

## What is load control?

Load control is when Verendrye remotely turns certain devices off and back on for the purpose of reducing the peak demand for electricity on our system. These programs are often referred to as “off-peak.”

## What can be controlled?

The most common devices controlled are water heaters, air conditioners and heat pumps. Grain dryers, irrigation systems and even entire businesses with backup generators can be controlled. Electric heat is not controlled.

## Why is load control important to Verendrye?

We can reduce our power bill by reducing peak demand. That’s because we pay a power bill based on usage and demand.

## What do I get out of load control?

Members receive either a reduced rate or a monthly credit on their bills in exchange for allowing us to control their devices. If your air conditioner, heat pump or water heater is separately metered for a lower rate, it must be connected to a Load Control Transponder.

## How do we determine when to control?

Each month our power wholesaler, Central Power Electric Cooperative, estimates what the combined peak demand will be for the group of cooperatives it serves – also known as the coincidental peak - and sets a target. The estimated coincidental peak is based on forecasts, past history and weather conditions. When the target level is approached, Verendrye begins to control.

## How is my device controlled?

Verendrye will send a signal from our office to a load control transponder (LCT) connected to your device. The LCT contains relays that can switch devices on and off.

## How does load control affect my home?

Verendrye minimizes the impacts by not controlling everything at once and by cycling devices on and off to let them catch up. We sell high capacity, super-insulated water heaters for the purpose of load control. In most cases, you will not even know we controlled your water heater.

## When does VEC control and how will I know?

Control times typically occur when temperatures are the warmest or coldest during the month. They can happen almost any time of day and multiple times a day and month. You can check your LCT and if a red light is on, that means we are controlling. A green light alone means we are not controlling, but the device is working.

## How do you get put on the off-peak program?

Many Verendrye members start on the off-peak program when they build a new home, shop or business. Area electricians know how our programs work and how to install LCTs. Once the electrician installs an LCT, a Verendrye technician needs to inspect the LCT to ensure it is working properly.

## How do I know if I’m already on the off-peak program?

Some members purchase property that is already on our off-peak program. You can call us to find out your status, or check to see if there is an LCT in your mechanical room. If your electrician adds a device to your LCT after Verendrye inspected it, you need to call us again to get the reduced rate for all of the devices that are being controlled.



The LCT is pictured here in the upper right corner. In this set-up, the member’s water heater is connected to the LCT.



A green light on the LCT means the device is working and is not currently controlling your water heater or other device.

A green light and a red light on the LCT means it has switched your water heater or other device off during a period of high electricity demand.

