



Energy Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Our Mission

To advance environmental and economic well-being by providing unmatched energy services, products, education and information based on world-class research.

About Us

Our staff of energy engineers, energy specialists, technical experts and software developers work out of Olympia, Washington.

The WSU Energy Program is a self-supported department within the University.

Within WSU

We are part of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences.

Our Director reports to the Dean of the College.

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The Short Guide to Energy Submetering

As Resource Conservation Managers (RCM) and Energy Managers know, measuring and tracking the consumption of electricity, natural gas, and other resources is the key to reducing their consumption and associated costs. Utility bills based on utility meter readings are a consistent way to measure usage. They generally provide a total use every month, or longer in the case of some utilities, and measure to the building or campus level. Relying solely on utility meters however, may not provide enough detail to identify resource and cost savings opportunities.

This short article takes a look at submetering for energy management purposes. It discusses why and when to submeter, benefits and considerations of submetering, planning and installations, and a cursory look at some different types of equipment. How to interpret

submeter data for energy management measures is not discussed. While the focus is on electrical submetering, there is some information on types of meters for natural gas, steam, water, and heated-water and chilled-water circulation.

It is expected that the information given here will give the reader a jumpstart to research and develop their own submetering plan.

Overview

Submeters are simply sensors that measure the flow of energy, fluid, or gas in more detail than a utility bill provides. Modern utility meters are often capable of capturing this greater detail, usually at 15-minute intervals, but few utilities offer this enhancement to their customers. This article focuses on submetering on the customer side of the meter, totally at the customer's option and expense, and under customer control.



Photo courtesy of Mark Jerome