

A Simple Shift

Ōmokoroa electricity flexibility trial

Why are we doing this?

Powerco, in partnership with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), is running a trial on flexible electricity use in the Ōmokoroa community during the next three years.

Ōmokoroa's rapid growth is increasing electricity demand, particularly on winter evenings when many households use electricity at the same time.

A Simple Shift will test whether smart technology can shift some electricity use away from these peak times, making better use of the existing network and helping delay costly upgrades.

What does shifting electricity mean?

It doesn't mean sitting in the dark or changing your evening routine. Smart technology can move electricity use to a different time of day. A battery, for example, can charge when demand is lower and use that stored energy during the evening peak. Smart controls can shift when hot water is heated or when your heat pump runs. Much of this can happen automatically in the background.

For Ōmokoroa, the key peak period is 5pm to 8pm, from 1 June to 30 September. The aim of the trial is simple: shift electricity use away from the busiest times while keeping your home comfortable and your daily routine largely unchanged.

Participants in the trial can earn rewards for shifting their energy use by signing up with a participating retailer. Smart flex technology can then automatically shift energy use at the right times.

What does participating in the trial entail?

A Simple Shift is a community energy trial with incentives to help households install flex technology such as batteries, home energy management systems or smart hot water systems, so we have enough 'smarts' to properly test electricity flexibility in Ōmokoroa.

By joining the trial, you agree to keep your subsidised technology connected so it can respond to flexibility signals from your retailer and allow energy and device data to be used for research and learning.

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Your trial journey

As a participant you can expect to go through the following stages:

Talk to an endorsed installer
Your installer will talk to you about your household, what you want to achieve, suitable trial-compliant technology, installation requirements and expected costs.

Approve your quote
Once you are happy with the solution, you accept the installer's quote. Your installer sends the accepted quote to Powerco so we can confirm your eligibility for the trial and incentive.

Sign your Participation Agreement
Powerco sends you a Participation Agreement. Once you sign it, you officially become an A Simple Shift participant and your approved incentive is allocated to you.

Install and connect your technology
Your installer arranges the installation and commissioning of your compliant technology and ensures it can communicate with the systems needed for the trial. You will also complete an entry survey.

Inspection, final invoice and incentive payment
Once installation and inspection are complete, you'll receive your final invoice and a digital Visa prepaid card with your A Simple Shift incentive. Use the card to pay the incentive portion and pay the remaining balance as usual.

Choose a participating retailer or flexibility service provider
To earn rewards, sign up with a participating electricity retailer or flexibility service provider (FSP) by 1 June 2027, or once providers are confirmed by Powerco.

Get ready to shift
Once you enroll with a participating retailer or FSP, your connected technology can automatically shift electricity use away from busy winter evenings, earning you rewards and helping you save.

Don't miss out

A Simple Shift runs until 30 September 2028. Incentives are available to help households take part, but only for the first 500 eligible households. Act now so you don't miss out on $4,000 for an eligible battery, up to $1,500 for a home energy management system, or $500 for smart hot water technology.

Become part of the solution by helping test how small, smart shifts in electricity use can ease winter peak demand, make better use of the existing network and support a smarter energy future for Ōmokoroa.

For more information, including a map of the trial area, a detailed customer brochure and a list of participating local installers, visit our website.

www.asimpleshift.co.nz

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