dynamic tariffs, such as "time of use" tariffs and critical peak pricing
- Delivery of advanced energy services, e.g. automatic management of usage
- Once Smart Metering for electricity is installed it can be also used for gas, water, heat meter readings
- Support for the adoption and feed-in of micro-generation of renewable power
- Facilitation of market liberalisation: easy switch of energy supplier
- possibility to reduce the capacity of energy connection and better support for pre-payment options/tariffs for lower income households.

Expected outcome:

- ⇒ Better customer service and better data management
- ⇒ Increased demand-side management and changes in consumers energy use patterns could slow the rate of energy demand growth and thereby reduce the need for additional generation capacity
- ⇒ Technical solutions for better management of energy poverty
- ⇒ More efficient management of distribution systems and better revenue protection
- ⇒ General reduction of energy consumption and realisation of related cost savings for all relevant parties
- ⇒ Meeting the EU's objectives of market liberalisation and commitments to fight climate change and promote renewable energy.

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