

Is your electricity company putting your health at risk?

In many parts of NZ, electricity companies are contacting their customers to let them know that they plan to replace their customers' old analogue meters with a new "smart" or "advanced" meter.

Unfortunately, these new "smart meters" use microwave radiation to transmit data about customers' electricity use. Electricity companies are generally telling their customers that these new "smart meters" are safe because the microwave radiation that they produce falls within NZ safety standards. However, NZ safety standards are dangerously outdated as they take into account only the thermal (heating) effects of microwave radiation – and ignore the research that shows that much lower levels of microwave radiation may be a health hazard.

In fact, the World Health Or-

ganisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) recently classed radiofrequency radiation (including microwave radiation) as a possible human carcinogen after studies showed a link between cell phone use and

The plan to replace existing analogue meters with microwave emitting "smart meters" therefore appears to be putting public health at unnecessary risk.

FAQs



Q: Where can I get more information about the possible health effects of "smart meters"?

A: Visit this link: <http://www.stopsmartmeters.org.nz/health-issues/>

Q: What can I do if I don't want my electricity company to replace my analogue meter with a "smart meter"?

A: Inform your electricity supplier that you do not want a "smart meter". Be aware that the company may send a technician to replace the meter regardless of your stated wishes. If your

meter is outside, you may wish to lock the meter box to prevent anyone changing the meter when you are not home. (See [\[stopsmartmeters.org.nz\]\(http://www.stopsmartmeters.org.nz\)](http://www.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

brain tumours. <http://electromagnetichealth.org/electromagnetic-health-blog/iarc-rf-carc/>

stopsmartmeters.org.nz/how-to-avoid-getting-a-smart-meter/ for more information.)

Q: My home already has a “smart meter”. Can I get it removed and replaced with an analogue meter?

A: This may depend upon your electricity company; at least one company has refused multiple requests to remove “smart meters”. If your company is not helpful, please visit www.stopsmartmeters.org.nz for more information.

Q: I have experienced new health problems since a “smart meter” was installed in my home. Could they be related to the “smart meter”?

A: Some people are more sensitive to microwave radiation than others and may experience symptoms like headaches, palpitations, sleeping difficulties etc when a “smart meter” is present in their home. However, it is important to get a doctor’s assessment for any new symptoms as they may have other causes.

Q: I have heard that “smart meters” can be a fire risk. Is this true?

A: There have been reports from Australia and NZ that “smart meters” caught fire. In some cases, this has led to serious house fires. <http://stopsmartmeters.com.au/2012/05/11/smart-meter-linked-to-house-fire-geelong/>

<http://stopsmartmeters.com.au/2012/05/19/northcote-fire-questions-safety-of-smart-meters-emergency-services/>

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Fire->



The image above is a “smart meter” in an NZ home.



The image above is a “smart meter” in an office.



The image above shows a “smart meter” in an industrial building.

[prone-meter-boxes-causing-concern/tabid/423/articleID/159133/Default.aspx](http://www.stopsmartmeters.org.nz/prone-meter-boxes-causing-concern/tabid/423/articleID/159133/Default.aspx)

What are the aims of www.stopsmartmeters.org.nz?

A: The aims of this site are

- 1) To inform New Zealanders about the potential health risks of microwave radiation from “smart meters”
- 2) To encourage New Zealanders to reject this technology so that our health – or even lives – is not put at risk through this potentially hazardous technology.

Q: How can I help?

A: Please make additional copies of this leaflet to distribute to your family, friends, workmates, letter boxes in your neighbourhood and places where people gather in your community, such as churches, libraries, cafes etc.

This leaflet can be downloaded from <http://www.stopsmartmeters.org.nz/resources/> and there are also other resources to share at this link. There is information on the site in Samoan, Tongan, Chinese, Korean and Japanese so please share the site with your friends who speak other languages.

Please also visit this link www.stopsmartmeters.org.nz to join our mailing list and sign up for updates.