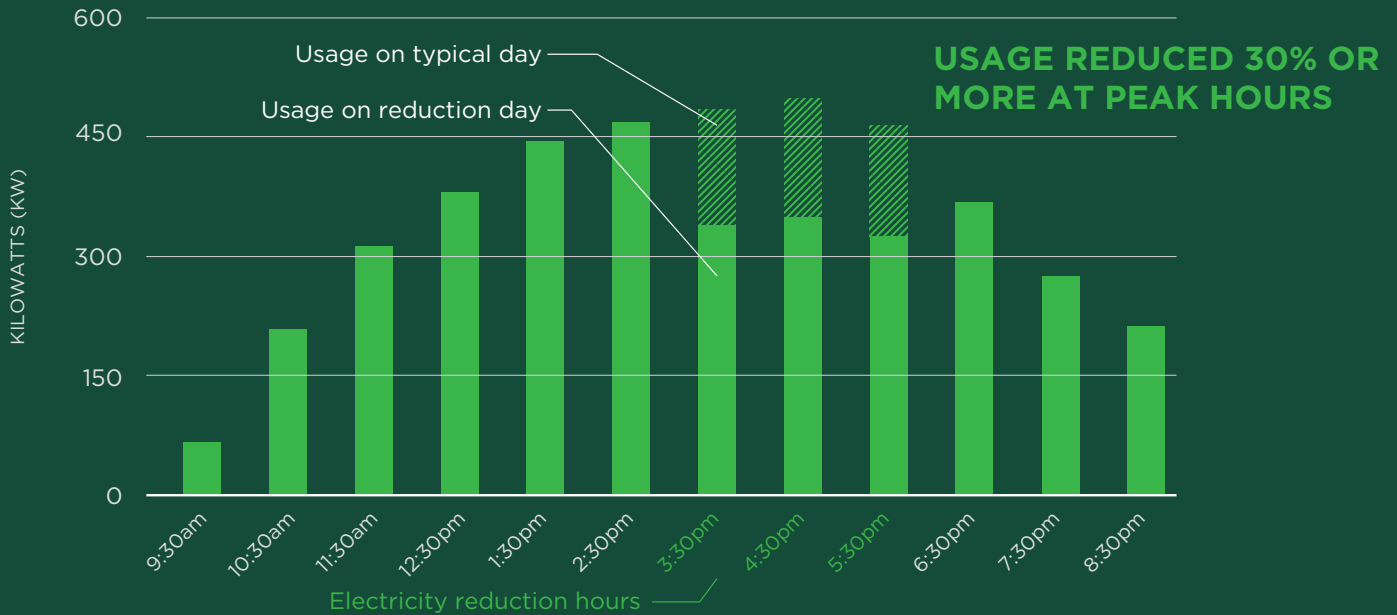


### Impact of Electricity Reduction in a Building



## WHEN TO SWITCH OFF: PEAK ELECTRICITY NOTIFICATION PROGRAM

Looming large on the electric bills of many municipalities is the “capacity charge” — a surcharge directed toward increasing future electricity production. The charge will soon grow in significance for municipalities with so-called pass-through agreement electricity contracts, because the grid operator, ISO-New England, has recently decided to double capacity charges for them in 2016 and again in 2017.

Thankfully, municipalities have some control. The capacity charge is based on a customer’s energy usage during a single hour per year: the one hour the entire grid experiences peak demand. A city or town that reduces its electricity usage during that hour can reduce its capacity charge year-round. But how are municipalities to know when that peak hour will occur, and when therefore they should switch things off?

That’s where MAPC’s “Peak Electricity Notification Program” comes in. It’s a daily summertime email that, using data from ISO-New England, rates the risk of that day being the peak. Eighteen communities signed up for the email, and there were four recommended reduction days. On those days, participants turned off non-essential air conditioners, lights, and computers — and in so doing potentially saved as much as \$100,000 over the next two years.

Contact [CleanEnergy@mapc.org](mailto:CleanEnergy@mapc.org) for information on next year’s program.