Carrots, Sticks and Other "Smart" Tricks



Seth Blumsack Penn State University

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Other people whose tricks make me look smart: P. Hines, J. Clothiaux, S. Gautam, R. Mina

Support from DOE and Green Mountain Power (nee Central Vermont Public Service)

Carrots and Sticks



Source: Sanem Sergici, Brattle Group

Pricing Pilot

Fall 2011



Fall 2011: Smart meter installation begins.

- February April 2012: Customer recruitment.
- April 2012: Smart meter installations completed. Meter data collection begins.
- August 2012: CPP and CPR customers placed on new rate; IHDs mailed to customers.
- September 14, 21, 25; Oct. 5, 2012: Year 1 events called.

December 2012: Interim survey completed.

July 5, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 2013: Year 2 events called. August 13, 21, 22, 28, 2013: Year 2 events called. Sept. 30, 2013: Meter data collection ends.

December 2013: Post-treatment survey completed.

- RCT involving 3,735 GMP residential customers in Rutland;
- Opt-in to enroll; opt-out at any time;
- Event-based study with 24-hour notification of "peak days," rate treatments: peak pricing, peak rebates and a transition group who started on a rebate and were moved to peak pricing;
- Tech and no-tech groups;
- Notification mode choices (phone, e-mail, text message);
- Detailed pre/mid/post study surveys.

Group							Required
No	Group Name	Survey	Year 1	Year 2	IHD	Notification	sample size
1	CPR	Х	CPR	CPR		х	390
2	CPR+IHD	Х	CPR	CPR	Х	х	195
3	CPP	Х	CPP	CPP		Х	390
4	CPP+IHD	Х	CPP	CPP	Х	Х	195
5	CPR-CPP	Х	CPR	CPP		Х	390
6	CPR-CPP+IHD	Х	CPR	CPP	Х	Х	195
7	Flat+Notification	Х	Flat	Flat		Х	390
	Flat w/o						
C1	Notification	Х	Flat	Flat			390
	(Control)						
C2	Control, No Survey		Flat	Flat			1200
Totals							3735

Rate/Information Treatment	Technology Treatment		
Critical Peak Price (CPP)	IHD		
	No IHD		
Critical Peak Rebate (CPR)	IHD		
	No IHD		
CPR in Year 1, CPP in Year 2	IHD		
	No IHD		
Flat Rate w/Notification	No IHD		
Flat Rate w/o Notification	No IHD		

~ 4,000 customers involved in the pilot.

A "Hawthorne" group was created but no Hawthorne effect detected.

The Carrot: Critical Peak Rebates (CPR)



The Stick: Critical Peak Pricing (CPP)



In Home Device (Circa the Stone Age)

TENDRIL





Overview

- Displays current household energy use in both kilowatts and dollars-per-hour
- Displays current day accumulated energy usage and compares cost with previous day's cost

CPR, CPP and GMP



Image source: NPR

- Some utilities have run pilot programs that use peak-time rebates. Others have used critical-peak pricing.
 - GMP was convinced to do
 both. This made their state
 regulator confused, and a little
 irritated. Aren't peak prices
 and peak rebates basically the
 same thing? Why punish the
 poor people of Vermont?

Framing Gains and Losses

"The aggravation that one experiences in losing a sum of money appears to be greater than the pleasure associated with gaining the same amount." - Kahneman and Tversky, 1979



- Avoiding a loss is somehow preferred to achieving a gain that is identical in magnitude.
- Suggests that we should expect larger savings from CPP than CPR
- Can ratepayers be trained to like the stick?

Data and Estimation

$$y_{it} = \beta + \sum_{j} \beta_{j} T_{ij} + \sum_{k} \beta_{k}^{DB} DB_{ik} + \sum_{k} \beta_{k}^{DE} DE_{ik} + \sum_{k} \beta_{k}^{DA} DA_{ik}$$
$$+ \sum_{j} \sum_{k} \beta_{jk}^{DE(k)} T_{ij} DB_{kt} + \sum_{j} \sum_{k} \beta_{jk}^{DB(k)} T_{ij} DE_{kt} + \sum_{j} \sum_{k} \beta_{jk}^{DB(k)} T_{ij} DA_{kt}$$

 $+\beta_t^{CD}CD_t + \beta_t^{HI}HI_t + \varepsilon_{it}$

- 15-minute interval meter data for several thousand GMP residential customers in Rutland
- Plus some socio-economic data (house size, appliance stock, income, education, household size, etc)

Weekday Load Shapes



Event-Day Behavior, 2012 and 2013



Average Peak Time Load Reductions



Before/During/After Event

Table E-1: Summary of load impacts (percentage reductions relative to the nonotification control group), 2012 and 2013

	2012			_	2013		
Treatment	Before	During	After	Before	During	After	
Flat Rate w/ Notification	-6.45%	-3.38%	0.15%	-3.81%	-8.18%	-5.81%	
CPR-CPR	-4.72%	-5.29%	-0.57%	1.06%	-2.17%	-1.52%	
CPR-CPR w/IHD	-2.65%	-7.64%	3.41%	2.41%	-9.55%	-5.77%	
CPP-CPP	-1.51%	-7.42%	1.77%	-0.56%	-7.46%	-3.79%	
CPP-CPP w/ IHD	-8.67%	-11.80%	2.68%	3.56%	-14.48%	-0.67%	
CPR-CPP	-4.29%	-8.57%	-1.27%	16.86%	1.40%	1.90%	
CPR-CPP w/ IHD	-5.29%	-6.24%	-4.40%	1.82%	-16.40%	-3.43%	

Monetary Savings



So, What Did We Learn?



Source: Sanem Sergici, Brattle Group

Pricing Pilot

Capacity Value of Retail DR



How Not to be Popular!



How Not to be Popular!



How Not to be Popular!



Actions Reported



Efficacy-Popularity Frontier



How Do Consumers Value Smart Grids?



Words Are Worth a Thousand Pictures



CPR Customers

CPP Customers

Utility Lessons

Sticks work better than carrots...

...but sticks are unpopular, especially after dangling carrots before customers/regulators.

Customers DO respond to incentives...

...but not persistently enough to have much (retail) capacity value.

Information CAN be useful...

...but the supporting systems need to become as EASY as making coffee.

A Final Musing



- Why do *households* care about the carrot or the stick?
- GMP customers each saved tens of cents during every peak event!
- What motivates customers? Does the penny make the conservation choice more or less complicated?

Thank You!

Seth Blumsack blumsack@psu.edu