

PJM Capacity Performance (CP) MidAmerican FAQs



Is this a year-round program?

Yes. CP is a year-round program which means there is a summer (Jun – Oct, and May) and winter (Nov – Apr) participation season. However, CPower can offer a summer-only option. If your facility has no ability to curtail in the winter, we can customize the program so you can only participate in the summer. This program option is first come first serve while there are still summer positions available.

When do I need to enroll?

May 1, 2021 is the deadline to enroll next season. Since there is a limit to the amount of capacity we can enroll in each zone, the sooner we know of a customer and their curtailment size the better we can adjust inventory to accommodate. **Do I have to do a test?**

Yes. There is a single, one-hour test at the end of June. CPower will provide partners/customers with multiple weeks of notice, and assists with developing curtailment plans, to ensure customer successes.

What is the minimum for participation in the CP program?

100 kW. However, multiple sites with the ability to curtail under 100 kW can be aggregated within the same utility zones to fulfill the PJM requirement.

Are there any penalties if I cannot perform?

No. Zero performance simply earns zero dollars. There are no out-of-pocket penalties. If you do not perform, your expected revenue will be reduced by the amount of under/non-performance.

Do I need to buy any additional hardware to participate?

The program requires a 1-hour utility grade interval meter. Most customers already have this provided by their utility, if your meter meets this standard, there is no additional hardware needed. If you need a utility grade meter, one can be installed by CPower at no out-of-pocket cost.

How much will I earn?

Earnings are determined based on which utility zone(s) your facilities are located. Depending on the zones, program pricing is \$51,100 - \$74,566 MW-year.

Additionally, you are eligible for an energy payment if an emergency event is called. The payments range from \$1,100 - \$1,849 per MW-hr.

Will I earn the same for summer participation?

No. Since this is designed as a year-round program, if you are only participating in the summer, you will be able to earn approximately half of year-round revenue, which is between \$25,550 and \$37,285 per MW-year.*

**The calculation is based on the MW-day value x the number of the days in the season.*

How much time do I have to respond to the test?

CPower will provide a week-ahead, day-ahead, and a day-of notice to prepare for a test in June.

How much time do I have to respond to an event?

Generally, you are notified 30-mins prior to an event but you may qualify for 60-or-120-minute lead time.

How many events can I expect to see per year?

Events the last five years have been very unlikely. Since 2014, there has been one event in Ohio and three voluntary events which you are not required to participate in in the PJM Capacity Performance program.

What if I am in another program with a different Curtailment Service Provider

No problem. As long as you are not currently participating and under contract for the CP program, CPower is likely able to enroll you in the CP Program.

Qualifications and Objections

What if I cannot do demand response?

It is rare that an organization cannot do demand response in some capacity. DR is not an all or nothing program. In fact, most customers only reduce a fraction of their load to minimize disruptions. DR includes the curtailment of energy consumption through lighting, heating, cooling, and other electrical equipment. But it often includes use of back up generation, load shifting, pre-cooling, process shifting and activation of other distributed generation and energy storage assets. CPower conducts a full facility assessment to understand your operations, energy assets and ability to curtail.

We do not have the resources to shut things down

CPower develops a detailed curtailment plan giving step-by-step instructions based on your operations and accounts for the time from a dispatch to start of curtailment window. CPower also works with almost all building/energy management systems which can automate your curtailment completely or to a level you are comfortable with.

I cannot get internal buy-in

CPower can provide a detailed plan of revenue and the operational impact, if any, related to participation. Accurate and detailed reports of performance and payments are provided in a timely manner to help justify participation. We find that once it can be shown that operational impact is minimal and significant revenue can be earned it can help sell DR as a valuable corporate resource. In many cases it can be factored into a sustainability or emissions reduction program as a carbon reducing resource

We cannot stop production

We understand that demand response is not the priority of your business. When you work with CPower, we first seek to understand your facility and operations and then recommend a curtailment strategy. In nearly all cases with an uninterruptible production line, CPower has identified several ways to reduce energy consumption for an event without impacting production. This is a grid reliability program. Participation means you are mitigating the potential for the loss of power for you and your communities.

My backup generator is not eligible for demand response

Get a second opinion. CPower has evaluated thousands of generation assets and qualified many of them for participation in demand response. CPower can evaluate your generation assets, provide with specific upgrade needs, if any. It will also help you permit at the local, state, and federal levels. If permitting or upgrades are needed, CPower can provide a detailed ROI analysis. Often these analyses can help get your generator up to spec and have you earning revenue very quickly.

I was told I cannot do CP

Get a second opinion. If you are in PJM and you have at least 100 kW of load or can aggregate 100 kW of load and you can reduce a portion of that load through curtailment or a dispatchable distributed generation asset, you are eligible to participate. When CP became the only capacity program in PJM, many providers were not able to balance their portfolio to do a year-round commitment with customers. Because CPower has a very large and diverse portfolio in PJM, we can match customers regardless of when or what you can curtail in most circumstances. Positions in the program can fill up quickly, but if you meet the basic criteria you are able to participate.