



Smart Power Bars = Energy & Money Savings

A smart power strip, or smart power bar, looks similar to a regular power bar, however the circuitry is designed to monitor and control power to each electrical outlet in the strip. While traditional power bars are an affordable way to expand the number of electrical outlets, their convenience can encourage you to leave electronics plugged in all the time – with devices drawing power even when you’re not using them.

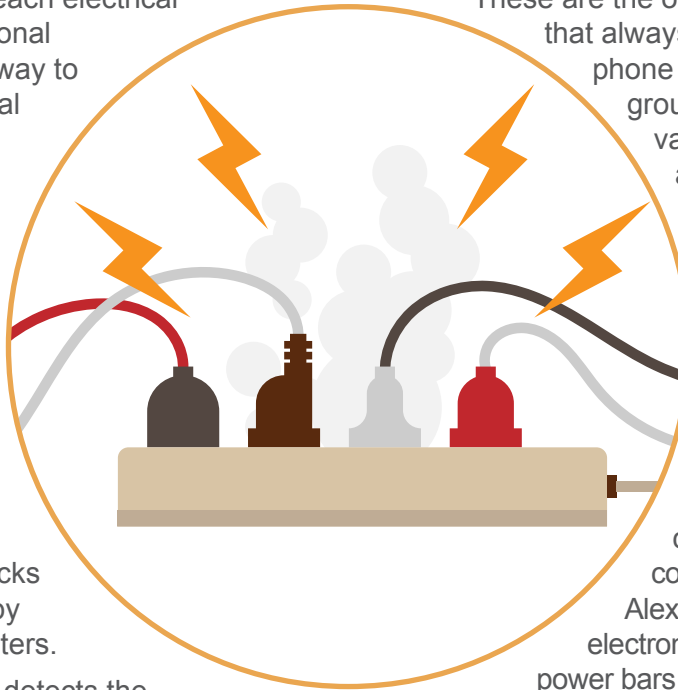
As a test, turn off the lights in rooms with your computer, printer, TV or DVD player and you’ll probably see tiny beams shining through the darkness. All of those glowing LEDs, clocks and power switches on standby power are sneaky energy wasters.

In a smart power bar, circuitry detects the change in an outlet from a device that enters standby mode and cuts the power to that outlet, while the

remaining in-use outlets stay on. Many smart power strips also have one or two unmonitored, always-on outlets.

These are the ones you’d use to plug in the devices that always need power, like your cordless phone base or alarm system. Others have groupings that allow you to connect various entertainment devices such as a TV, cable/satellite/PVR into an always-on series, and peripheral devices such as a DVD player, or Play Station into linked outlets that can be turned on or off simultaneously for use with the TV.

Also, many smart power bars can be integrated into home automation with features like remote control connection to your Smartphone, voice control through devices like Amazon Alexa, and scheduling programs to power electronics on/off as needed. Many smart power bars also provide surge protection in the event of electricity spikes.



2021 Annual General Meeting Update

In 2020, FENN REA was able to hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) prior to health regulations regarding group event numbers precipitated by COVID-19.

Normally in this edition of the newsletter, we begin to promote attendance at the AGM outlining the importance of member attendance both as a networking opportunity but also to benefit from the important role of members as they vote on AGM topics. As of this writing, REAs throughout the province are in communication with Alberta Rural Utilities on possible ways and means to accommodate 2021 AGMs while adhering to applicable health protocols. We will keep members apprised of results of those discussions.



For power outages, emergency power troubles and service requests, contact the distribution system operator for FENN REA: **ATCO Electric**
Phone toll-free: 1-800-668-2248

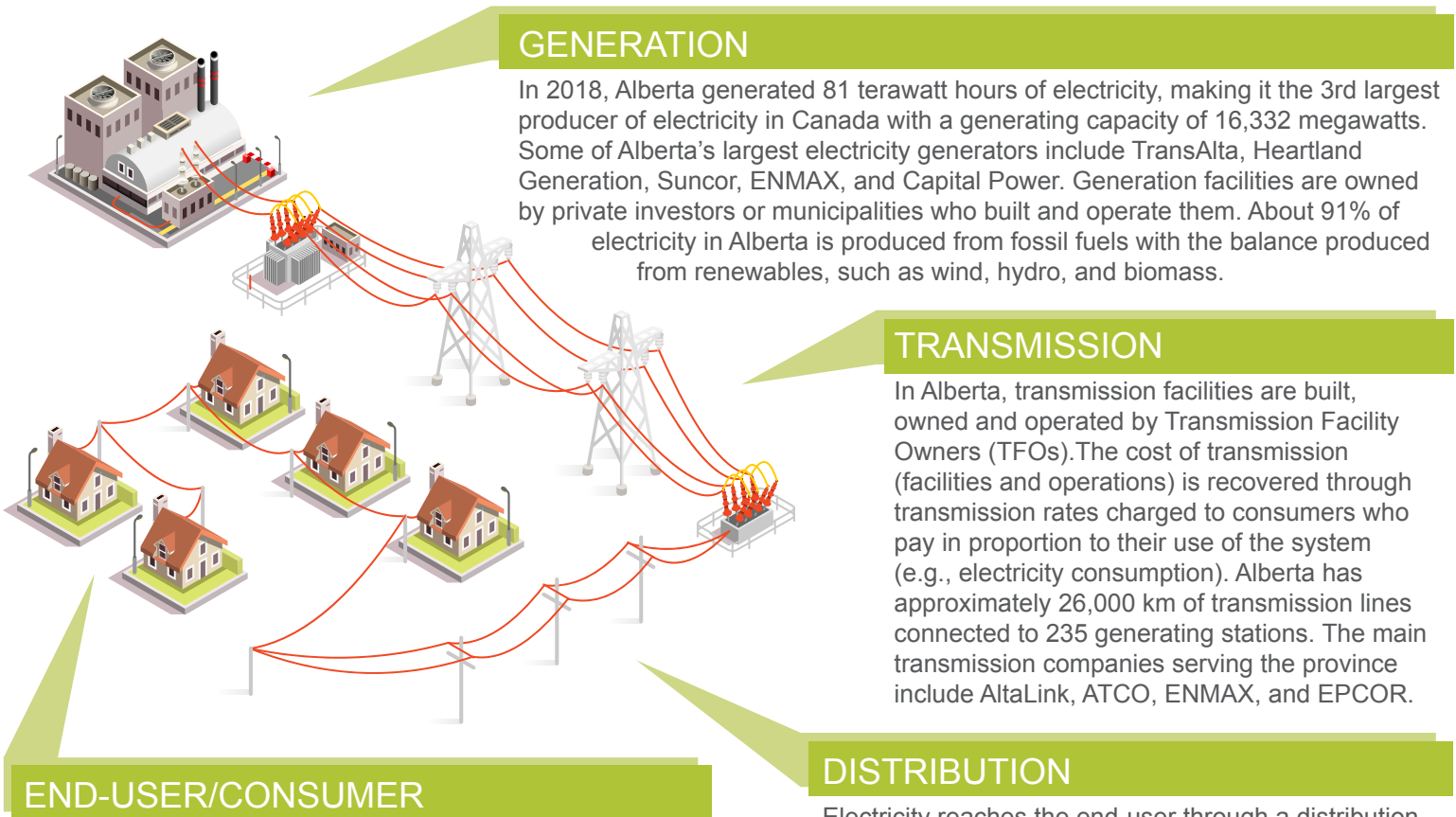
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Electricity Delivery in Alberta

The Role/Responsibility of the Various Players

In Alberta, electricity delivery is a very integrated activity among several players and each player has a designated role/responsibility to perform, as outlined in the visual below. Costs for those delivery components are collected from the end-user, the consumer.



Consumer locations are metered and consumption is determined by meter reads. Albertans, including REA members, may choose to receive electricity from an approved retail energy provider or remain on the default Regulated Rate Option. As an end-user, your monthly bill includes the cost of generation via your electricity rate & consumption, the cost of transmission (a flow through to the TFOs) and the monthly Distribution Tariff (DT) that is applied to the cost to operate FENN REA. Alberta's largest consuming sector for electricity is industrial, with commercial and residential sectors coming in at 2nd and 3rd.

Electricity reaches the end-user through a distribution system and 2018 records indicate there are over 200,000 km of distribution lines in the province. FENN REA is a distribution system owner and is governed by a Board of Directors responsible to ensure the reliability and longevity of the system. Annually the Board of Directors establishes Distribution Tariffs (DT) to support that goal. The DT is established under cooperative business principles and covers the actual costs of operating and maintaining the system (currently performed by our contractor ATCO) in addition to the administration of the REA.

Regulated Rate Option (RRO)

The RRO rate may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you receive the default RRO rate.

For January 2021, the RRO is priced at \$0.07313 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For February 2021, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate for FENN REA members is \$0.08558. The RRO rate is also listed on www.fennrea.com.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

Information on FENN REA's Code of Conduct Compliance Plan can be found on our website: www.fennrea.com