

# PARK SPARKS

June 2024



## Making the Switch to ELECTRIC LAWN EQUIPMENT

Considering electric equipment to maintain your outdoor space? Check out the benefits of electric and considerations before making the switch.

Source: Consumer Reports



### Benefits of Electric Equipment

- Battery-powered equipment produces zero emissions
- No hassle and mess from gasoline and oil
- Quieter and more reliable than gas-powered equipment
- Require less energy to do the same amount of work as gas-powered tools

### Considerations Before Going Electric

- Purchasing from a single brand can streamline charging
- Consider the size of your property and battery run time
- Backup batteries may be needed for larger properties
- Electric equipment is pricier up front

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov

## Green Tag Price Change

The price of Green Tags has been lowered. The current new cost is \$0.0017 per kWh.

If you are interested in the Green Power program, please contact our office or visit [www.parkedelectric.coop/green-power](http://www.parkedelectric.coop/green-power) for more information.

## SIGNS OF AN

# ENERGY SCAM

### High-Pressure Tactics

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

### Sketchy Payment Methods

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

### Dodgy Communication

Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.



## Resource Adequacy

Resource adequacy is one of my largest long-term concerns for the future of Park Electric, or any cooperative or electric utility across the US. Resource adequacy asks: Will there be enough power generation to meet the demands of consumers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year? This question leads to more questions regarding reliability across the country. In general, a lack of power generation during times of higher demand can cause brownouts. In my experience, consumers understand when Mother Nature causes a power outage, but not if the outage is from any other cause. Knowing that consumers expect power to be available at all times, I would like to review ways electricity is generated and what situations can jeopardize reliability.

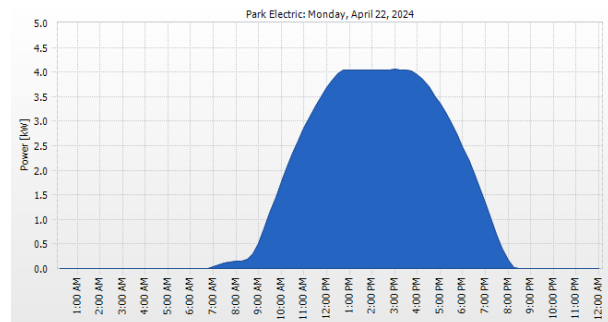
Basic types of generation:

- **Baseload generation** is defined as the minimum amount of electricity needed to be supplied to the electrical grid at any given time. This is the most important supply of energy to an electric grid. Base load generation sources can be ramped up quickly and can generate large amounts of consistent, reliable electricity. Some examples of this are hydro-powered dams, natural gas and coal-fired power plants, and nuclear energy.
- **Dispatchable generation** resources are electrical power systems, such as power plants, that can be turned on or off; in other words, they can adjust the power output supplied to the electrical grid on demand. Most conventional power sources such as coal, natural gas, or nuclear power plants are dispatchable. This type of generation can be ramped up ahead of storms or extreme weather to ensure the electrical demands of the population.
- **Intermittent generation** refers to energy that is not continuously available due to external factors that cannot be controlled. Sources of intermittent generation include solar and wind power. Due to the variability of the generation source, solar and wind are considered non-dispatchable. This means the electrical output cannot be relied upon when needed to meet

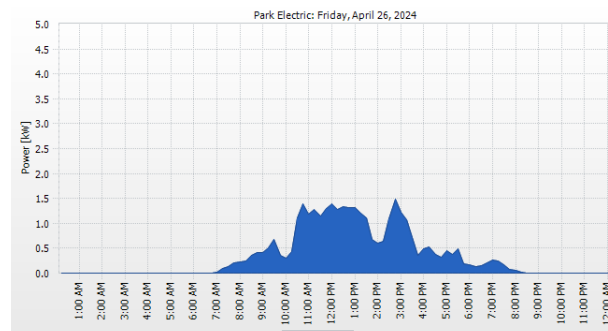
consumers' fluctuating electricity demands. Knowing when the wind will be blowing or when cloud cover or snow will reduce solar generation are variables in electricity generation. For either of these to become dispatchable resources, large-scale storage technology would need to be in place to retain the electricity generated for later use.

PEC supports and understands the need for baseload generation, dispatchable resources, and intermittent generation and they all play an important role in creating electricity for our consumers. On days like we had a few months ago in January, we had no wind and it was -35 degrees before the sun came up. In that case, baseload generation was responsible for keeping your lights on and the heaters running. Taking this into account, we know that baseload generation cannot be removed from the mix to be replaced by intermittent generation without jeopardizing the system's reliability.

### Examples of intermittent generation



Solar generation on a sunny day



Solar generation on a cloudy day