

A ROADMAP TO

CHALLENGING SMART AND DIGITAL METER MANDATES



Communities across the country are fighting for their right to opt out of smart meters due to cost, health, safety and privacy risks.

Smart and digital meters are devices that **automatically collect consumption information**, such as water, gas or electricity usage from the grid. They electronically report that information to utility companies at regular intervals, often wirelessly using **pulsed radiofrequency (RF) signals**.

Smart and digital meters are **actively being deployed** in the United States, in some cases without notification or consumer consent.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANALOG, DIGITAL AND SMART UTILITY METERS?



Analog Utility Meter

An **analog utility meter** is an electromechanical meter that has been safely and reliably used for decades to measure electric and gas usage.

They **do not collect private usage data** or use RF radiation. For electric service, an analog meter acts as a built-in mechanical grounding system that protects the consumer's system from **power surges**.

Digital Utility Meter

A **digital utility meter** is designed to extract, measure, store and/or transmit electric or gas usage through electronic components such as a switch mode power supply, antennas, batteries and more.

Digital utility meters may use and transmit pulsed RF radiation and do not contain circuit breakers or provide power surge protection.

Smart Meter

A smart meter is a type of digital meter and an Internet of Things (IoT) device. They use **pulsed RF radiation** to transmit consumption information to utility companies.

Smart meters are a **central feature** of the **smart grid**, which is the infrastructure consisting of millions of controls, computers, automation, power lines, and new technologies and equipment to allow for regular two-way digital communication between the utility and its customers.

HOW YOU CAN CHALLENGE SMART AND DIGITAL METER MANDATES



Since smart and digital meter mandates **vary greatly within the U.S.**, your ability to opt-in or opt-out will depend on your state.

Opt out if the option is available. Most states and cities across the country allow this, but they may require additional fees, proposed by your utility, city or state.¹

If an opt-out is available, but you choose to challenge the associated fees or want to switch back to an analog meter:

Advocate

Ask your legislators for a policy that gives consumers the right to decline smart or digital meter installation, and require that a smart or digital meter be replaced with an analog meter at any time and with no fee, penalty or service.

Litigate

If you suffer from Electromagnetic Sensitivity (EMS), the most effective way to take legal action against your utility company is to seek an accommodation under the **Americans with Disabilities Act**, the **Fair Housing Amendments Act**, and possibly portions of **The Rehabilitation Act**. This will require you to obtain an official **EMS diagnosis**. A disability rights attorney in your area is best positioned to assist you.

LEARN MORE

Together, let's fight back against the wireless takeover in our communities. Visit our **Frequently Asked Questions** page for more information: childrenshd.org/emr-faqs

Educate

Share this resource with neighbors, friends, and family. Contact your utility, city and/or state utility commission (whomever is mandating the installation/fees) and raise the following concerns:

- **Health Risks**

Smart and digital meters are **not tested** for human health and safety. They use RF radiation which may be **carcinogenic to humans** and may cause **neurological, genetic and reproductive damage**.

- **Fire Risks**

Smart and digital meters are a fire hazard because they are not equipped with surge/lightning arrestors or circuit breaker protection.

- **Privacy Risks**

Smart meters and some digital meters extract private utility usage data and sell it for profit to third parties. This data can be **used for** consumer profiling, targeted marketing, identity theft, surveillance and targeted home invasions.

¹For opt-outs:

In most areas, you must be a residential homeowner receiving service at a single-family home for opt-outs. Multi-family residential units frequently do not qualify for opt outs. For renters, work with the owner to see if an opt-out can be accomplished with the owner's cooperation.