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### Centlec Pre-paid metres: Electricity

Pre-paid electricity metres were installed in most households in Fichardt Park.

Electricity is a scarce and expensive resource. Pre-paid metres can assist to utilise electricity effectively, because it can be managed. The pre-paid metres, as well as the installation, are free of charge. It is also implemented in a wink of an eye.

Households can now set up a realistic budget, because they do not receive unpredictable metre readings every month.

### FNA contact details:

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www.fichardtpark.co.za

JOIN NOW: FNA for R125 / R70 p.m. at website OR contact Celia (082 803 3624)

PRE-PAID METRES 2014 | 1





### **CONVENTIONAL METRES**

- Reasonably cheap and reliable
- Can be calibrated from time to time
- Life expectancy =  $\pm 30$  years
- Less exposed to lightning
- Metre reading errors / estimated readings are received
- Irregular readings may occur
- A deposit is payable to when the contract is signed before connecting the power
- Non-payment leads to power cut
- Diffifult to manage consumption because readings are not accessible
- Tariff is the same as pre-paid metres.

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### **PRE-PAID METRES**

- More expensive electronic technology
- Is calibrated only once
- Life expectancy =  $\pm 10$  yearsr
- More exposed to lightning
- No metre reading errors
- Energy is purchased / no readings involved
- No deposit
- Metre automatically shuts down when the reading reaches zero (0)
- Consumption can be managed, because credits can be checked on the metre
- Tariff the same as conventional metres

PRE-PAID METRES 2014 | 2 PRE-PAID METRES 2014 | 3



### MUST I INSTALL THE PRE-PAID METRE?

- The home owner can decide whether the prepaid metre must be installed or not.
- The installation of the metre is recommended because currently Centlec carries the full cost out of their own funds regarding the converson.
- The owner has full control over consumption through the pre-paid metre.
- A plastic card is issued to the home owner. This card is used to purchase electricity.
- You will receive about 8 units on the card with installation.

### WHERE DO I APPLY?

- Visit Centlec to complete the required forms (30 Rhodes Avenue, behind the Power station & College Square)
- Centlec makes an appointment with the consumer and then the process is concluded.

### WHO MAY INSTALL THE METRE?

- Centlec uses their own staff. The Centlec logo is displayed on the doors of the vehicle. Request identification (card with photo and Centlec logo) and verify the information at Centlec by noting the description of the vehicle and taking down the registration number and fleet number.
- Sub-contractors are also used. They drive private vehicles. Request identification and verify the information at Centlec by noting the description of the vehicle and taking down the registration number and fleet number.



### WHAT ABOUT THE DEPOSIT PAID FOR THE CONVENSIONAL METRE?

- The deposit can be claimed. A written request must be submitted to the Centlec offices (College Square).
- Take along ID and cancelled cheque.

### WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE PRE-PAID METRES?

- Centlec is currently subsidising the conversions as part of an internal capital project.
- Therefore there is no cost to the consumer.
- Beware of dishonest people who want to lay cables or want to scan metres:
  - ⇒ The new metres do not have cables.
  - ⇒ New metres are not scanned.
  - ⇒ Always request identification and verify the information with Centlec.

## WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO BUY UNITS OF ELECTRICITY?

- When there are 50 kWh or less on the screen of the metre.
- When Centlec is off-line, units cannot be purchased. It is important to buy units in time.
- Read pamphlet of the pre-paid metre.

#### **HOW MANY UNITS MUST I BUY?**

- Use the monthly amount on your conventional electricity account as a guideline..
- Do adjustments according to needs.

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### MUST / CAN I BUY UNITS IN ADVANCE?

- Tariffs are seasonal.
- If the metre becomes out of order and extra units were loaded, there is no evidence of the units; the consumer can loose those units.
- If the units can be read/verified on the metre, the units can be reloaded.

### WHERE CAN I BUY UNITS?

• Always buy at a reliable service provider.

#### STAY ALERT

- Keep candles, lamps, torches ready for emergencies.
- Keep extra batteries.
- Make sure gas bottles are filled.
- Buy a sealed 12 V battery with a small charger. Various appliances can be connected to be charged.
- ⇒ SAVE ELECTRICITY
- ⇒ SWITCH OFF UNNECESSARY AP-PLIANCES BETWEEN 17:00 -21:00

For tariffs and more details, visit www.fichardtpark.co.za

PRE-PAID METRES 2014 | 4 PRE-PAID METRES 2014 | 5 PRE-PAID METRES 2014 | 6