



Watts UP with Power in Kaysville

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After spending more than a year working with the power department, I have learned many new things about our city. I thought I would share some perspective on our power department. Over

100 years ago, our city leaders had the foresight to form a municipal power department. The power companies at the time were not able to provide reliable and consistent power to our community. They would only serve certain portions of our community and didn't seem interested in providing electricity to everyone.

Since Kaysville does not have any power generation facilities, it joined a co-op call UAMPS (Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems) which builds and operates power generation projects shared by all member communities. This co-op has grown from just serving Utah communities to now serving local power departments in Utah, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming. We enjoy some of the lowest power rates in the intermountain area through UAMPS. In fact, we have not raised our power rates in many years.

Kaysville's power department has a very qualified and dedicated team of professionals who work every day to make sure that our power is available 24 hours a day. They have been investing about \$2 million per year in improving our electric power system. Last year, a reliability study was conducted to identify additional improvements needed to maintain our power system. This study has provided a road map for the next 5-10 years to ensure that the power department can meet the needs of our residents as the city continues to grow. As a confirmation of the excellence of our power department, in 2020 Kaysville Power was recognized as a top 25% most reliable municipal utilities in the USA by the American Public Power Association. They also received the Smart Energy Innovation Award from UAMPS. They have consistently been recognized by the Intermountain Power Superintendents Associations for low accident frequency (receiving 1st place honors). These awards show just how

good our power department operates for our residents. The windstorm last September demonstrated the value of the investments in our power system. When compared to the 2011 windstorm, Kaysville had much less damage, and interruption to electricity and power was restored more quickly.

Over the years, how we consume electricity has changed. The invention of central air conditioning dramatically impacted our power consumption patterns. Here is a chart of our monthly peak usage of power for each hour of the day. You will see that for 7 months of the year our power usage is between 10 megawatts and 25 megawatts. In July through August, our peak usage jumps to 50 Megawatts from 4pm to 7pm.

Building and operating power generation facilities that only provide power for 3 or 4 hours a day for just 5 months a year is not very efficient. In fact, the cost of providing power during these peak hours/months can cost from 3-10 times the cost of providing our baseload power (~15% of our power purchases is for 5% of the year). This peak usage is also what drives the investment necessary in our power delivery system. The system must be designed to handle peak usage even when it is only used less than 5% of the time.

Some people say that solar electricity can help us solve our electricity demand issues. However, when you compare the power generation of solar to usage by residents, it becomes clear that solar produces power earlier in the day than when it is needed (see the chart on page back)

Our Kaysville Power Commission (made up of Kaysville residents) is responsible for recommending how to set and manage our rate structure to ensure that Kaysville's power department is run effectively, efficiently and has the resources needed to continue to invest in our Power Delivery System. They are recommending rate changes to encourage residents to lower power consumption during peak times in the summer to better reflect the cost of providing power more closely during peak demand hours, and a change to the base rate to provide the resources to continue to invest in our power system. This will mean paying higher prices during peak times of the year (June to September) for those who use more than 1,000 kWh per month and lower rates outside peak times. This is not an easy discussion but is very

important for the future of our city and our long-term costs of providing electricity. The estimated impact on an average household is about \$40/year.

One way that residents can help mitigate this summer power usage spike is by investing in more efficient AC units when they build or replace existing equipment. Through UAMPS, you can get rebates for purchasing more efficient AC equipment – just go to uamps.com/cool-cash. Other ways to reduce electricity consumption in the summer include:

- use a smart thermostat that can turn off your AC while you are out of your home
- use ceiling fans to circulate air to make it feel cooler inside
- replace incandescent bulbs with new LED bulbs (use less power and generate less heat in your house)
- avoid using your oven or clothes dryer from noon to 10pm. Dry clothes in the morning and use your pellet grill to cook dinner at night (the food will taste better as well)

- charge your electric car overnight after 11 pm and not during the day
- install a whole house fan to cool your house at night when the outside temperature falls instead of relying just on your AC unit to cool down your house
- block the sun with curtains or blinds to reduce heat through windows
- Plant trees to shade your home

Not only will you be helping our city ensure a reliable power delivery system throughout the city, but you will also save some money each month as well.

Hopefully, some of this information was useful to you. It is an honor to represent the residents of Kaysville. I hope you enjoy this summer season as we get back to “normal” this year. Please be safe and look for ways to help your neighbors.

