



Saving Money by Shedding Load

TIMING IS EVERYTHING when Medina Electric Cooperative purchases power.

Electricity is not always the same price. Buying electricity at certain hours on certain days is much more expensive than at other hours on other days. That's the nature of the electric market, and it is a business challenge that your cooperative works hard to control as best it can.

Medina EC's load management program, which has been offered to irrigators since the mid-1980s, is just one way the cooperative works to achieve lower power costs for members.

Irrigators who participate in the program—about 75 percent of members in the irrigation rate class—permit the cooperative to shut off power to their irrigation facilities when needed. This is known as load shedding. In exchange, they save \$12 per horsepower per year and pay a lower rate for each kilowatt-hour of electricity.

Implementing load shed through the program minimizes the demand Medina EC puts on the Texas grid at key moments in the months of June, July, August and September. Those key moments actually determine part of the price the cooperative pays for power all year, so an effective load management program is critical to saving the cooperative money. Load shedding normally occurs between 3 and 7 p.m. It doesn't happen every day—it depends on weather patterns and temperatures across the state, because those things affect the overall demand on the Texas electric grid.

You can see when the co-op is shedding load at MedinaEC.org/LM, on [Facebook.com/MedinaEC](https://www.facebook.com/MedinaEC) or by following [@MedinaECTalks](https://twitter.com/MedinaECTalks) on Twitter. Program participants are notified with text messages or phone calls, based on preferences.

The electricity market has changed in the past 30 years, and so has the load management program. The program will continue to evolve to best capture savings for all our members.

Medina EC is not alone in having a program designed to reduce load. In fact, all utilities work to reduce load. They might use direct load management programs, like this; voluntary programs where conservation is encouraged at certain times; or may design rates so it is more attractive and cost-effective for the consumer to use power in off-peak times. This can include charging more for power when it actually costs more and offering discounts for power used outside of peak hours.

As always, Medina EC will continue to work with members to determine which programs or options can best benefit them. Your cooperative works hard to manage costs and get the best price on the power we provide. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, that's our job.