

Is the Water Heater Load Management a new program?

No. Load Management systems are very common across the nation. Barnesville’s Load Management system has been in place for 30 years! City ordinance requires that electric water heaters have a controller installed on them.

By controlling water heaters during times of very cold weather and high demand, it lowers our peak demand for electricity; saving each of our residents hundreds of dollars each year! If we didn’t control we would have to pay a higher rate for the power we buy for the next 12 months!

Is it possible to opt-out?

No. City of Barnesville ordinances require water heaters to be controlled.

Why does my hot water heater get turned off at various times?

Sometimes demand for electricity becomes very high and results in more electricity than usual being used across the system. This occurs most often in winter, especially in the morning or early evening as people wake up or arrive home from work and turn on heaters, lights and start cooking.

At those times, the City of Barnesville temporarily turn off water heaters in order to reduce the electricity demand across our system.

Does this turn off the hot water altogether?

No. Load management only turns off the electricity supplying the element that heats the water in your hot water heater. The hot water already stored in the tank can still be

used and will stay hot or warm for several hours. The difference is it won’t be reheated during load management. Once the hot water in the tank is used, the cold water that replaces it won’t be heated until the end of the load management period.

How does turning off the hot water heating help?

Turning off the hot water heating during peak times helps reduce the amount of electricity being used at that time. Hot water can be heated at non-peak times rather than during the peak when households need electricity for heating and cooking. Essentially, it is a simple, effective way of flattening out the peaks and troughs of demand for electricity.

When does the water heating usually get turned off?

Load management kicks in when loads on the electricity network are very high. This is mostly in the winter (December-February), especially in the morning and early evening when the demand for electricity peaks as people are turning on heaters and cooking. Peak demands are usually between 5 am and 10 am, and between 5 pm and 10 pm.



How long is the hot water heating turned off?

It’s off for 45 minutes and on for 15 minutes. Controlling will usually only last for 3-4 hours at a time except on extremely cold days when controlling could last all day.

Is everyone’s hot water turned off at the same time?

No. The City controls about 700 customers in nine zones. A computerized system determines where and how much load management needs to occur. Generally, only one zone is controlled at a time by the computer system.

Does this mean a cold shower?

It shouldn’t. In most hot water heaters, the water will stay hot enough for several hours. If you don’t use all the water available in your water heater, you probably won’t notice any difference. **In fact, most of the time, most people don’t notice that load management has been used!**

However, you could notice cool or cold water if you use all the hot water stored in the water heater - if you have a long shower, a number of people have showers during this time or you use the washing machine or the dishwasher during this time.

You might also notice lower water temperature if the thermostat on your hot water heater was due to come on again to reheat your water just before the load management took place. This would mean your water was already cooling, and if you have a shower, you could use all the hot water stored in the tank in which case you will notice the water going cool or cold.

If you do experience ongoing cold water issues it wouldn’t hurt to have a plumber check if both elements in your water heater are working correctly. It’s always good to make sure you have a larger enough water heater for the size of your family!

OVERVIEW

Water Heater Load Management

- ✓ Load management temporarily interrupts electricity supply to hot water heaters
- ✓ Used to limit demand for electricity at peak times on the electrical system
- ✓ Mainly occurs in winter months, 6-9 am and 5-9 pm
- ✓ Typically less than 3 hrs/day, sometimes up to 5 hrs in total during a day
- ✓ Shouldn't mean cold water unless you use up the hot water stored in the tank or if your water heater has a bad lower element

WATER HEATER REBATE

Barnesville residents who replace their electric water heaters are encouraged to apply for the City's Rebate Program.

Receive a **\$2.00 per gallon** rebate when you install a new electric water heater with a storage capacity of at least 50 gallons, or **\$3.00 per gallon** for new electric water heaters with a minimum storage capacity of 80 gallons.

Water heaters must be controlled by the city's load management system.

Demand water heaters without storage do not qualify for this rebate.

Submit proof of purchase to City Hall to receive your rebate

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Water Heater Load Management Program please contact the City of Barnesville.



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Electric Water Heater Load Management Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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