



Earn some extra cash this summer for doing very little!

And help your local school earn \$3000.

We're looking for 75 families in our school community to join us as Peak Partners.

Introduction

Berwick Chase Primary School is helping AusNet Services (our local electricity network operator) to investigate whether our community can keep power supplies secure. We can do this by using a bit less power during peak periods, *in return for a cash payment.*

About electricity peaks

The times when the electricity network is operating near full capacity are called *peak events*. These are infrequent periods, only occurring around five times a year – typically on weekdays between December and March, between 5pm and 9pm.

What do Peak Partners have to do?

Not very much. During five peak events, AusNet Services will pay each Peak Partner to reduce their electricity use for a short time. This is just a matter of managing the way that electrical appliances are used, or even planning a trip to the shops or movies to coincide with a peak event.

Please note: Peak Partners are not obliged to reduce power use during peak events. We're just interested in finding out whether people will do this or not.

How much will Peak Partners receive?

Electricity is billed in units called kilowatt hours. (kWh) For every kWh of electricity saved during peak events, you receive \$5. This is likely to be *more than 15 times* what you are currently paying for electricity.

Join our electricity investigation.

Become a Peak Partner now.

By managing appliances like air conditioners, dishwashers or ovens, you could save 4kWh of electricity during each peak event and earn \$20.

As there are typically five of these events during summer, Peak Partners could earn an extra \$100 to \$150, as well as reducing their summer power bills.

Benefits to our school.

In recognition of our involvement, AusNet Services will kindly donate \$40 to Berwick Chase Primary School for every Peak Partner that we bring into the project. As we are seeking 75 participants, this school donation could total \$3000. (A very useful amount!).

How are Peak Partners paid?

The amount you earn from each peak event will add up over the summer. At the end of the investigation, we'll send a you pre-paid debit card for the full amount.

How will we know when a peak event occurs?

This is easy. You'll be notified by SMS the day before an expected peak event occurs. As peaks coincide with hot afternoons and evenings on weekdays, they are relatively easy to predict. You'll also be notified by SMS at the start and end of each event.

How to reduce electricity use during peak events?

We'll teach Peak Partners about easy ways to reduce power use during peak events. You'll learn some useful information about appliance running costs, power bills and more. Which means you'll be better placed to make decisions that could save you money.



What obligations do Peak Partners have?

None at all. Participation in this project is entirely voluntary. There are no fees of any kind. But there are rewards.

Please note: Note: Peak Partners are *not obliged* to reduce power use during peak events. We're just investigating whether people will do this or not.

How will you know how much power you are using?

We'll set up every Peak Partner Participants with a handy app that shows how much power they are currently using. They can access this app via mobile, tablet, laptop or PC.

Who can join?

If you're part of the Berwick Chase Primary School Community, you're very welcome to participate.

Why is the Peak Partners project being run in this area.

We are specifically investigating ways to reduce peak power on one of our main power lines, in the Berwick Chase Primary School area.
(We call this type of line a 'feeder.' It transports electricity at around 22,000 volts).

How many people can participate?

We only need around 75 people. So the first 75 eligible participants will be invited to join.

An easy way to be a Peak Partner.

If a participant has a recent model air conditioner, it may be able to respond automatically to our peak events, while still keeping their family cool. So they can earn some spare cash without having to do anything to manage power use. We can help set up this useful feature.

Who is running this project?

The project is being run by the *energy innovations team* at AusNet Services. This team is involved in a number of research projects that explore our energy future. This work is important, as Australia is in the midst of a period of major change in almost every aspect of energy.

Who is AusNet Services?

AusNet Services is an *electricity network operator*. They are *not an electricity retailer* - we don't send power bills.

They are *not an electricity generator* - they don't own coal-fired power stations, wind farms etc.

AusNet Services owns and operates three important energy networks in Victoria, supplying energy to around 1.3 million customers. Their high voltage *transmission network* supplies the state of Victoria, as well contributing to other states.

Their low voltage *electricity distribution network* supplies a large part of eastern and north eastern Victoria, including the Berwick area.

Their *gas network* supplies part of Melbourne and western Victoria.

Why does the Peak Partners project matter?

To ensure a reliable power supply, an electricity network must be able to handle peak periods, when most people are using large amounts of electricity. Even though these *peak events* only occur around five times a year, for a few hours each.

A large amount of money has been invested to handle these peaks. Yet for most of the time, the network is operating well below its capacity.

An analogy would be building an expensive eight-lane freeway just to handle once-yearly Boxing Day holiday traffic.

By finding ways to reduce peaks, we can reduce necessary network investment, which means good reliability with lower charges to electricity customers

Managing network peaks by rewarding customers to reduce consumption is becoming common. AusNet Services already has this type of arrangement with some large industrial customers. These customers are rewarded for reducing their usage during critical peak periods.