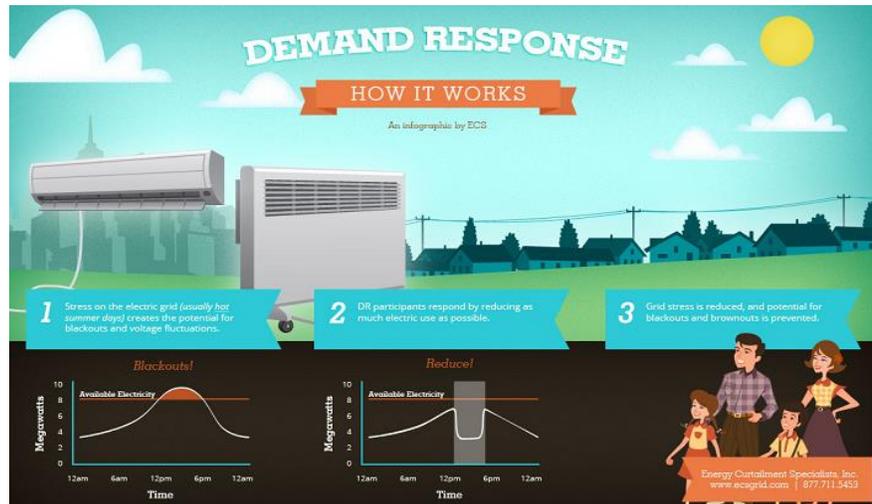


## USDA Headquarters Participates in Demand Response

As part of the USDA Headquarters (HQ) energy program, the Office of Operations annually participates in the Demand Response (DR) program. Demand Response works by having the Grid Operator (in our case PJM) notify participants who include businesses and federal agencies like



USDA to power down or reduce electric consumption during hours when grid demand is high (most likely in high temperature days). Typically, USDA HQ operations staff will receive a notice the day before the event letting them know of the possibility of the event. On the day of the event, operations staff is given a 2-hour notice from the grid operator to power down. In DR events, operations staff power down items such as escalators, some elevators or other non-essential equipment. At the end of each year, the Office of Operations receives payment for participating in the program. The utility industry is willing to pay consumers to reduce electrical use at peak periods because it is cheaper and easier than having to build power generators and transmission lines to handle the peak electricity usage during that handful of high demand hours. By participating in the DR program, the Office of Operations is reducing its electric use and cost, helping reduce demand on the grid which helps prevent blackouts and brownouts, and reducing the environmental impacts of not building additional power plants and transmission lines.

If you are a homeowner or rent a house, you can also go green and save money by participating in DR programs offered to residential customers. PEPCO for example has an [Energy Wise Rewards](#) Program and a [Peak Energy Savings Credit](#) for its Maryland customers.