

NEW Eskom LOAD-SHEDDING ANTICIPATED

"Eskom has resolved not to return to the disruptive load-shedding, and recognises it cannot achieve this on its own. However, that resolve will be tested during the next two years." Says **Brian Dames, Eskom CEO**. Quote from African Utility Week 14th of January 2011.

Even though Eskom has resolved not to return to planned load-shedding, it might not work out simply due to high demand of electricity compared to supply. Planned or not, in the region of Gauteng in April and May 2010 large areas have suffered from further electricity blackouts, notably the East Rand in Johannesburg. It is now becoming more obvious that Eskom is still not managing to meet the high demand for electricity even in 2011 and a further 2 years thereafter. As the autumn and winter weather closes in, so does higher electricity demand due to electrical heaters and warming devices, which means more electricity blackouts if we don't do something about our electricity usage. By Eskom's statement this could mean that we can have further un-planned load-shedding and blackouts.

If not the load-shedding, then the prices of electricity which have increased by some 268% in the last 3 years is forcing us consumers to start thinking of cutting down on usage, or at least start using [electricity more efficiently](#). Taking responsibility means that it is time to seriously start looking at managing our electricity consumption. However to start managing anything, the first step would be to measure. This means that we must start [measuring our electricity](#) consumption, because we can't save something we can't measure.

Aside from load-shedding and blackouts we should also consider that we can save 20%-40% on our electricity bills. Such saving by itself might help many households with current budgets. But again, to start saving we must first start measuring. Once we measure then we can take action to reduce the excess.

Let's understand now what an Electricity Monitor is, how it works technically, how much it costs and how it can help us save on our electricity bills while saving electricity to reduce the load and excess demand on Eskom.

Below you will find information on how the **e2 Electricity Monitoring** device works.

How does the monitor work and how does it save you money?

The **e2 Electricity Monitor** will help you monitor your home and appliances for the purpose of managing your consumption. This will enable you to take immediate action to reduce your electricity bill. For example: if you know that an appliance is taking exorbitant amount of electricity you can use that appliance less or use it more efficiently to reduce your electricity bill significantly. This applies to everything that uses electricity in your home.

Technically, the electricity monitor sensors clip onto your phases which are in the DB box (distribution board). The sensor is then connected to the transmitter, which transmits the consumption of the electricity to the wireless LCD device. The [e2 Electricity Monitor](#) also comes with software which you can install and download the data collected on the LCD device onto your computer or laptop. In the software, you can even set your target percentage by which you want to save on electricity.

That was the technical part. The other part of the process, as previously mentioned, is using your **e2 Electricity Monitor** to monitor the consumption on your appliances. This means that one would need to single out the appliances with excess consumption. Thereafter, to save electricity, one would need to start switching off appliances which consume too much electricity, or using timers such as geyser times, or replace some appliances where large cost

saving can be achieved and is feasible. This will significantly reduce the consumption. For example: one may choose to have the pool pump work one hour less per day and see the savings, or maybe 2 hours less.

In summary, before the invention of electricity monitors, saving electricity was guess work at best. With the [e2 Electricity Monitor](#) one can measure and hence take action to save electricity and create an energy efficient home.

The good news is that it is really easy, as the monitor does all the work. At the beginning of this process some time may be invested in investigating the high electricity consumption devices and appliances while making modifications as time allows, but overall; it is a very easy process and worthwhile for the long term savings.

Some consumers do get fanatic and create totally energy efficient homes, however to save a few hundred or a few thousands Rands a year it doesn't require all that much.

What are the standard features on the monitor and are there any extras?

The standard features on the [e2 Electricity Monitor](#) will show you the consumption, enable you to set-up your tariffs and show you your electricity cost.

The more advanced features will show you: carbon emissions, alarm when you are using too much (by default set at 5kW which one can edit using the LCD interface), enable you to set more than one tariff with start and end time (e.g. peak and non-peak tariffs, or day and night tariffs), it will give you cost per hour in South African Rands and much more.

On the software side, you can monitor over years, you will see consumption curves, you can set your target for savings, and much more.

We had many comments from customers saying that using the [e2 Electricity Monitor](#) is actually an experience that teaches so much about ourselves, our consumption patterns, and how we use energy, more like self-discovery. You have to experience it to understand it.

From our experience, we found that the South African consumer is quite sophisticated and informed and doesn't act only on price but on real and long term value. Saving electricity is not a one day miracle by acting on something and you are done, saving electricity is a process and only over time can one achieve sustainable results. Again, results can be achieved quickly but sustainable results over time. Which means one would need an electricity monitor which presents your data over long periods of time. This is what the **e2 Electricity Monitor** with the software does for you.

How does the monitor connect to the electricity supply?

The monitor collects via a clip-on sensor to your phase (also commonly known as a CT). The clip-on sensor is connected to the transmitter. The transmitter transmits data to the handheld / wireless device. With the hand-held wireless monitor you can walk around the home or office for approximately +/-50 meters radius.

How do you know if you need Single Phase or Three Phase Monitor?

Simple: if your DB board (distribution board) is single phase then you need a Single Phase **e2 Electricity Monitor**, otherwise if your DB board is bigger you will definitely need a Three Phase [e2 Electricity Monitor](#).

If you are in doubt and need help to determine what type of electricity monitor you need or what type of DB board you have, please contact our support line on 087 5500 870 dial 3 for

support and our support staff will explain to you how to identify your DB board before you purchase.

Is it only suited for households or can it be used in offices, small factories or workshops?

The **e2 Electricity Monitor** can be used for households, light commercial and light industrial. The difference in the model will be much larger clip-on sensors which fits those environments. The largest sensor has 17mm diameter. On the website you will find [e2 Electricity Monitor](#) for home, office and small industrial use.

That said we do cater for industrial grade monitoring solutions for large industrial companies such as mines, manufacturing plants etc. Our industrial grade solutions help large industries such as mines and large manufacturing plants comply with ISO standards as well as comply with continuous improvement in energy savings and carbon emissions. However, for such solutions one would need to call our offices as these solutions are not out of the box, but tailored to the business.

How much does the e2 Electricity Monitor cost?

Standard prices for [e2 Single Phase Electricity monitor](#) is R899, while the **Three Phase is R1,199**. The return on investment on an average home, at current electricity prices, is between 6 to 12 months and many consumers return their investments even in 3 months due to their high electricity bills.

Now that you know what you can do and you can choose to put back some money in your pocket and some energy into the grid, it is your choice to get started.

More information is on www.ElectricityMonitor.co.za or you can always call us for assistance on: **087 5500 870**.

Electricity Increases as published in the media from our last article:

- 2010/11: 24.8%.
- 2011/12: 25.1%.
- 2012/13: 25.9%.

And Remember: You can't save what you can't measure.

If you can measure it, you can manage it and start saving.

www.ElectricityMonitor.co.za: Promoting Sustainable Use of Energy
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