



## OG&E Customers Can Save on Energy Costs with SmartHours®

*Customers saved nearly \$7 million over that last 10 years*



*Yukon Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Simeroth helped save the school district more than \$10,000 last year through OG&E's SmartHours program. Simeroth first learned of the program as a residential OG&E customer and enrolled Yukon High School into SmartHours, resulting in significant annual savings.*

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**OKLAHOMA CITY (April 25, 2022)** – Each June, OG&E customer Dr. John Fagan sets the smart thermostat in his home to minimize the use of the air conditioner between the hours of 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Fagan is enrolled in OG&E SmartHours, a money-saving program that has saved him \$200 per year on average over the past 10 years.

“Consumers are looking for more ways to keep their home costs down, save money and take control of their energy bills,” said OG&E’s Director of Sales and Business Development Keith Erickson. “Enrolling in OG&E SmartHours is an easy way to lower your electric bill this summer and make life more affordable.”

This is the tenth year for OG&E to offer SmartHours, and its enrolled customers have cumulatively saved nearly \$7 million since the program was introduced. Energy consumption peaks daily Monday through Friday between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. during the hot summer months. That means demand is high, the cost is high and power generation must increase to keep up with the demand.

“It doesn’t cramp my lifestyle in any way,” said Fagan when asked about reducing energy usage for SmartHours. “It’s really a very small window and it’s only during the week.”

SmartHours encourages residential and commercial OG&E customers to shift some of their energy usage outside of peak, high-demand hours. While every customer can benefit from conserving energy during those peak hours, to achieve maximum savings, customers must be enrolled in the SmartHours program. The incentive is nearly half-price electricity during the 19 remaining hours of each weekday and the entire weekend, significantly reducing SmartHours customers' summer expenses.

When asked about tips for customers enrolling in SmartHours, Fagan said pre-cooling his home was his favorite trick. "My wife and I pre-cool the house for the day by running the air conditioner at night down to about 66 degrees. We quit pre-cooling at 9 a.m. and there is no air conditioning throughout the day, and our house gets up to about 72 degrees during the heat of the day." While Fagan's tactic is extra energy conscious, OG&E recommends customer stop the weekday pre-cooling process at or before 2 p.m. Adjusting the thermostat by as little as two degrees can result in significant savings for customers enrolled in SmartHours.

Even minor changes to SmartHours customers' daily habits can reduce their electric bills. Some saving suggestions from OG&E include:

- When possible, avoiding doing laundry, running the dishwasher or cooking indoors during peak hours,
- Turning off electronics and appliances when not in use,
- Grilling outdoors for evening cooking.

While these and other energy conservation measures can help reduce any customer's electric bill, customers must be enrolled in the SmartHours program to be eligible for the nearly half-price electricity.

"SmartHours also gets us out of the humdrum habit of cooking using the stove and oven," said Fagan. "It gets us into the summer mode of enjoying a hamburger or a steak or salmon on the grill. We do more outdoor living during the summer and that's fun. If you look our total savings over 10 years, that's a vacation!"

Business customers are also eligible for SmartHours. Dr. Jason Simeroth is a residential SmartHours user, and as Superintendent of Yukon Public Schools, he enrolled into the program Yukon High School, an administrative building and a few elementary schools in the district.

"The Yukon district started up with the SmartHours program in 2015. We have an enormous, two-story high school building that uses a lot of power and serves 2,500 students," said Simeroth. "From June to September many of our sites are not being used, while other sites we have summer school or programs running. We can target those sites to have more or less energy during certain times. Sometimes we have teachers who need to be in a building past 4 p.m. and I have the ability to override our settings in that situation. It's a very customizable opportunity. It's not a temperature prison."

"Personally, at my home, the savings are great," said Simeroth. "But when you put that on the scale of 120,000 square-foot buildings the savings are phenomenal. With the funding the way it is with public schools these days, we need to save all we can. At the high school alone, we saved \$16,000 last year, recouping about a quarter of a teacher's full annual salary. We put all our savings back into things that will benefit our kids."

Signing up for the program is as simple as three clicks on the OG&E website and it takes about 10 minutes to enroll. Once customers enroll, OG&E provides other tools and partnerships to help people maximize their savings. One of these innovative partnerships is IFTTT (“If This, Then That”), which enables consumers to use their own smart thermostats to react to daily pricing alerts, making it easy to set automatic parameters. Smart thermostats help customers program their thermostats for maximum savings.

“There is no disadvantage to this program if you really think about it,” said Fagan. “One benefit is the money savings, and – I think more important today than it was 10 years ago when I first joined SmartHours – it’s reducing our carbon footprint and thinking more about our impact on the environment. This program helps you do that. It’s a no-lose situation.”

To enroll or learn more about the SmartHours program, visit [oge.com/smarthours](http://oge.com/smarthours) or [oge.com/smarthoursbusiness](http://oge.com/smarthoursbusiness).

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## **About OG&E**

*Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of OGE Energy Corp. (NYSE: OGE), is Oklahoma's largest electric utility. For more than a century, we have provided customers in Oklahoma and western Arkansas the safe, reliable electricity needed to power their businesses and homes with the nation's lowest electric rates, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence. Our employees are committed to generating and delivering electricity, protecting the environment, and providing excellent service to nearly 880,000 customers. OG&E has 7,081 MW of electric generation capacity fueled by natural gas, wind, low-sulfur coal, and solar. OG&E employees live, work, and volunteer in the communities we serve. For more information about OG&E, visit us at [OGE.com](http://OGE.com) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).*

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